

NOTICE OF VACANCY

Community Engagement and Partnerships Support for COVID-19 Management and Other Health Emergencies



1. Summary

The World Health Organization (WHO) Philippines is looking for an individual contractual partner who will serve as the community engagement and partnerships' focal person in support to COVID-19 management and other health emergencies, under a Special Services Agreement (SSA) contract.

The deadline for submission of applications is on 12 August 2023.

2. Background

Pandemics and large-scale outbreaks can claim millions of lives, disrupt societies and devastate economies. WHO's Health Emergencies Programme (WHE) is working with Member States to help countries to prepare for large-scale outbreaks and pandemics.

Through the Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases and Public Health Emergencies (APSED III), core capacities required by the International Health Regulations (2005), or IHR, are being advanced, providing an important foundation for pandemic preparedness. This is complemented by efforts to strengthen disease-specific systems and capacities, including for vaccines, pharmaceuticals and other public health interventions. Countries are also encouraged to engage the whole of society for effective pandemic preparedness and response.

One of the important aspects of the sustained management of COVID-19 and response to other health emergencies is communicating and engaging with communities to enable and empower individuals, groups, and relevant entities to practice recommended behaviours, follow non-pharmaceutical interventions, and build and expand networks that play an important role in the response.

By strengthening the core capacities required under the IHR, including risk communication and community engagement (RCCE), countries can save lives and protect health during outbreaks and health emergencies.

3. Timeline

The implementation timeline for the project is from September 2023 to March 2024.

4. Place of Assignment

WHO Philippines Country Office

5. Scope of Work

Under the supervision of the WHO Representative to the Philippines and the WHO Health Emergencies Team Lead, and in coordination with relevant teams at the Department of Health, the incumbent shall be responsible for delivering the following outputs:

Output 1: Provide technical support on community engagement and partnerships on the sustained management of COVID-19 and response to other health emergencies to the Department of Health (DOH) and its subnational units

- Deliverable 1.1: Provide technical and operational support to COVID-19 health promotion and community engagement activities with the DOH
- Deliverable 1.2: Work with the DOH and its partners to further strengthen community engagement, risk communication, and social mobilization strategies and their adaptation and implementation by regional and local authorities

Output 2: Lead coordination and technical support on RCCE strategies for national plans on pandemic preparedness and health security

- Deliverable 2.1: Coordinate and contribute to national and subnational consultations in the development plans for pandemic preparedness and health security
- Deliverable 2.2: Support WHE and DOH teams in consultative meetings on national plans for pandemic preparedness and health security with civil society organizations (CSOs), faith-based organizations, UN agencies, non-government organizations (NGOs), local government units (LGUs), and other stakeholders

Output 3: Facilitate capacity building initiatives on risk communication, community engagement, social mobilization, and supportive supervision in relation to COVID-19 and other public health emergencies

- Deliverable 3.1: Facilitate capacity building initiatives of relevant DOH teams at the national and subnational levels on RCCE during public health emergencies and managing infodemic at the community level
- Deliverable 3.2: Provide supportive supervision and mentor partners from LGUs at the subnational level on RCCE

Output 4: Lead and manage CSO partners in their implementation of community engagement programmes relevant to COVID-19, pandemic preparedness, and health security

- Deliverable 4.1: Provide technical recommendations to CSO partners on designing and implementing interventions, in alignment with WHO's guidelines
- Deliverable 4.2: Coordinate with DOH Health Promotion Bureau on policy and implementation guidelines, and partnerships with local governments
- Deliverable 4.3: Review and approve administrative documentation from the CSO partners

Output 5: Perform other RCCE WHE-related or COVID-19-related duties, as required by the WHE Team Lead and/or WHO Representative to the Philippines

NOTE ON CONFIDENTIALITY AND OWNERSHIP

All technical documents, reports, tools, and prototype guides are to be treated as confidential and must not be handed over to third parties. These shall be submitted to the WHO and the Organization shall have sole ownership and rights to the completed products. Any reproduction, citation, reference, and use of the said documents and materials requires the permission of the WHO.

6. Qualifications

The Contractual Partner must meet the following qualifications:

Education and Certifications

- Essential: University degree in social work, community development, sociology, or public health from an accredited or recognized institution
- Desirable: Advanced University degree in public health, social work, or community development

Work Experience

- Essential: Minimum of seven years of experience at the national and international levels, in applying and monitoring multidisciplinary approaches in community engagement, social mobilization programmes and/or multidisciplinary team management
- Essential: Previous NGO and/or INGO work experience, particularly managing community-based projects
- Desirable: Experience working within the UN system or with UN partners

Technical Skills and Knowledge

- Essential: Proven track record in employing RCCE principles in community-based initiatives
- Desirable: Familiarity with WHO's guidelines on RCCE as a key intervention during health emergencies

Language Fluency

- Essential: Written and spoken fluency in English and Filipino
- Desirable: Fluency in other local languages and dialects in the Philippines

In addition, the contractor shall have no direct or indirect involvement or interest, in any form, in arms dealing, drugs, alcohol industry, tobacco industry or human trafficking. The contractor and personnel involved in this work shall have no conflicts of interest in relation to the work being undertaken.

7. Other Requirements

The consultant should be ready to travel to various locations in the country as needed. A medical certificate of fitness to work should be submitted prior to the engagement.

8. Management of Conflict of Interest

Any interest by entity (individual/organization/company), expert or member of the project team that may affect or reasonably be perceived to (1) affect the expert's objectivity and independence in providing advice to WHO related to the conduct of a project, and/or (2) create an unfair competitive advantage for the expert or persons or institutions with whom the expert

has financial or interests (such as adult children or siblings, close professional colleagues, administrative unit or department).

WHO's conflict of interest rules are designed to identify and avoid potentially compromising situations from arising thereby protecting the credibility of the Organization and of its normative work. If not identified and appropriately managed such situations could undermine or discount the value of expert's contribution, and as consequence, the work in which the expert is involved. Robust management of conflicts of interest not only protects the integrity of WHO and its technical/normative standard setting processes but also protects the concerned expert and the public interest in general.

9. Ethical and Professional Standards

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 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 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 final candidates.

10. Submission Requirements

Interested individual should submit electronic copies of the following:

- Cover letter
- Curriculum vitae

Address all applications to:

Dr Rui Paulo de Jesus

WHO Representative to the Philippines
Ground Floor, Building 3, Department of Health
San Lazaro Compound
Rizal Avenue, Sta Cruz, Manila

Please submit the electronic copy of the applications with the title, **Community Engagement and Partnerships Support for COVID-19 Management and Other Health Emergencies**, to Mrs Ying Chen (cheny@who.int) with a copy to wpphlwr@who.int. Applications submitted to the designated email addresses will be considered for shortlisting. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted by WHO Philippines.

The deadline for submission of applications is on **12 August 2023**.