

NOTICE FOR VACANCY

Technical Assistance on Epidemiology to the ongoing COVID-19 Response Activities



**World Health
Organization**

Representative Office
for the Philippines

1. Summary

The World Health Organization (WHO) Philippines is looking for an individual contractual partner who will serve as Technical Assistant on Epidemiology to the ongoing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Response Activities in the Philippines, under a Special Services Agreement (SSA) contract.

The submission of applications is due by 15 September 2022.

2. Background

The WHO Country Office for the Philippines has been working closely with the Government through the Department of Health in responding quickly to the COVID-19 pandemic in the country. This collaboration has been analysing various sources of data and information to be able to rapidly identify sources of infection, hotspots and clusters to prevent the amplification of infection transmission in the country.

Confirmed cases are being identified from many regions and provinces in the country that is being brought about by improved contact tracing, laboratory capacity and reporting. There are also some improvements that are being observed in health services delivery and other pillars of the response. However, much more needs to be done as the outbreak evolves for the longer term.

To further improve the response, the Country Office is continuing the support to DOH to strengthen the technical assistance being given through deeper data analysis and interpretation especially at various subnational levels that will contribute to the better staging of transmission in regions and provinces.

Given the anticipated and evolving situation of the COVID-19 infection in the country, stronger response operations through sustained technical support is needed to respond to epidemiological surveillance needs for COVID-19 in the country.

Outbreak Response

The purpose of this emergency consultancy is to support effective country response operations related to the COVID-19 pandemic, with a technical focus on surveillance and epidemiology, as part of the Incident Management Team (IMT) of the WCO in the Philippines, working in support of the Department of Health (DOH) Philippines.

3. Timeline

The contract period is from **1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023**. Depending on availability of funds and satisfactory work the contact can be extended.

4. Place of Assignment

The incumbent will be based in Manila, Philippines with the option of limited remote support (except in the scenario that travel restrictions are reinstated, limiting relocation).

5. Scope of Work

Under the overall supervision of the Incident Manager (IM) and Head of WHO Representative to the Philippines (WR), Country Office, under the guidance of the Information and Planning Pillar (INP) Lead, and in close collaboration with the Technical Leads in the Regional and Country Office, the incumbent will provide technical and operational assistance to COVID-19 response activities in the Philippines for surveillance and epidemiology and to:

- Provide support to conduct risk assessments for the ongoing situation in the Philippines at the sub-national level, including the application of the Transition Stage Assessment;
- Provide support in preparing epidemiological summaries to be presented through Power Point Presentations and briefing notes to assist planning and decision-making of the different stakeholders involved in the COVID-19 response;
- Provide technical support and build the capacity of the DOH to strengthen the surveillance system for rapid detection of SARS-CoV- 2 cases and clusters to quickly identify the source of infection and apply response measures using multiple sources of information;
- Conduct in-depth investigation of multiple data and information sources to verify reported data on cases, health care utilization and mortality including all-cause mortality for the country and in the process build the capacity of the DOH;
- Contribute to the COVID-19 vaccine operations through support to data management of vaccine coverage trends and surveillance of epidemiologic outcomes associated with increasing vaccine coverage along with other public health interventions;
- Provide technical support and assist in the monitoring/surveillance systems for detection, verification and response to COVID-19 and other public health incidents; ensuring efficiency of data collection, correlation, analysis, interpretation and timely reporting;
- Collate and verify data on reported outbreaks or rumors received from multiple sources, conduct retrospective analysis of reported incidents: determine trends, distribution patterns, and efficiency of the verification mechanism;
- Facilitate subnational surveillance review meetings including the tracking of the surveillance performance indicators. In cooperation with the team, monitor and evaluate the implementation of the planned surveillance activities, as well as alert and response capacities for incidents detection, verification and response in compliance with IHR 2005.;
- Support for epidemiologic analysis for universal health care (UHC); and
- Perform any other incident-specific related duties, as required by the IM / WHE Team Lead or WHO Country Representative.

Deliverables:

- Inputs to Bi-Weekly Situation Reports (Sitreps)
- Submission of monthly DTR
- Submission of a report at the end of the contract

6. Specific Requirements

- Experience in leading and implementing case identification, investigation and contact tracing efforts.
- Sound knowledge and skills in database management and statistical analysis, secondary data review, survey design and implementation, monitoring and evaluation systems design or use, and public health information management.
- Proven ability to multitask across various planning and implementation processes within a highly demanding environment, with a strong ability to synthesize information to inform action.
- Demonstrated knowledge, competency and professional skills on the public health aspects of infectious disease control, epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response with particular attention to application of an all-hazard approach in the context of the International Health Regulations
- Knowledge and experience in the use of event-based and indicator-based surveillance, as well as descriptive epidemiology and principles of public health in communicable disease surveillance and response.

7. Qualifications

The contractual partner must fulfil the following qualifications:

Education and Certifications

- Essential: First university degree in public health, epidemiology, statistics, or database management from an accredited/recognized institute.
- Desirable: Advanced university degree in public health, epidemiology or statistics. Specialized training in epidemiology, health management, or humanitarian interventions.

Work Experience

- Essential: A minimum of one year of relevant experience, at the national and international levels, in planning, developing, managing and monitoring technical programmes or operations or financial reporting, in a public health or humanitarian international context.
- Desirable: Experience with the UN system or other international organizations is an advantage.

Skills / Technical skills and knowledge:

- Excellent inter-personal skills, diplomacy and tact to communicate effectively with senior officials, multiple stakeholders and professionals
- Excellent analytical, planning and organizational skills
- Ability to work collaboratively in a multicultural environment with limited supervision
- Ability to work under pressure

Language requirements:

- Fluent written and spoken English required.

In addition, the incumbent must have no direct or indirect involvement or interest, in any form, in the tobacco industry, alcohol industry, arms dealing, drugs or human trafficking, and breast substitutes. The Consultant and personnel involved in this work shall have no conflicts of interest in relation to the work being undertaken.

Other Skills:

- Good computer skills in Microsoft office, EPI Info, Stata, R or any other statistical software package and Geographic Information System (GIS)

In addition, the Consultant must have no direct or indirect interest in the tobacco industry, alcohol industry, arms dealing or human trafficking, and breast milk substitutes.

8. Competencies

The following competencies are mandatory:

- Building and promoting partnerships across the organization and beyond
- Moving forward in a changing environment
- Ensuring the effective use of resources
- Fostering Integration and teamwork
- Communication in a credible and effective way

9. Ethical and Professional Standards

- WHO prides itself on a workforce that adheres to the highest ethical and professional standards and that is committed to put the WHO Values Charter into practice.
- WHO has zero tolerance towards sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), sexual harassment and other types of abusive conduct (i.e., discrimination, abuse of authority and harassment). All members of the WHO workforce have a role to play in promoting a safe and respectful workplace and should report to WHO any actual or suspected cases of SEA, sexual harassment, and other types of abusive conduct. To ensure that individuals with a substantiated history of SEA, sexual harassment or other types of abusive conduct are not hired by the Organization, WHO will conduct a background verification of final candidates

10. Medical Clearance

The selected Consultant will be expected to provide a medical certificate of fitness for work.

11. Travel

The Consultant may be expected to travel within the country to carry out mission/s, if needed.

12. Submission Requirements

Interested individuals should submit electronic copies of the following:

- Cover letter
- Curriculum vitae

Address all applications to:

Dr Graham Harrison

Officer-in-Charge, WHO Representative in the Philippines
Ground Floor, Building 3, Department of Health
San Lazaro Compound
Rizal Avenue, Sta Cruz, Manila

Please submit the electronic copy of the applications with the title: **Technical Assistance on Epidemiology to the ongoing COVID-19 Response Activities** to Mrs Ying Chen (cheny@who.int) with a copy to wpphlwr@who.int. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted by WHO Philippines.

Deadline of submission of applications is on **15 September 2022**