

Call for Expression of Interest

Technical Consultancy: Health and Energy Platform of Action

Background:

Around 3 billion people worldwide use inefficient sources of energy and technology that produce high levels of household air pollution. These emissions include a range of health-damaging pollutants that lead to the premature death of around 3.8 million people every year, including through pneumonia, stroke, ischaemic heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and lung cancer. Energy access challenges also affect health care delivery. Around 25 per cent of health care facilities in 11 sub-Saharan African countries have no access to electricity. Beyond basic lighting, health care facilities need a sustainable and reliable source of electricity to respond to emergencies (e.g. communications), prevent disease (e.g. cold-chain vaccine storage), as well treat disease and injury.

Policies designed to meet SDG 7 targets on energy access, energy efficiency and renewables have the potential to also provide vast benefits for human health (SDG 3), and spur progress across the entire Sustainable Development Agenda. However, to realize this opportunity, closer cooperation is needed at all levels between actors and decision makers, and especially between health and energy sectors.

The Air Quality and Health (AQH) team, of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health promotes interventions and initiatives for healthy sectoral policies (including energy, transport, housing, urban development and electrification of health care facilities), addressing key risks to health from air pollution indoors and outdoors, and contributing to achieving health co-benefits from climate change mitigation policies.

As part of the Health and Energy programme of work, AQH's activities seek to improve public health in low- and middle-income countries through the sustained adoption of clean and sustainable energy in households and health care facilities, including through activities aimed to:

- Increase awareness and build support among policy-makers, implementing partners and the public about the importance of clean energy and the role that it plays in improving health and equity of the poorest populations, and reducing air pollution.
- Leverage the health argument, to strengthen the political and technical commitment and cooperation between the health, energy and other related sectors to accelerate access to clean and sustainable energy.
- Build the capacity of countries to develop, implement and monitor 'health-wise' policies related to the energy transition through the development and application of relevant tools and information resources.

In line with the for mentioned objectives, WHO/ECH/AQH and in collaboration with other UN agencies (UNDP, DESA, World Bank) and other stakeholders established a multi-stakeholder Health and Energy Platform for Action (HEPA - <https://www.who.int/initiatives/health-and->

[energy-platform-of-action](#)). The HEPA aims to strengthen the political and technical cooperation between the health, energy and other related sectors (e.g. environment, gender) to accelerate the transition to clean energy for health. HEPA activities and support focus on clean cooking and electrification of health facilities.

Purpose of the consultancy:

The aims of this consultancy are: (1) support the operational and technical work of the multi-stakeholder Health and Energy Platform of Action (HEPA) for which WHO serves as the Secretariat, and is High-level Coalition on Health and Energy (2) technically support two countries in the completion of rapid needs assessment and stakeholder mappings on household energy use and health policies and programmes (3) technically support the preparation and technical review of tools, documents, communication materials, guidelines and reports around health and energy topics (i.e. health-care facility electrification, household energy use, air pollution and related health impacts and risks).

The consultant will be expected to perform the following tasks, in cooperation and under the direct supervision and in cooperation with the WHO technical team:

- Provide technical inputs to outreach/advocacy activities of the HEPA and its High-level Coalition on Health and Energy (<https://www.who.int/initiatives/health-and-energy-platform-of-action/high-level-coalition-on-health-and-energy>) at various conferences e.g. European Development Days, High-level Dialogue on Energy, COP26 , preparing related media materials (e.g. video preparation) on energy and health, and supporting preparation and review of technical content of the HEPA website.
- Provide strategic and technical support for HEPA's operations including finalization, implementation and monitoring of the HEPA workplan, resource mobilization, and relevant administrative processes.
- Support coordination activities with HEPA members including periodic meetings, working groups, prep of joint products, etc.
- Technically contribute to the preparation of health-energy events (e.g. concept notes, outcome reports)
- Contribute to technical work and products related to the HEPA, including reports, assessments, and funding proposals and reporting (health care facilities electrification, clean household energy).
- Using WHO tools, provide technical oversight for completing a rapid needs assessment and situational analysis on household energy and health in two countries. Related sub-tasks including providing both administrative and technical support to the country experts to complete the assessment and its synthesis, as well as supporting drafting and finalization of related In addition support the production of a final summary report outlining the results of the different assessments.
- Technically support WHO's work on healthcare facility electrification including contributing to the preparation of related reports, statistics, guidance documents and engagement with relevant partners internal and external to the Organization.

The World Health Organization Headquarters in Geneva now invites eligible individuals to indicate their interest in undertaking this work. Interested parties must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the above tasks: curriculum vitae, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, examples of relevant reports or publications, etc. The consultant will be selected through a competitive process in accordance with WHO's operating policies and procedures on hiring consultants.

The **expected start date** of this full-time consultancy is **June 2021 or subject to negotiation with the selected candidate**, for an **initial duration of one year with the possibility of extension**. Due to the current pandemic situation, this will be a home-based consultancy and any necessary travel required will adhere to relevant travel guidance and restrictions.

The consultant will be remunerated at a daily rate that is commensurate with his/her experience and based on the UN common salary scale.

Qualifications:

- Advanced university degree in public health, natural sciences, environmental sciences/ engineering or social sciences.
- Minimum of 5 years of experience working on energy and health issues, with at least 3 at the international level.
- Strong understanding of the public health, environmental and development linkages to energy access, ideally in relation to household energy use and/or health care facility electrification.
- Experience conducting systematic reviews, meta-analyses or other research in relation to public health and environmental health issues, ideally in relation to household air pollution and/or energy access.
- Strong understanding of the role of the health sector in influencing policy and programmatic decision-making in other sectors (e.g. energy) to account for health impacts.
- Experience collating and synthesizing evidence and statistics for public health and/or energy access at the national, regional or global levels.
- Knowledge of multi-stakeholder partnerships, governance structures, and budgeting.
- Experience preparing technical documents, event concept notes, agendas, and proposals for different audiences (e.g. general public, policy-makers) related to public health and broader sectoral cooperation.

Desirable:

- Familiarity with the UN system and its processes.
- Familiarity with the Sustainable Development Goals and other international agreements/ targets and their monitoring.
- Understanding of WHO's normative guidance on health risks (e.g. air pollution) and its role in informing policy and monitoring.

- Knowledge of ongoing energy access initiatives and partners working on clean cooking and/or health care facility electrification.
- Knowledge of energy issues facing health care facilities and its impacts on health care service delivery.
- Experience working with or managing multi-stakeholder/agency partnerships.
- Experience working with international initiatives addressing energy access and/or public health.
- Experience working with countries and providing technical support to conduct research, produce reports, or conduct technical workshops.

Skills required

- Strong diplomacy and collaboration skills to work with partners and find common ground.
- Organized and ability to work independently.
- Capacity and flexibility to work under tight deadlines or changing priorities.
- Excellent writing skills in English.
- Strong communication and outreach skills.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel. Experience with statistical software like STATA is desirable.

Interested candidates are requested to send their CV, sample publications and a brief expression **hepa@who.int** as soon as possible and no later than **31 May, 2021**. Please include in subject line: **HEPA Consultancy EOI 2021**. An email will be provided acknowledging receipt of your application, and only selected candidates will be contacted for an interview or related follow-up.