Call for expression of interest – Consultancy on Air pollution, morbidity and Health

Deadline for applications: 21 May 2021

4 May 2021

Background

In many countries, air pollution is the most important environmental determinant of health. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that about 7 million premature deaths are attributed annually to the effects of ambient and household air pollution. Evidence on the risks related to air pollution is a fundamental part of the assistance provided by WHO to enable its Member States to address environmental determinants of health. Such evidence is also relevant in WHO’s support to implementation of the Global Plan of Action on noncommunicable diseases, in addressing childhood pneumonia, and in guiding sustainable development and climate change policies to promote and protect public health.

As part of the World Health Assembly resolution on “Health and the environment: addressing the health impact of air pollution” adopted in 2015 (WHA68.18) and the resulting “Road Map for an enhanced global response to the adverse health effects of air pollution” as it was agreed by the World Health Assembly in 2016 (WHA69), the WHO Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health (ECH) aims to address the urgent public health need to respond to the effects associated with air pollution. Key activities include informing policymakers and the broad public on the extent of population exposure to and health impacts from poor air quality – indoor and outdoor- and strengthening the health sector with knowledge and tools to engage with other sectors and respond to air pollution-related health effects.

WHO has been regularly working with experts to use the best evidence and improve the information on the use of health data for air pollution health burden and impacts estimates. Current activities address the relevance of reviewing the epidemiological scientific literature on morbidity effects and impacts of air pollution. This project is developed with various international partners and will allow to:

1. Enhance the appreciation of the health and economic benefits of such measures among the public and decision makers by introducing easily understandable quantifications of the positive effects deriving from reduced exposure to short-lived climate pollutants (SLCP) and air pollution.
2. Establish a methodology to estimate economic costs of selected morbidity outcomes of exposure to air pollution in a population, and test its application at various geographical scales (national, regional and global).
**Expected deliverables**

The objective of the call is to identify a qualified expert who is willing to serve as consultant to work on the further development of activities related to health impacts assessments and evidence-based interventions for air pollution. More specifically, the following streams of work will be open for expression of interest:

1) refine the available concentration-response functions for diseases that have economic relevance

2) identify accurate background morbidity statistics, and compile data sets for selected regions and countries

3) develop methods for the quantification of the economic costs of morbidity for different regions

4) conduct an assessment of morbidity costs of air pollution for some selected countries in different WHO regions

The main tasks that the expert is expected to carry over are related to support on:

- concentration-response functions,
- definition of the morbidity data and indicators,
- develop a method for quantifying costs,
- compute morbidity impacts and associated costs, and
- application of the knowledge in some examples.

**Experience, Qualifications and Skills**

- Degree in statistics, health economics, public health, epidemiology or equivalent fields;
- More than 10 years of experience in health statistics, health impact assessment;
- Strong knowledge and understanding of air pollution and health indicators;
- Experience with health economics;
- Experience with project management;
- Excellent writing and qualitative skills;
- Excellent communication and inter-cultural skills;
- Fluency in English is required. Fluency in other languages is an asset.

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 final candidate will be selected through a competitive process in accordance with WHO’s operating policies and procedures and remuneration will be based on experience. This contract will be an Agreement of Performance of Work (APW) and will not entail to visa to enter Switzerland. Remote working for the contract is possible. This work is estimated for a duration of approximatively 12 months, over the period June 2021 to May 2021.

**Contact:**
Expression of interest must be received no later than **16:00 (CET) on 21 May 2021**. The expressions of interest are to be delivered electronically to the email address airpollution@who.int with the mention “Expression of Interest – Air pollution, morbidity and Health” in the email subject.