Vacancy notice

Research capacity strengthening Consultant

The UNDP/UNFPA/UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP) based within the Department of Reproductive Health and Research (RHR) seeks a consultant to work with the HRP Alliance, including the HRP SRHR research capacity strengthening programme and to support the research project review panel secretariat.

The purpose of this consultancy is to advance the work of the HRP Alliance, specifically to support the work of the HRP LID HUB institutions and other RCS recipients, but other tasks may also be included. The consultant should be able to independently work with country-based researchers and stakeholders for follow-up and evaluation of the RCS programme, and travels may occur. The consultant will report to the Research Manager.

The consultancy requires a high level of flexibility and ability to engage in various functions to support the HRP Alliance management. The position requires excellent writing skills in English. Experience from research in global health, sexual and reproductive health and rights research, specifically implementation research as well as in research capacity strengthening would be an asset. The candidate will work as a part of a team of experienced staff dedicated to research capacity strengthening and good research practice.

This position is based in Geneva, Switzerland and will be commensurate with experience.

Please submit (i) a letter of motivation, and (ii) your curriculum vitae to Ms Catherine Kiener at <kienerc@who.int> indicating “RCS Consultant” in the subject line. All applications received will be acknowledged. Closing date for applications is 30th of April 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.
The HRP Alliance’s entails the research capacity strengthening programme of the HRP/RHR, which aims to enhance regional networking while strengthening research capacity with both thematic and methodological foci. The HRP Alliance comprises of institutions receiving support from HRP under its RCS schemes, official WHO collaborating centres (WHO-CC) and institutions and individuals who have engaged long-term with HRP in various research initiatives.

Summary of duties:

Under the guidance of the Research Manager, the Consultant will:

- **work with the regional HRP knowledge transfer HUBs** to develop and follow-up their yearly work plans including setting deliverables and milestones; providing technical support to facilitate the process towards milestones, and also to work on internal evaluations of RCS recipients’ activities.

  This task will also include communicating regularly with PIs either through emails or teleconference, it may include site visits.

- **support the HRP Alliance management** including contributing to yearly reports and documentation, develop SOPs for RCS and HRP Alliance advisory Board. Technical support to organization of meetings, courses, assessing documents for raising contracts such as for research training or small research grants, as needed.

  Participate in working group (WG) meetings and follow-up on action points. May also include other activities related to the general research capacity strengthening and good research practice work.

WHO Competencies

1. Producing results.
2. Communications.
3. Building and promoting partnerships across the organization and beyond.

Essential knowledge and skill

1. Faultless written English.
2. Ability to understand and provide input to evaluation of research capacity strengthening programmes.
3. Demonstrated experiences of managing research projects in low-income settings.
4. Experiences from working in multi-national teams with researchers and/or stakeholders.
5. Excellent communication skills.

Essential educational qualifications

Master of Sciences in global /international or public health or other relevant health science.

Desirable educational qualifications

PhD degree.

Essential relevant experience

At least 3 years of experience combining:

1. National and international experience in the area of global / public health and research.
2. Communication with partners of different capacity.
3. Working with international partners.
Desirable experience
Experiences from research capacity strengthening programmes.
Experiences from sexual and reproductive health and rights research, specifically implementation research.
Authoring Scientific publications.

Language Skills
Essential: Excellent knowledge in English.

Other Skills
Skills required to use e-mail, PowerPoint, Excel, and word processing software independently and efficiently.
Excellent interpersonal skills, knowledge in indicators for evaluation of research.

Duration
6 months with possibilities to extend.

Place of assignment
WHO Headquarters, Geneva Switzerland.

Medical clearance
The selected Consultant will be expected to provide a medical certificate of fitness for work.

Travel
The Consultant may be expected to travel.
All travel arrangements will be made by WHO – WHO will not be responsible for tickets purchased by the Consultant without the express, prior authorization of WHO. While on mission under the terms of this consultancy, the Consultant will receive subsistence allowance.
Visas requirements: it is the consultant’s responsibility to fulfil visa requirements and ask for visa support letter(s) if needed.