Call for Expression of Interest:

Consultancy in the Air Quality and Health (AQH) unit – Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health – WHO Headquarter, Geneva

Purpose of the consultancy
The purpose of this consultancy is to provide technical support for the activities related to health impacts assessments, Sustainable Developments Goals (SDG) indicator 11.6.2 (air quality levels in urban areas) reporting, and evidence-based interventions for air pollution.

Background
The objective of the World Health Organization (WHO) Air Quality and Health (AQH) unit in the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health is to promote health sector interventions, as well as interventions in economic sectors (e.g. housing, transport, energy) that reduce environmental health risks, promote better health, and optimize the health co-benefits of sustainable development and climate change mitigation policies. AQH activities aim to address the urgent need for the health sector to respond to the effects on health associated with air pollution. One of the key activities is to inform policymakers and the broad public on the extent of population exposure to and health impacts from poor air quality. Accordingly, WHO is custodial agency of three air pollution-related SDG Indicators and is hosting several databases related to ambient and household air pollution.

WHO is establishing the Global Air Pollution and Health – Technical Advisory Group (GAPH-TAG), which is an institutionalized and more focused version of the previous Global Platform on Air Quality and Health Expert Group. The GAPH-TAG will work on the further development of activities related to health impacts assessments and evidence-based interventions for air pollution, in which the SDG reporting is embedded.

The purpose of this consultancy is to provide technical support for the activities related to the workplan established with the GAPH-TAG, more specifically the Expert Working Groups on Exposure assessment and Interventions. The incumbent will be preparing a report on human air pollution exposure assessment methods, support the unit in organizing the EWG meetings, and the development of modelling process for SDG 11.6.2 with the University of Exeter.

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The objective of the work is to support the update of the air pollution and health statistics, by conducting descriptive statistical analyses of various data sets, preparing the documentation for country consultation and subsequent reporting and publication in the World Health Statistics (WHS) series, SDG’s related reports and other documents.

Planned timelines
Full-time during 12 months. Approximate time period: 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022.

Possibility of extension pending availability of funds.
Work to be performed

Under the supervision of WHO the selected consultant will undertake the following tasks:

1. Prepare a WHO report on methods for human exposure assessment of air pollution from selected pollutants. The report will provide an extensive review of the current landscape of the existing methodologies, including (among others) the following aspects:
   a. Identification of the different temporal and spatial scales and their implications;
   b. Identification of strengths and weaknesses in the various methodologies (e.g. low-cost sensors, land use regression models, etc.) in addition to those already used for SDG reporting
   c. Data availability
   d. Financial and human resources needed
   e. How inequalities in exposure can be captured

2. Support the WHO AQH unit with the GAPH-TAG activities related to exposure assessment. The Expert Working Group (EWG) on Exposure assessment will develop a workplan and associated timeline for SDG reporting in 2021 and beyond and meet virtually regularly. The incumbent will be actively supporting activities such as:
   a. Exploring how to tackle time-weighted exposure averages
   b. Exploring the use of forecasting for exposure reduction
   c. Exploring sub-national scale exposure assessment
   d. Data analysis for SDG 11.6.2 reporting

3. Set up a working group on SDG 11.6.2 with other UN agencies and key stakeholders to discuss specific issues related to the indicator, its use and reporting by Member States, including (among others):
   a. Approaches to setting baseline, target and trajectories for the indicators
   b. Guidance and tools needed for Member States
   c. Explore what is needed for this indicator in the post 2030 SDG era

4. Support the WHO AQH unit with the GAPH-TAG activities related to interventions and policy. The Expert Working Group (EWG) on Interventions and policy will develop a workplan and associated timeline and meet virtually regularly. The incumbent will be actively supporting the following activities:
   a. Urban policies and interventions
   b. Traffic related policies and interventions

Specific requirements

Qualifications:
Formal qualifications in epidemiology, chemistry, atmospheric science, environmental or health sciences, or another relevant quantitative field.

Experience:
At least 5 years of practical work experience in air pollution, exposure assessment, data management and quantitative analyses
Experience with data management of large datasets and data cleaning
Experience in project management
Experience working in a multicultural environment

Skills:
Proficiency in Microsoft Excel, including programming Proficiency in Tableau, STATA or R
Excellent knowledge of air pollution data, or environmental statistics, as well as other health-related SDG indicators, and good understanding of data quality and limitations
Excellent communication skills
Ability to interact and maintain good working relationships with partners within and across organizations
Organizational and planning skills
Languages:
Expert knowledge of English
Knowledge of other WHO official languages is a desirable

Place of assignment
The consultant will be expected to work remotely. The consultant will be required to update WHO through periodic email and/or calls. Periodic written updates may be required, as will be indicated by WHO.

Travel
The consultant may be expected to travel, upon request. Costs associated with travel will be covered by WHO, in addition to consultant fees.

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

Selection process
The consultant will be selected through a competitive process in accordance with WHO’s operating policies and procedures on procurement of services. Following an initial review of submissions, short-listed candidates will be invited to an interview.

Submission of Expression of Interest
Interested candidates are invited to send their CVs, description of similar assignments, and/or examples of relevant reports or publications and a cover email, to airpollution@who.int no later than 17:00 Central European Time on Friday 19 March 2021, with the subject line “Application for consultancy – Exposure assessment and SDG 11 “.