Call for Proposals

Develop National Roadmap and Guidelines for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Healthcare Facilities

Purpose

The purpose of this expression of interest is to hire a contractual partner (local firm) to support development of documents in three areas – (1) National Roadmap for Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Health care facilities, (2) National guidelines for Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in health care facilities, and (3) Wastewater management guideline for health care facilities, in coordination with HPA, MoH and WHO.

Background

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) in healthcare facilities is a critical aspect of healthcare infrastructure and service delivery. It encompasses the provision of clean water supply, sanitation facilities, and hygiene practices within healthcare settings, such as hospitals, clinics, and health centers. Access to clean water is essential for various healthcare activities, including drinking, handwashing, cleaning medical equipment, and maintaining proper hygiene standards. It is crucial for preventing infections, reducing the risk of healthcare-associated diseases, and providing safe and effective care to patients.

The importance of WASH in healthcare facilities has been recognized globally, and it is closely linked to the Astana Declaration on Primary Health Care. The Astana Declaration, adopted at the Global Conference on Primary Health Care held in Astana, Kazakhstan, in 2018, reaffirms the commitment of governments and stakeholders to strengthen primary healthcare as the cornerstone of sustainable and equitable health systems.

Investing in WASH in healthcare facilities is essential for achieving universal health coverage and ensuring the delivery of quality healthcare services. Access to clean water, sanitation facilities, and hygiene practices not only improves patient safety and health outcomes but also enhances the working conditions of healthcare staff. It contributes to the overall effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of healthcare systems. The availability of WASH service, especially in maternity and primary-care settings where they are often absent, supports core universal health care aspects of quality, equity and dignity for all people. Basic WASH service in health care facilities are fundamental to providing quality care and for ensuring that primary health commitments as detailed in Astana Declaration, are achieved.

Inadequate WASH in health care facilities has been linked to the spread of antimicrobial-resistant (AMR) infections, placing patients and staff at risk of serious infections that are hard to treat. At the same time, in countries where WASH is inadequate and infectious disease risks are high, prophylactic use of antibiotics is more common, which further drives the emergence of AMR. Furthermore, unsafe disposal of wastewater from health care facilities can contribute to the spread of AMR in the communities as well.

WASH in healthcare facilities is a fundamental component of healthcare infrastructure and service delivery. It ensures the availability of clean water supply, adequate sanitation facilities, and proper hygiene practices to safeguard the health and well-being of patients, healthcare workers, and communities.
**Work to be performed**

The consulting party is expected to develop the following documents in consultation with stakeholders:

1. National Roadmap for Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Health care facilities.
3. Wastewater management guideline for health care facilities.

**Roles and responsibilities:**

- Prepare a timeline and share with HPA program focal point.
- Deliver the outputs as per agreed upon timeline.
- Develop draft roadmap and guidelines after reviewing available assessments/documents/guidance and compiling information from relevant stakeholders (the relevant stakeholders will be identified with the support from HPA technical unit).
- Conduct stakeholder consultations to validate the first draft of the roadmap and guidelines.
- Incorporate stakeholder’s comments and share the final draft of roadmap and guidelines.

**Qualifications, experience, skills and languages**

**Educational Qualifications:**

*Essential:*
Bachelors degree in public health / health sciences / Health Service management

*Desirable:*
Masters degree in public health / health sciences / Health Service management

**Experience**

*Essential:*
- At least 3 years of work experience in public health field/health services delivery
- Familiarity with social and legal context of the country

*Desirable:*
- Previous experience on developing plans / policies / strategies / guidelines / standards will be an added advantage

**Skills/Knowledge:**

- Ability to plan, prioritize and deliver variety of tasks on time
- Ability to carry out the tasks independently with self-confidence
- Confident in presenting to a high-level audience
- Computer literate and strong layout skills and typography skills
- Good communication skills in English and Dhivehi
- Ability to work within a given time-period and deliver work on time with outstanding quality
- Ability to work collaboratively with a variety of stakeholders and meet deadlines.

**Languages and level required (Basic/Intermediate/Advanced):**

Excellent knowledge of written and spoken English/Dhivehi

**Timeline**

4 months (July - October 2023)
Application:

- Interested institutes are requested to email their technical and financial proposal with company profile to sewhomav@who.int by 20 June 2023 with email subject ‘Develop National Roadmap and Guidelines for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Healthcare Facilities’.