CALL FOR PROPOSALS

National Consultant to support data collection for case study on Public Financial Management (PFM) systems in Health

Background

Evidence shows that public financing is an essential factor to sustainable progress towards universal health coverage (UHC).\(^1\) By placing public funds at the center of health financing reforms, the movement towards UHC has transformed public financial management (PFM) into a central issue for sector results. PFM systems affect health financing in: (i) the level and allocation of public funding; (ii) the effectiveness of spending; and (iii) the flexibility in which funds can be used. With the overall public finance reform and the decentralization process in most countries, understand the practice of public finance is critical for having efficient dialogue with Ministries of Finance, to align public financial management and health financing functions and to improve overall health system governance. The recent COVID-19 response mounted by Governments for health emergency preparedness and response, including the significant policy prerogatives for social and policy responses, underscored the criticality of PFM. WHO provides support to countries to accelerate and tailor PFM reform implementation in the health sector.

The national consultant will support the Health Financing and Governance (HFG) unit under the Department of Health Systems (HSD) of the WHO Office of the South-East Asian Region (SEARO) to undertake analytical works to improve the PFM in health in the region. It will entail data collection and analysis supports to the regional synthesis and country case studies of public financial management in health in the SEAR.

Specific Tasks

The HSD/HFG of the WHO SEARO is undertaking a stream of work covering Public Financial Management systems and its role in health emergency and in the Maldives goal for universal health coverage. To help undertake this stream of work, a researcher will be engaged through an APW contract.

The National consultant will have the following duties and responsibilities:

1) To gather data and information concerning PFM functions and institutions (including data on approved budget, executed budget, financial monitoring systems and indicators used, ways of ensuring accountability etc.,) with particular focus on the health sector, as identified by the international expert;

2) To administer a short PFM questionnaire to the relevant focal persons in the Ministry of Finance or Ministry of Health in Maldives;
3) To conduct other relevant duties, including key informant interviews, focus group discussions if needed to obtain the required PFM data and information;
4) To review the draft synthesis report prepared by the international expert and to check the validity of data and information for Maldives;
5) Keep notes and reports on field visits, minutes of meetings, and others.

Expected outputs/deliverables

a. Deliverable 1: Completed 1st set of data and information
b. Deliverable 2: Completed 2nd set of data and information
c. Deliverable 3: Review of draft PFM report

Method(s) to carry out the work under contractual agreement

The National consultant will use quantitative and qualitative methods; and various data sources, including publicly available and grey literature and data. In general, the required health budget and expenditure data is available in public domains, however may exist in local language. Thus the consultant is expected to thoroughly search and review relevant databases from governments, WHO and other international organizations (e.g. International Monetary Fund, World Bank); relevant literature (peer reviewed and grey); to obtain credible and up-to-date budget/expenditure data and other information; The National consultant will undertake key informant interviews, when required.

Specific requirements

Qualification:
- At least a Bachelor degree or equivalent related to economics, public finance and business or financial management

Experience:
- Proven track record in the area of public finance and financial management
- Minimum of 3 years’ experience in the field of public finance desirable
- Past experience in undertaking survey and/or key informant interviews an advantage
- Ability to analyze data from multiple sources is required

Language:
- Fluency in written and spoken English and Dhivehi

Functional competencies
- Strong analytical skills with conceptual understanding;
- Excellent demonstrated ability to be flexible and work under tight deadlines in an independent working environment;
MALDIVES

- High level of communication and interpersonal skills and experience in working effectively in a multi-cultural environment
- Good understanding of the Government operations both at national and local levels (as applicable)
- Computer literacy

Place of assignment

The tasks are expected to be completed in the home country (Maldives), with communication held through emails and phone calls.

Application:
Interested individuals or companies are requested to send their expression of interest along with their CV/ company profiles to sewhomav@who.int by 1st April 2021.