

# NOTICE FOR VACANCY

**Technical Support to the TB Response in the Philippines amid the COVID-19 pandemic and the transition towards Universal Health Care**



**World Health  
Organization**

Representative Office  
for the Philippines

## 1. Summary

The World Health Organization (WHO) Philippines is looking for an individual who will be tasked to support the WHO Philippines Country Office in providing technical support to the Tuberculosis (TB) response in the Philippines amid the COVID-19 pandemic and the transition towards Universal Health Care under Special Services Agreement (SSA) contract.

Proposals are due by 19 December 2022.

## 2. Background

The Philippines has the second highest per capita burden of Tuberculosis (TB) in the world. The country is strongly committed to its battle against TB by following through with its plan, the Philippine Strategic Elimination Plan (PhilSTEP), with clear goals and ambitious targets which is supported by the multi-year campaign "Race to End TB" nationwide. DOH has steadily progressed in its TB elimination efforts however, disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have set the country back in line with reaching its targets. In 2021, there were an estimated 591,000 TB cases in the Philippines, and only 46% were notified, a drop of 37% in the number of notifications in comparison to the previous year. This figure not only reflects the existing gap in missing TB cases but how COVID-19 affected the continuity of TB services in the country. To address this, the Philippines has adopted the TB adaptive plan, including innovative digital solutions and its Department of Health (DOH) has unceasingly worked with the local government units and partners to ensure the resumption of TB services nationwide.

While we have seen improvements, the country still needs to strengthen the strategic interventions throughout the TB cascade of prevention, testing, treatment, and care to achieve its goal and truly get back on track. The country needs to do this as part of the integrated approaches to universal health care. Therefore, there is a need to ensure that timely coordination and productive collaboration with the program and development partners is achieved to maximize the efforts and resources toward the same national goals.

WHO Philippines supports the country in achieving its national goals and committing to end TB by 2030. It includes supporting the programs and partners through direct technical assistance to implement the strategies and ensure that interventions are technically sound and aligned to internationally and nationally accepted guidelines.

### **3. Timeline**

The implementation timeline for the project is from **January to December 2023**

### **4. Place of Assignment**

Manila, Philippines; some tasks may be performed remotely upon approval.

### **5. Scope of Work**

This work will involve the following under direct supervision and guidance of the Team Leader, WHO Country Office Philippines, to Tuberculosis response in the Philippines amid the COVID-19 Pandemic and the transition towards Universal Health Care:

- Provide continuous technical support to TB and other droplet and airborne transmission disease integration, testing, prevention, care, and control, ensuring that planning and implementation are at par with WHO recommendations;
- Support development and implementation of cross-programmatic policies for TB and other Droplet and Airborne Transmission towards UHC integration through data analyses and literature review for advocacy documents and analytical reports;
- Support the development, uptake, and promotion of digital innovations and solutions;
- Participate in meetings and workshops with relevant partners and stakeholders and strengthen multisectoral and multiprogram engagements and implementation of existing grant agreements;
- Oversee relevant activities for the Race to End TB Campaign;
- Support the development of integrated approaches to UHC which may include initiatives on the elimination of HIV, Malaria, and other diseases.
- Support monitoring and supervision of project interventions, and address implementation gaps as appropriate;
- Engage in coordination meetings of the WHO and other development partners.
- Render other duties and responsibilities related to WHO and DOH mandates that may be assigned.
- Engage in the development of the UHC App with partners and stakeholders.
- Liaise in ongoing monitoring of the existing TB Apps together with DOH and APW
- Participate in the development of the Multisectoral accountability framework (MAF) together with partners.
- Engage in the development of the TB-HIV sub-plan using the WHO guidelines for the TB NSP.
- Engage in policy-making with DOH, NTRL, and other partners for the transition of the DRTB regimens to BPAL.
- Engage in the preparation of the Philippine Acceleration Action Plan for TB (PAAP) for the preparation for the end of the TB Elimination plan which will end in 2023.
- Participate in the preparation of the Multi Disease Network Optimization in line with the transition to Universal Health Care.

- Provide technical support to implement diagnostics in TB (MGIT Culture, GeneXpert, TB-LAM, Truenat) and Rapid and Accurate diagnostic assays with simultaneous microbial identification and drug resistance using immunoassays.

## **6. Qualifications**

### **Specific requirements**

#### **Education:**

- Essential: University degree in public health, nursing, or other related fields
- Desirable: University degree in medicine; postgraduate degree in medicine, public health, or other related fields

#### **Experience required:**

- Essential: At least five (5) years of experience in public health and project management. Experience in project management in TB with or for government health agencies in a multistakeholder environment in the Philippines.
- Desirable: Working experience with WHO or other UN agencies.

#### **Technical Skills and Knowledge:**

- Sound knowledge of medicine, nursing and/or public health
- Sound knowledge of project planning, implementation and evaluation
- Ability to work harmoniously as a member of a team, adapt to diverse educational and cultural backgrounds and maintain a high standard of personal conduct

#### **Language requirements:**

- Written and spoken fluency in English is essential

#### **Competencies:**

- Technical competence in the field of communicable diseases
- Ability to engage and communicate with multiple stakeholders
- Skills to respect and promote individual and cultural difference
- Capability of working harmoniously with a positive attitude at work

## **7. Other requirements**

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

## **8. Management of Conflict of Interest**

Any interest by an entity (individual/organization/company), expert, or member of the project team that may affect or reasonably be perceived to (1) affect the expert's objectivity and independence in providing advice to WHO related to the conduct of a project, and/or (2) create an unfair competitive advantage for the expert or persons or institutions with whom

the expert has financial or interests (such as adult children or siblings, close professional colleagues, administrative unit or department).

WHO's conflict of interest Rules are designed to identify and avoid potentially compromising situations from arising thereby protecting the credibility of the Organization and of its normative work. If not identified and appropriately managed such situations could undermine or discount the value of the expert's contribution, and as consequence, the work in which the expert is involved. Robust management of conflicts of interest not only protects the integrity of WHO and its technical/normative standard-setting processes but also protects the concerned expert and the public interest in general.

### **Confidentiality Statement**

All input and all related documents about the project are confidential and must **NOT** be handed over to third parties. The DOH and WHO have exclusive ownership of all documents, and only the DOH and WHO has the right to disseminate any information outside the agreed project's scope.

## **9. Ethical and Professional Standards**

- WHO prides itself on a workforce that adheres to the highest ethical and professional standards and is committed to putting 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. Travels**

Interested individuals should submit electronic copies of the following:

- Cover letter
- Curriculum Vitae

Address cover letter and proposals to:

### **Dr Robert Kezaala**

Acting, Officer-in-Charge

Office of the WHO Representative to the Philippines

Ground Floor, Building 3, Department of Health San Lazaro Compound

Rizal Avenue, Sta Cruz, Manila

Please submit the electronic copy of the documents with the title "**Technical Support to the TB Response in the Philippines amid the COVID-19 pandemic and the transition towards Universal Health Care**" to Mrs Lilibeth Barrameda [inocenciol@who.int](mailto:inocenciol@who.int) with a copy to [wpphlwr@who.int](mailto:wpphlwr@who.int).

Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted by WHO Philippines.

The deadline for submission of applications is on **19 December 2022**.