Request for Expressions of Interest (EoI) for support to WHO SEARO Climate Change and Health technical unit

World Health Organisation (WHO)- South East Asia Regional Office (SEARO) is seeking expressions of interest from institutions or individual consultant(s) for technical support on key projects in the area of climate change and health. The main area of activity for which technical support is sought include 1) Technical support to SEA countries in the areas of policy, advocacy and leadership through the development Standard Operating Protocols, Guidelines, toolkits, knowledge products, situational analysis reports, etc. 2) Adaptation of WHO Global tools and guidance to the regional context 3) Close coordination with country governments for development of proposals to access climate finance and integration of Health into the existing National Adaptation Plans (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) process

To meet the above objectives, we welcome expressions of interest for the work packages as listed in Section III.

Deadline for applications: 1 July 2020

I. Background

Climate Change

Climate change is the greatest health challenge of the 21st century, and threatens all aspects of the society in which we live. Climate change affects the social and environmental determinants of health – clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food and secure shelter. Globally, the number of reported weather-related natural disasters has more than tripled since the 1960s. Rising sea levels and increasingly extreme weather events will destroy homes, medical facilities and other essential services. Floods are also increasing in frequency and intensity. Floods contaminate freshwater supplies, heighten the risk of water-borne diseases, and create breeding grounds for disease-carrying vectors such as mosquitoes. A lack of safe water can compromise hygiene and increase the risk of diarrheal disease. Climatic conditions strongly affect water-borne diseases and diseases transmitted through vectors. Climate change is known to lengthen the transmission seasons of important vector-borne diseases and to alter their geographic range. Extreme high temperatures contribute directly to deaths from cardiovascular and respiratory disease, particularly among elderly people. All populations will be affected by climate change, but some are more vulnerable than others. People living in small island developing states and other coastal regions, megacities, and mountainous and polar regions are particularly vulnerable.

In 2015, the WHO Executive Board endorsed a new work plan on climate change and health. This includes:

- **Partnerships**: to coordinate with partner agencies within the UN system, and ensure that health is properly represented in the climate change agenda.
- **Awareness raising**: to provide and disseminate information on the threats that climate change presents to human health, and opportunities to promote health while cutting carbon emissions.
- **Science and evidence**: to coordinate reviews of the scientific evidence on the links between climate change and health, and develop a global research agenda.
• **Support for implementation of the public health response to climate change:** to assist countries to build capacity to reduce health vulnerability to climate change, and promote health while reducing carbon emissions.

II. **About WHO-SEARO**

One of the six WHO Regions, WHO South-East Asia is home to over a quarter of the world’s population. The WHO South-East Asia Region has 11 Member States - Bangladesh, Bhutan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste. WHO has country offices in all 11 Member States. The WHO South-East Asia Regional office is based in New Delhi, India. Committed to building a better, healthier future for the nearly two billion people in the Region, WHO is working with its Member States to address persisting and emerging epidemiological and demographic challenges.

III. **Work Packages**

**Work Package 1: Climate Resilient Sanitation in SEAR**

The individual or institution selected will provide technical support to adapt global tools and guidance related to climate resilient sanitation in the regional context. Climate change exacerbates the risks that the current climate, including variability, poses for sanitation, and creates new risks, heightens uncertainties, and can increase inequality in sanitation access. World Health Organisation (WHO) recently developed guidelines on sanitation and health (WHO, 2018), aiming to support countries to meet development commitments under the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal agenda. These guidelines provide recommendations and guidance for effective consideration of public health in sanitation policies and actions. In line with these guidelines and overall framework for climate, sanitation and health specific tasks would include:

- Assessment of key climate variability and change effects affecting sanitation systems in the region
- National level (11 member states) assessment of climate change risk, vulnerability, adaptation readiness, risk assessment and mapping
- Detailed assessment of how climate change has been mainstreamed into sanitation policies and governance and; capacity of health workforce, health information and systems and national financing mechanisms to respond to climate related disasters
- Identification of methods/options to strengthen sanitation infrastructure and make it resilient to climate change
- Suggest policy, regulatory, financial, technological, recommendations for building climate resilient sanitation in the region
- Compilation of best practices from the region

**Work Package 2: eLearning modules on Climate Change and Health**

The individual or institution selected will help WHO-SEARO disseminate key messages on Climate Change through an online learning programme. This course is meant for both internal and external stakeholders - Country office representatives, Government officials, partner organisations, etc. and should be designed to be carried out through a series of modules delivered in a self-paced format. Each module should take
no more than 30 minutes and should be designed to be housed on an existing Open Learning campus of WHO/WHO-SEARO. The online learning modules will address topics such as:

- Climate resilient WASH in healthcare facilities
- Climate resilient Water Safety Planning
- Climate Resilient Sanitation Safety Planning
- Mobilizing funds for adaptation and mitigation
- Climate change and health vulnerability assessments
- HNAP Development – Step-By-Step Process
- Integration of health within NDC process at national level
- Integrated disease surveillance

The topics are currently suggestive and will be finalized at a later stage. The purpose of these modules are to deliver training to staff of technical units, policy makers, in various countries and also staff of WHO in these countries who are responsible for handholding the various stakeholders in implementing WHO’s climate change program objectives. The consultant/firm is expected to work with the WHO subject matter experts, to get an understanding of the content material and organizational context. The project will involve creation of defined storylines or scenarios and will need to be interspersed with quizzes, information nuggets, and case studies to enhance the learning experience as well as improve the interaction with the envisaged stakeholders.

Specific tasks will include:

- Develop instructional design modules based on existing WHO content and interviews with the WHO subject matter expert(s)
- Design and develop a functional prototype of the online learning modules for review and validation
- Complete development of the self-paced and interactive learning modules
- Integrate the learning modules into the WHO online learning platforms

Interested consultants/firms should submit three (3) distinct sample user interface designs for the module(s), each to include an example of a welcome/main menu screen and a page of sample content.

**Work Package 3: Advocacy toolkit for Climate Change and Health**

The individual or institution selected will help develop an advocacy toolkit on Climate Change and Health specifically focusing on Schools and Healthcare Facilities. The toolkit should provide key questions for reflection and discussion, basic advocacy pointers (the theory) and some tools to help the user work their way logically through the different stages of an advocacy planning cycle and act as a guide on how to carry out advocacy activities. Previous advocacy experiences are to be used to illustrate the different areas in which advocacy can work. The toolkit should provide:

- A general overview of what advocacy means in the Climate change and Health context including articulating the different levels of advocacy
- Different phases for developing, implementing and monitoring an advocacy strategy giving, when relevant, some tools to assist the process. This should include the different steps to develop and implement an advocacy strategy including guidance for monitoring and evaluation
Specific tasks:

- Carry out a desk review of current climate change and health policies, strategies, multisectoral action plans and guidelines in SEAR countries to examine the policy space and current programmatic actions on climate change and health
- Consultative meetings/interview with relevant stakeholders like experts, government representatives, partner networks, CSOs (2 SEAR countries with successful advocacy programmes)
- Develop an advocacy toolkit of actions for countries using available WHO guidance and other literature; what are the key strategies and actions that countries can implement to prevent climate change linked effects on health both in short term emergency situations and as longer-term adaptation measures.

Key deliverables:

- Evidence on climate change impact on health with particular reference to WHO South-East Asia Region countries.
- Evidence to establish Schools and Healthcare Facilities as key influencers or advocates in reducing the effects of climate change on health
- Development of a methodology to help governments of member states through the different stages of advocacy planning
- Development of interactive advocacy tools for the target stakeholders i.e. Schools and Healthcare Facilities- including Assessment forms, planning worksheets and sample flyers, posters etc.
- Showcase suitable photographs to illustrate the problems and/or solutions
- Identify/showcase case studies on successful advocacy measures taken by countries to mitigate climate change impact on health

Work Package 4: Standard Operating Procedures for adaptation planning and implementation for preventing Climate Sensitive Disease outbreaks and health outcomes in general

The individual or institution selected will help in developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to develop a set of core capacities in adaptation planning, implementation, surveillance and response to climate sensitive health impacts, including disease outbreaks.

The primary purpose of the SOPs is to describe the steps to be followed by countries in the region with regard to the prevention, detection and response to Climate Sensitive disease outbreaks. The focus will be on Climate Sensitive water, vector and air borne diseases affecting the region. The SOP should outline the funding, administrative, logistics and coordination mechanisms to effectively manage these outbreaks and should specifically cover:

- Overview of effects of Climate Change and Climate Sensitive Diseases
- Assessing the climate sensitivity of disease
- Preparatory steps for integration of climate/weather information into surveillance systems
  - Mapping and collection of historical climate/weather and health datasets
  - Mapping of existing climate products and services for health
  - Mapping data flow within existing health information systems
- Integration of climate/weather information into surveillance systems
• Real time detection of outbreaks versus forecasting and/or predicting outbreaks through specific climate-informed Early Warning Systems
• Mechanism for Rapid Assessment to determine level of risk to public health
• Rapid and coordinated response to disease outbreak
• Activating response-Human resources, Finance, Logistics, etc.
• Public Health Communications- Risk Communication, Flow of Communication across various levels
• Monitoring and Evaluation of Response

Work Package 5: Provision of technical support to countries for the conduct of climate change and health vulnerability and adaptation assessments

Health authorities require information about current associations between health outcomes and climate, vulnerable populations, projections of future risks and adaptation opportunities in order to reduce exposures, empower individuals to take needed protective actions and build climate-resilient health systems. An increasing number of health authorities from local to national levels seek this information by conducting climate change and health vulnerability and adaptation assessments. These assessments provide evidence-based information to help public health officials navigate the challenges of climate change on health and respond effectively to increasing risks. The individual or institution selected will assist governments of SEAR countries in assessing the climate change vulnerability and adaptive capacity of the health sector. Key objectives of the assessments include:

• Improving evidence and understanding of the current associations between climate and health outcomes, including the health of populations most vulnerable to these risks;
• Providing health and emergency management officials, stakeholders, and the public with information on the magnitude and pattern of current and future health risks associated with climate variability and change, and identifying vulnerabilities in the health system;
• Identifying opportunities to incorporate climate change concerns into existing policies and programs designed to manage health risks associated with climate, and to develop new programs where necessary to prevent and reduce the severity of future risks;
• Developing a baseline analysis against which future changes in risks and associated policies and programs can be monitored;
• Establishing a basis for inter-sectoral coordination to promote activities to improve population health in a changing climate; and
• Supporting the implementation of adaptation and risk management measures that are effective in reducing climate-related risks to human health and well-being, including among populations most vulnerable to the impacts.

Work Package 6: Provision of technical support to countries for the development of HNAPs

To achieve the goals of healthy people in healthy communities, it is critical that the health sector is properly represented in the NAP process. Excluding the health sector in adaptation planning can miss critical actions to protect population health and can result in policies and programs inadvertently causing or contributing to adverse health impacts, thereby undermining efforts to protect the environment. The health adaptation plan is designed to achieve the national health adaptation goals within a specific period of time and given available resources. Taking into consideration future health risks of climate change, Health National Adaptation Plan (H-NAP) is developed to ensure that the management of health risk of
climate change is integrated into the overall NAP process including assessing risks, identifying, prioritizing and implementation of adaptation options. Therefore, key purpose of H-NAP is to holistically address environmental health risk of climate change. HNAP also provides an opportunity for fund mobilization for health adaptation process. The 70th regional committee meeting of WHO SEARO held in Male in 2017 passed Male Declaration signed by health ministers which will be implemented through a regional framework for action. One of the activities outlined in the framework is for all countries to have a H-NAP. In the SEAR, there are a number of countries that have not yet developed an HNAP or are in the process of developing one. The individual or institution selected will help these countries in the development of HNAPs through a closely coordinated consultation process.

Work Package 7: Situational Analysis on NTDs and Climate Change

The individual or institution selected will carry out a situational analysis of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in the 11 SEAR countries including prevalence, elimination efforts, strategies and campaigns in each including the documentation of best practices for NTD eradication in the region. The neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are a collection of infectious diseases affecting individuals living in tropical countries. Predominant NTDs in SEAR include: lymphatic filariasis, kala-azar, schistosomiasis, trachoma, leprosy and yaws. In recent years, there has been considerable increase in investment towards reducing the burden of several NTDs, but they still collectively contribute to productivity loss, illness and suffering in many countries. Recent estimates suggest NTDs kill over 350,000 people per annum and cause the loss of between 27 and 56 million disability-adjusted life years. Projected climate changes in the coming decades are expected to affect the prevalence and incidence of NTDs. The objective of the report is to:

- Assess the burden of NTDs in the SEAR Region;
- Climate and environmental factors attributable to the increase of NTDs in SEAR (Vulnerability assessment);
- Adaptation measures to decrease climate attributable transmission of NTDs;
- Interventions carried out by countries in SEAR in eliminating NTDs and
- Suggest policy, regulatory, infrastructural and strategic recommendations for eliminating NTDs from the region

Work Package 8: Adapt Global guidelines to regional context and develop a Situational Assessment report on Climate Resilient and environmentally sustainable Healthcare Facilities

Health care facilities are impacted by climate variability and change and also by their surrounding environments. In turn, in their operations they may produce greenhouse gases, contributing to climate change, and through their emissions and unsustainable practices, they may be contributing to environmental degradation. Health care facilities need to satisfy four basic requirements for their proper functioning, which are, having a skilled and informed workforce, adequate water, sanitation, waste management and energy services, and a solid infrastructure. Countries need to consider how these basic requirements can be strengthened to make healthcare facilities climate-resilient, and also on how they can contribute to environmental sustainability.

Health care facilities in SEAR will need to assess climate change risks and adopt adaptive management strategies to be resilient, but guidance tools are lacking. The individual or institution selected will help in:

- Adapting global guidelines on Climate Resilient and environmentally sustainable Healthcare facilities to the regional context
• Carrying out a situational assessment of existing facilities in each country in line with WHO framework for Climate-Resilient and Environmentally Sustainable Healthcare Facilities
• Providing recommendations/guidelines for integrating climate resilience into the operations of these facilities.

Work Package 9: Development of Online Training Packages to support capacity development of Climate Change and Health personnel

The individual(s) or institution(s) selected will be involved in the development of an online training package on any one or more of the following topics:
  • Climate-Resilient Water Safety Planning
  • Climate Resilient Sanitation Safety Planning
  • Climate -Resilient and Environmentally Sustainable Healthcare Facilities
  • Disease Surveillance for Climate Sensitive Diseases
  • Operational Research on Climate Sensitive Diseases

Following this, the individual/institution will carry out 1 online training programme, for SEAR countries to demonstrate the use of the package developed. This online training will be attended by WHO country focal points, relevant government stakeholders and partners from all 11 SEAR countries (subject to change depending on the target audience of the training package).

The online training package will include presentations, reading material, exercise/activity sheets, Best practices/case studies from the region etc. and other tools that will be used during the online training, which the participants can use to further train resources in their country. Only consultants/institutions with experience of working with WHO and who are familiar with the topics mentioned above are encouraged to apply for this work package. Please mention topic of interest when applying for this work package.

IV. Specific requirements:

Qualifications required:
  • In the case of an individual-Postgraduate education (Master’s level education or higher) in public health, environmental health or related field
  • In the case of an organization- Atleast one or more members to have a Master’s level education or higher in public health, environmental health or related field

Experience required:
  • Extensive work experience and proven record in the area of Climate Change (depending of work package)
  • Demonstrate experience of having undertaken similar assignments as mentioned in the work packages for which application is being submitted

Skills/Technical skills and knowledge (will vary depending on work package of interest):
  • Sound understanding of the health impacts of climate change;
  • Good understanding of the tools, methods, existing databases, statistics and types of survey data available related to climate change and health;
- Competency in understanding and interpreting reviews, reports and expert opinions on science related to climate change and health
- Experience working in the South East Asia region (desirable)
- Experience in interfacing with different actors and partners (governments, NGOs, donors, intergovernmental organizations);
- Excellent organizational, team and inter-personal skills in view of interacting with multiple stakeholders at country and regional levels;
- Advanced training, presentation and facilitation skills (for parts of work packages related to technical assistance and training);
- Good analytical and documentation/report writing skills
- Good communication and facilitation skills

Language requirements:
- English expert level (reading, writing, speaking)
- Desirable: Working knowledge or fluency in languages of the South East Asia Region

Location and travel:
- Home-based; with occasional visits to Regional office in Delhi and countries in the region.
- The individual or institution may be expected to travel upon request as required for undertaking assigned tasks (if deemed necessary and keeping in mind travel restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic)
- All travel arrangements will be made by WHO – WHO will not be responsible for tickets purchased without the express, prior authorization of WHO. While on mission under the terms of this consultancy, the participants will receive subsistence allowance.

Visa requirements: it is the traveler’s responsibility to fulfil visa requirements and ask for visa support letter(s) if needed.

V. Application Details

The following information should be completed and submitted by midnight IST on 1 July 2020 to gomezf@who.int and hrasheed@who.int

WHO will select individuals/organisations on the basis of the information provided in this Expression of Interest format, and will follow up to develop a full proposal and budget. The selection will be made using the following scoring system:

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<th>Criterion</th>
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<td>Individual CV/ Proposed Team</td>
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<td>Prior Experience</td>
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**Basic Identifiers**

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**Statement of Interest**

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<td>Explain your interest in working on the Work Package selected and the unique skills and contributions you bring to the work</td>
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<td>Explain your approach to carry out the tasks as outlined in the work package (in not more than 5 pages)</td>
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**Individual CV/ Proposed Team**

- Enclose CV of self (or) in the case of an organization that of the proposed team.
- In the case of an organization the roles and responsibilities of each team member is to be defined clearly and CVs to be attached separately for each team member. Also, please indicate clearly if CVs provided are those of staff members or external consultants.

**Prior Experience**

- Clearly indicate your experience in working on assignments similar to the work package for which application is being submitted
- Clearly indicate prior experience working with UN agencies including details of the assignment, name of agency and year of engagement.
- Please attach samples of previous work, where applicable.

**Estimated time and cost**

- Please indicate an approximate cost (in USD) and time requirement to conduct the task as mentioned in the Work Package for which application is being submitted. Please note that the full budget will be developed at a later stage.
- Indicate your availability to take up this assignment in 2020/21

**Other Information**

- The Institution/Individual is required to disclose relationships it may have with the tobacco and/or arms industry. The Institution shall undertake not to permit work until WHO has assessed the disclosed information
- For transparency purposes, please also provide information on any involvement in the activities as mentioned below in this section:
  - Academic trials and publicly funded research/development initiatives involving pharmaceutical products.
  - Membership of an Ethics Committee (you do not need to state a list of trials you were involved in)
- If you work in an organisation/institution where your colleagues provide consultancy advice to pharmaceutical companies, but you are not directly involved in the provision of such advice. Examples include employees of Official Medicines Control Laboratories, staff members of academic departments, etc.

- Participation in European societies/research foundations/strategy boards/treatment groups/focus groups, which may be funded in full or in part from unrestricted grants from pharmaceutical companies (not from one single company), with or without involvement of industry participants and which may provide general advice (on development programmes, clinical study design, strategy, etc.) to several pharmaceutical companies (not one particular company) in a specific therapeutic area.

- Interest of close Family members in pharmaceutical companies

**Declaration**

I declare on my word of honour that the information provided above is true and complete. I understand that any misrepresentation in supplying this information may lead to my exclusion from the present call.

Done at (place)..........................................................on (date)..........................................................

Signature:

Name:

*Those applying for more than one work package are requested to fill separate forms for each.*