

UNDP/UNFPA/UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP)

WHO Department of Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal, Child, Adolescent Health and Ageing

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) foresight and research priority setting consultant

Terms of reference

Apply by Wednesday 15 April 2026 23:59 CET

1. Purpose of consultancy:

The purpose of this consultancy is to support HRP and its UN cosponsors (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, and the World Bank) in the development of a global sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) foresight and research priorities report to be launched by Q2 2027. The consultant will work with the Core Working Group to analyze emerging trends, needs, opportunities, and challenges affecting SRHR over the next decade, and to translate these insights into a strategic foresight report and accompanying interactive web-based tools. This work will contribute to strengthening the ability of global stakeholders to anticipate and address future SRHR issues and to accelerate progress toward global goals.

2. Background

The UNDP/UNFPA/UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP) is the main instrument within the United Nations system for identifying research priorities on sexual and reproductive health and rights; for promoting, conducting, evaluating and coordinating related interdisciplinary research; for collaborating with countries to build national capacity to conduct research; and for promoting the use of research results in policy making and sexual and reproductive health programmes. The Department draws on research and global expertise to set norms and standards and develop global guidelines on sexual and reproductive health and rights. More information about HRP can be found at <https://www.who.int/hrp>.

HRP and its UN cosponsors (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO and World Bank) will jointly develop and launch an SRHR foresight and research priorities report by Q2 2027. The consultant will work with the Core Working Group for this activity comprised of technical counterparts in each of the HRP UN cosponsor agencies, and the HRP technical co-leads for this work. As a global public good, this work will aim to better position key stakeholders to influence and tackle potential trends, needs, opportunities and challenges for the SRHR community over the next 10 years in an increasingly challenging context. This report will be accompanied by web-based interactive visual tools and maps enabling active engagement and uptake by the wider SRHR field to accelerate towards agreed global goals and beyond.

3. Deliverables

Output 1. Desk Review and Methodology Analysis

Deliverables

- Identify, review and analyze foresight and research prioritization methodologies (eg – WHO, UNFPA, UN, academia, UN futures labs etc) to inform the design of process with fit-for-purpose methods.
- Produce a foresight methodology synthesis for the Core Working Group summarizing key methodological options, advantages and limitations, relevant tools, limitations, and quality criteria

to inform this work, as well as proposed options for integrating both foresight and research prioritization methods to achieve priority objectives.

- Review and analyze the utility, strengths and weaknesses of using AI to support data scraping, analysis and synthesis in the foresight and research prioritization process and identify existing tools in the UN system that may be used for this purpose.

Output 2. Foresight and research prioritization methodology development Deliverables

- Collaborate with the Core Working Group to develop and finalize the foresight and research prioritization methodology and accompanying templates, worksheets and tools, including consultation facilitator guides and packages.
- Facilitate iterative internal and external peer review of the draft methodology and in consultation with the Core Working Group, maintain a living methodology that informs process and captures lessons learned as the work evolves

Output 3. Support the co-design of the consultation process; co-facilitate 30+ virtual consultations Deliverables

- Facilitate/co-facilitate consultative processes across multiple themes with diverse stakeholders at constituent, regional and global levels; ensure equity-focused prompting and structured capture of insights.
- Lead synthesis “huddles” after each consultation cycle to consolidate signals, drivers, and proposed priorities, document findings and share with core group and other identified channels.

Output 4. Stakeholder Engagement & Management

Deliverables

- Manage invitations, briefings, and feedback loops; ensure meaningful participation of community representation and rights-based constituencies, as identified in consultation with the core working group and HRP focal points.
- Track engagement metrics and risks (representation gaps, political sensitivities) and propose mitigation actions.

Output 5. Drafting of Findings Report

Deliverables

- Produce an executive summary and key messages tailored for senior leadership and co-sponsors, centred on SRHR and rights.
- Draft thematic findings chapters and “what this means” sections (implications, trade-offs, and priorities under constrained funding/UN80).
- Integrate illustrative outputs (scenario narratives, backcasting pathways, priority maps) and ensure consistency with the web tools.

Output 6. Project management processes with administrative team

Deliverables

- Set up workflow (workplan, RACI, file structure, version control, clearance steps) and a tracking dashboard for deliverables.
- Standardize communications (meeting templates, participant comms, decision logs) and coordinate scheduling with co-sponsors.
- Maintain an up-to-date master timeline and risk register; escalate issues early with proposed mitigation options.

Output 7. Web-Based Interactive Tools & Visual Products

Deliverables

- Work with the Core Working Group and external supplier to define priority data elements and taxonomy (themes, drivers, populations, geographies, time horizons) to structure the tool.
- Translate findings into mapped outputs (e.g., drivers of change, scenario implications, priority clusters) with clear metadata and sourcing.
- Review prototypes developed by the external supplier for accuracy, narrative coherence, accessibility, and alignment with report findings.

Output 8. Core Working Group Coordination

Deliverables

- Hold regular check-ins for alignment on decisions, evolving constraints, and political/operational risks; document decisions and action points.
- Update workplan and consultation sequencing based on changes; ensure dependencies (reporting, web tools, validation) remain feasible.
- Provide rapid-turnaround briefs for co-leads (emerging themes, stakeholder issues, timeline impacts) to support leadership engagement.

4. Qualifications, experience, skills and languages

Educational Qualifications

Master's degree in global/ international or public health or other relevant health science.

Desirable: Doctoral degree in public health or related field.

Experience

Over 10 years of experience in research on sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality, and global health.

Experience with project and research management, including leading or co-leading large multi-year global projects, and working in and with multi-national teams.

Demonstrated experience coordinating and convening stakeholders including engagement with government, civil society, academia, multilateral and private sector.

Experience with foresight methodologies and research prioritization approaches preferred.

Skills/Knowledge

Excellent communication skills.

Superior writing skills, including demonstrated journal articles, reports, or other pieces of work synthesizing large ideas into digestible formats.

Comfortable using project management applications and willingness to learn new tools including engagement with AI agents and LLMs

Ability to meet deadlines for both long and short-term, and talent for long-term planning.

Languages and level required

Expert knowledge of English

5. Location

Off site: Home-based

6. Location

Travel is not anticipated for this role

7. Remuneration and budget (travel costs excluded)

- a. Remuneration: Band C 10,000-12,500 per month
- b. Living expenses: N/A
- c. Expected duration of contract (Maximum contract duration is 11 months per calendar year): 6 months – part-time at 80%. Remuneration will be prorated accordingly.

8. Supervision

Hiring Manager: Ms Alanna Galati, Scientist (SRHR policy), LHR/HRP; alanna.galati@who.int

Collaborators: Dr Tana Wuliji, Unit Head, SRT, wulijit@who.int

Admin focal point: Mr Edin Karahasanovic, Team Assistant, karahasanovice@who.int

Additional Information

- This vacancy notice may be used to identify candidates for other similar consultancies at the same level.
- Only candidates under serious consideration will be contacted.
- A written test may be used as a form of screening.
- If your candidature is retained for interview, you will be required to provide, in advance, a scanned copy of the degree(s)/diploma(s)/certificate(s) required for this position. WHO only considers higher educational qualifications obtained from an institution accredited/recognized in the World Higher Education Database (WHED), a list updated by the International Association of Universities (IAU)/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The list can be accessed through the link: <http://www.whed.net/>. Some professional certificates may not appear in the WHED and will require individual review.
- For information on WHO's operations please visit: <http://www.who.int>.
- The WHO is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive environment of mutual respect. The WHO recruits workforce regardless of disability status, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, language, race, marital status, religious, cultural, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds, or any other personal characteristics.
- An impeccable record for integrity and professional ethical standards is essential. WHO prides itself on a workforce that adheres to the highest ethical and professional standards and that is committed to put the WHO Values Charter (<https://www.who.int/about/who-we-are/our-values>) into practice.
- WHO has zero tolerance towards sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), sexual harassment and other types of abusive conduct (i.e., discrimination, abuse of authority and harassment). All members of the WHO workforce have a role to play in promoting a safe and respectful workplace and should report to WHO any actual or suspected cases of SEA, sexual harassment and other types of abusive conduct. To ensure that individuals with a substantiated history of SEA, sexual harassment or other types of abusive conduct are not hired by the Organization, WHO will conduct a background verification of short-listed candidates.
- WHO has a smoke-free environment and does not recruit smokers or users of any form of tobacco.
- Consultants shall perform the work as independent contractors in a personal capacity, and not as a representative of any entity or authority.
- WHO shall have no responsibility for any taxes, duties, social security contributions or other contributions payable by the Consultant. The Consultant shall be solely responsible for withholding and paying any taxes, duties, social security contributions and any other contributions which are

applicable to the Consultant in each location/jurisdiction in which the work hereunder is performed, and the Consultant shall not be entitled to any reimbursement thereof by WHO.

- Consultants working in Switzerland must register with the applicable Swiss cantonal tax authorities and social security authorities, within the prescribed timeframes (Guidelines issued by the Swiss Mission are available at: