Request for proposals
Building a regional learning mechanism for health-related SDGs in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

Deadline:
30 November 2018
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Background
The Alliance for Health Policy and System Research, in collaboration with the Department of Health Promotion and the Division of Health Protection and Promotion at WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO) invites qualified organizations to submit proposals to undertake the development of a regional learning mechanism to facilitate sharing of information and policy practices in the countries included under EMRO towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with special focus on the health-related goals.

It is expected that such a mechanism will draw on diverse experiences from the region on intersectoral policies/approaches/interventions for health; advancing universal health coverage; strengthening the humanitarian-development nexus to improve health in conflict affected settings; and participatory governance.

The learning mechanism is foreseen to include at least three countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) and to involve government, non-government and research partners in these countries.

* Afghanistan, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen
Objectives of the work to be undertaken
1. Establish an inclusive learning platform to facilitate knowledge and experience exchange across different government sectors, civil society and the public.
2. Build partnerships between relevant institutions (governmental and nongovernmental) in the region, to help unify, identify, advertise and promote activities towards achieving health-related SDGs in the region through multi-sectoral action for health.
3. Share tacit knowledge and evidence on governance structures and mechanisms to support the achievement of the SDGs while keeping in view the contextual realities of the region.
4. Contribute to policy action for the health-related SDG agenda through evidence-based multi-stakeholder learning modalities.

Terms of reference
1. Establish a learning mechanism and platform and engage key stakeholders.
2. Identify policies, approaches and interventions to be studied.
3. Ensure that knowledge is shared across countries and contributes to policy action.
4. Promote activities that contribute to health-related SDGs in the region and encourage collaborative approaches.
5. Undertake activities that stimulate dialogue, debate and active engagement, such as field exchanges.
6. Build a repository of resources and knowledge on context-relevant approaches in achieving the health-related SDGs in the region.

Institutional profile
The institution selected to undertake the required activities should have a track record of health-related collaborative work in the EMR. It should have an independent standing and include a professional cadre that can expertly handle the assembly and dissemination of information, develop evidence-based policy initiatives and convene multi-stakeholder meetings.

We are seeking organizations with demonstrated expertise in the EMR, and particularly with these qualifications:

- Previous work on the SDGs and scholarly outputs on health in the EMR.
- Demonstrated ability to engage with government bodies. Experience with regional engagement also preferred.
- Previous collaborative work with networks of scholars in the EMR region.
Work Duration and Cost
The activities to be undertaken under this call should not extend beyond 18 months. The overall cost should be consistent with activities proposed but not exceeding US$250,000.

Application Process
Last date for submission of application is November 30, 2018.

Bids submitted after this deadline will not be considered. Successful applicants can expect to be notified within three weeks of the deadline. WHO may, at its own discretion, extend this closing date for the submission of bids by notifying all applicants thereof in writing.

Submissions of bids should be made at alliancehpsr@who.int. Please use the subject: WHO Bid Ref. Request for Proposals: Regional Learning Mechanism

Submissions of no more than 5 pages should include the following:

- Motivation for applying: how this work fits in with the bidder’s expertise
- Name of the institution including contact details and name of a key contact person
- Description of the institution’s expertise in health-related collaborative work in the EMR and other qualifications mentioned above
- Description of the approach that will be used to establish the regional learning mechanism, including countries involved, stakeholders involved, mechanisms to be used and expected outcomes
- Itemized budget for 18 months based on terms of reference

Please send any questions to Dr Abdul Ghaffar at ghaffarg@who.int.

Note for Applicants
1. WHO may, at any time before the closing date, for any reason, whether on its own initiative or in response to a clarification requested by a (prospective) applicant, modify the bid by written amendment. Amendments could, inter alia, include modification of the project scope or requirements, the project timeline expectations and/or extension of the closing date for submission.
2. All prospective applicants that have submitted a bid will be notified in writing of all amendments to the bid and will, where applicable, be invited to amend their submission accordingly.
3. Applicants should note that WHO reserves the right to:
   a. Award the contract to an applicant of its choice, even if its bid is not the lowest;
   b. Accept or reject any bid, and to annul the solicitation process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected applicants and
without any obligation to inform the affected applicants of the
grounds for WHO’s action;
c. Award the contract on the basis of the Organization’s particular
objectives to an applicant whose bid is considered to be the most
responsive to the needs of the Organization and the activity
concerned;
d. Not award any contract at all;
e. WHO has the right to eliminate bids for technical or other reasons
throughout the evaluation/selection process. WHO shall not in any
way be obligated to reveal, or discuss with any applicant, how a
bid was assessed, or to provide any other information relative to
the evaluation/selection process or to state the reasons for
elimination to any applicant.

4. WHO is acting in good faith by issuing this request for bids. However, this
document does not obligate WHO to contract for the performance of any
work, nor for the supply of any products or services.

5. **WHO reserves the right to enter into negotiations** with one or more
applicants of its choice, including but not limited to negotiation of the
terms of the bid(s), the price quoted in such bid(s) and/or the deletion of
certain parts of the work, components or items called for under this bid.

6. **Within 30 days** of receipt of the contract, the successful applicant shall
sign and date the contract and return it to WHO according to the
instructions provided at that time. If the applicant does not accept the
contract terms without changes, then WHO has the right not to proceed
with the selected applicant and instead contract with another applicant
of its choice.