Vacancy notice

Consultant, SRHR Initiative

The WHO Department of Reproductive Health and Research (RHR) seeks an experienced consultant to work on a new initiative focused on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). The SRHR Initiative is focused on integrating SRHR into the thirteenth WHO General Programme of Work (GPW13), especially the strategic priorities of Healthier Populations and Universal Health Coverage. WHO is undertaking an organization wide initiative to its capacity to support countries to achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services and the Sustainable Development Goals. The central and overarching focus of the project is to drive country impact by strengthening and supporting work within countries. This will be supplemented by regional and global work advocating for greater access to SRHR and developing global public goods that provide the normative and evidence base to drive impact within countries. As such, this initiative will cut across departments and across all three levels of the organization.

The purpose of this consultancy is to support the Maternal and Perinatal Health and Preventing Unsafe Abortion (MPA) team on providing technical support to countries and to assist in the development of normative guidance and best practice tools. The consultancy requires a master’s, doctoral or specialist degree (in public health, epidemiology, medicine, social sciences or any other health related field), a minimum of seven years of experience and good project management skills. The position requires an individual with the capacity to work under minimal supervision, and with a range of partners and teams to efficiently meet deadlines and produce results.

This consultancy will be based in Geneva, Switzerland by the successful applicant. The work will require travel and site visits.

Please submit (i) a letter of motivation, and (ii) your curriculum vitae to mpa-info@who.int indicating “SRHR Initiative” in the subject line. Closing date for applications is 10 June 2018.

Terms of reference

Organizational Background

The Department of Reproductive Health and Research (RHR) works to enable people to protect their own health as it relates to sexuality and reproduction and to receive quality health care in matters related to sexual and reproductive health. To achieve this, the Department advocates and promotes sound public health strategies, sets norms and standards, engages in technical cooperation activities, and supports research. RHR’s overall strategic framework is provided by the WHO Global Reproductive Health Strategy approved by the 57th World Health Assembly in 2004. More information about RHR can be found at http://www.who.int/reproductive-health.

RHR includes the UNDP/UNFPA/UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP). HRP is the main instrument within the United Nations system for promoting, conducting, evaluating and coordinating interdisciplinary research on sexual and reproductive health; for collaborating with countries in enhancing national capacities to conduct this research; for promoting and facilitating the use of research results in policy-making and planning for sexual and reproductive health care; and for the setting of standards and
guidelines, including technical and ethical guidelines, in the field of sexual and reproductive health research. More information about HRP can be found at http://www.who.int/reproductive-health/hrp.
Summary of duties:

Under the guidance of a Scientist or other staff of RHR/MPA, the Consultant will perform the following tasks:

1. Provide technical support for development, capacity building, and implementation of WHO normative tools related to safe abortion to strengthen sexual and reproductive health policies and programmes and other activities focused on achieving country-level impacts on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

2. Liaise with other technical departments/units at WHO HQ working on the SRHR Initiative.

3. Work with selected regional and country offices to assess SRHR needs – especially needs related to safe abortion and contraception – and identify policy and programme innovations to introduce, test, and scale up.

4. Provide technical inputs into the Department's work on the development best practice tools with a particular focus on safe abortion, post-abortion care and contraception.

The individual will work as a part of a team of experienced and skilled staff and consultants on this project.

Duration of contract

1. The contract spans a period of 12 months (June 2018 - May 2019).
2. Minimum contractual period for successful candidate is 6 months.

WHO Competencies

1. Technical expertise
2. Teamwork.
3. Building and promoting partnerships across the organization and beyond.

Essential knowledge and skill

1. Strong planning and organizational skills, demonstrated ability to manage converging priorities and deliver high-quality products under tight deadlines.
2. Ability to establish and maintain good working relations with colleagues, including WHO staff and with local and international partners.
3. Tact and maturity in dealing with sensitive topics.

Essential educational qualifications

This work requires a doctoral or specialist degree (in public health, epidemiology, medicine, social sciences or any other health related field).
Essential relevant experience

At least 7 years of experience combining:

1. Proven competencies in working in SRHR.
2. Demonstrated ability to understand and work on complex policy and programme issues related to SRHR in general and abortion in particular.
3. Demonstrated experience working in multidisciplinary teams

Desirable experience
1. Programmatic and research experience working in low- and/or middle-income countries

Language Skills
Essential: Excellent knowledge of English. Knowledge of French would be an asset.