

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Technical Assistance to Conduct a Country Situational Analysis of the National Blood Program in the Philippines



**World Health
Organization**

Representative Office
for the Philippines

1. Summary

The World Health Organization (WHO) Philippines is looking for an institutional or individual contractual partner to provide technical assistance to conduct a country situational analysis of the national blood program in the Philippines under an Agreement for Performance of Work (APW) contract.

The objectives of this Technical Assistance are to:

1. Assess the existing structure, systems, processes and services of the Blood Service Facilities (BSF) and the implementation of the voluntary blood donation program**;
2. Identify strengths and challenges in implementing the blood program including the general situation of the BSFs before and during the COVID-19 pandemic;
3. Recommend strategies and interventions for strengthening the national blood program towards achieving universal health care and disaster preparedness.

The proposals are due by 23 September 2021.

** Note: this assessment covers blood centers, blood banks, blood collection unit/blood stations, blood collection units, and includes all aspects of the collection of blood donations, blood donation screening and processing, storage of blood and blood products, cross-match and other relevant testing before use, protocols for release of blood/blood products to end users, all aspects of transport, inventory management, safe disposal, and mechanisms/programmes for external quality assurance. However, this situation analysis does not include assessment of clinical decision-making/rational use of blood/blood products, or the administration (and monitoring) of the transfusion or blood product to the end patient.

2. Background

Since the passing of the Republic Act of No. 7719 otherwise known as the National Blood Services Act of 1994, the Department of Health-National Voluntary Blood Services Program (DOH-NVBP) has been continuously striding towards ensuring provision of safe, clinically effective and of, appropriate and consistent quality of blood and blood products to all those who need transfusion.

The highly complex operation of the blood program and blood service facilities requires a holistic and comprehensive approach in planning, designing, and operationalizing of Blood Service Facilities. Existing systems and process in the program often face substantial challenges, including limited training manuals, modules, standardization, tools, human resources, or other vital inputs and processes. In many instances, the absence of timely surveillance and data further hinders the ability of the program and program implementers to make critical decisions and map out strategic plan for future goals.

While the advent of COVID-19 Pandemic brought a challenge in sustaining the available blood supply and the recruitment and advocacy for voluntary blood donors, it nevertheless

brought into focus the importance not just of the blood adequacy but of blood safety. It made impact not only to the blood delivery system but also to the supplies of blood in the country.

With the goal of perpetuating a quality management system for the DOH-NVBSP and for the Blood Service Facilities (BSF), and the DOH-NVBSP seeks for a consultancy to conduct a Rapid Assessment of the Country's Situational Analysis of the Blood Program. The comprehensive review analysis of the Blood Program in the country will help the program to take corrective measures and to develop appropriate program and policies in the future giving way to the universal access to safe blood and blood products and eventually work towards self-sufficiency.

The output of this Rapid Situation Analysis will be a useful guide and reference material that will explain the current situation of blood service facilities as well as gather inputs and recommendation. This consultation, moreover, will also provide insight and understanding about a range of factors that affect related issues and challenges that the Blood Program is facing. Moreover, to further strengthen the legal, policy and regulatory frameworks related to the program, the DOH-NVBSP deems it necessary to understand the current situation that could inform optimization of plans, restructuring, and capacity gaps.

3. Timeline

The implementation timeline is six (6) months from 04 October 2021 to 04 April 2022.

4. Place of Assignment

Manila, Philippines

5. Scope of Work

Under the supervision of the Essential Medicines and Health Technologies Team of the WHO Country Office in the Philippines, the Contractual Partner shall perform the following activities in close collaboration with the Department of Health National Voluntary Blood Services Program (DOH NVBSP):

Method(s) to carry out the activity:

- Form a team of qualified and competent individuals with defined roles and tasks aligned with the objectives;
- Perform desk review of related literature and documents including but not limited to those available in local government units, DOH central and regional offices, selected Blood Centers, and the Research Institute of Tropical Medicine National Reference Laboratory (RITM NRL) for Blood;
- Conduct stakeholder consultations using appropriate methods such as virtual meetings, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and site visits (subject to existing protocols);
- Conduct alignment meetings with WHO and DOH for progress monitoring;
- Write a comprehensive Assessment Report highlighting findings and recommendations; and
- Present the final output to the WHO and the DOH.

Outputs and Deliverables:

Output 1: Inception Report with Gantt Chart of Activities

Deliverable 1.1: Develop a work plan with Gantt chart of activities. The work plan will be part of the Inception Report that will be submitted to WHO Philippines at the beginning of the engagement. The Inception Report will demonstrate the consultant's conceptual and implementation approach and methodology, scope of work, resources required, and the timeline of activities to guide the assignment and to meet the agreed upon deliverables.

Deliverable 1.2: Discuss the inception report and work plan with WHO and DOH.

Output 2: Draft Report

Deliverable 2.1: Submit initial draft of the Assessment Report to include preliminary findings from desk review, stakeholder consultations and site visits (as applicable).

Output 3: Final Report

Deliverable 3.1: Submit the final Assessment Report aligned with the objectives;

Deliverable 3.2: Submit accomplishment and financial reports.

CONFIDENTIALITY The results, products and reports of this APW are to be treated as confidential and must not be handed over to third parties. The DOH and WHO have the exclusive ownership of the reports and reserve the right to further disseminate relevant information. Documents, other information and/or statistics that are not publicly available and have been provided to the contractor for the purposes of undertaking this work may not be published, further analysed, disclosed to third parties, or used for any other purpose even after the end of the contract.

The contractual partner will also provide disclaimer on the reports: This document has been produced with the assistance of the World Health Organization. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the author, and does not necessarily reflect the opinions, recommendations, or advice of the World Health Organization.

6. Qualifications

The contractual partner must fulfil the following qualifications:

Education

Essential: At least a Master's Degree related to medicine, laboratory science, or public health

Essential: Formal training and courses on research methods, statistics and epidemiology

Work Experience

- At least two (2) similar projects and three (3) research papers/publication or relevant experience in the conducting research and preparation of reports with strategic recommendations;
- At least 5 years of experience in health system strengthening, blood banking system, policy and program evaluation and other related fields;
- At least 3 years proven experience in rapid needs assessments, monitoring and evaluation in the humanitarian, facility development and strengthening, blood and blood products, and/or community health sector;
- At least five to seven years of working on projects with various stakeholders including the private sector, civic societies, government and international development organizations;
- Extensive experience in documentation of activity outputs and procedures as well as preparation and submission of technical reports and other required submission prior or on deadline.

Technical Skills and Knowledge:

- Knowledgeable of local or international and professional standards in blood establishment and blood program services;
- Familiar with the relevant regulatory standards, existing regulatory requirements, current rules and regulations regarding the collection, storage, transportation and processing of blood and blood products.

Competencies

- Communicating in a credible and effective way
- Knowing and managing oneself
- Producing results
- Moving forward in a changing environment
- Fostering integration and teamwork
- Respecting and promoting individual and cultural differences
- Acts within WHO's professional, ethical and legal boundaries and behaves consistently in accordance with clear personal ethics and values

Language Fluency

- Expert fluency in written and spoken English (essential) and Filipino (desired)

7. Contract Time

The work to be done under this contract shall be the technical assistant to conduct a country situational analysis of the national blood program in the Philippines as set out in the Terms of Reference. The contract will be completed in not more than six (6) months from the commencement of the Work, or otherwise as agreed in writing among the Owner and the Contractor. The work shall be done in strict compliance with the Contract, Specifications, Schedules, and all other Contract documents and all Instructions. Failure to do so shall be at the Contractor's risk and account. Submission of Bid by the Contractor shall constitute acknowledgement by the Contractor that it is aware of and concurs with all of the requirements or conditions incorporated in the Call for Proposal and the other documents.

As time is an essential element of this Contract, for failure to complete all work within the stipulated as set out in the Terms of Reference, the Owner shall charge the Contractor liquidated damages. This shall be in the amount the sum of 0.5% of the total contract amount per day (Saturdays, Sundays and holidays are included) but not to exceed on total 10% (ten percent) of the contract amount. These liquidated damages shall be for the added cost incurred by the Owner for such delay and also for the inconvenience caused to the users of the Work. It is understood that this is not a penalty but a fixed sum representing the liquidated damages for each calendar day of the delay. Delay shall be counted from the agreed completion date, considering further time extensions approved by the Owner, to the date of completion of work.

8. Submission Requirements

Interested contractual academic partner and/or institution should submit electronic copies of the following:

- Cover letter
- Proposal with financial details and proposed timeline
- Company profile and qualifications of team members (if institution) or curriculum vitae (if individual)

Address all proposals to:

Dr Rabindra Abeyasinghe

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 proposals with the title, **Technical Assistance to Conduct a Country Situational Analysis of the National Blood Program in the Philippines** to Mrs Ying Chen (cheny@who.int) and wpphlwr@who.int. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted by WHO Philippines.

Deadline of submission of application is on **23 September 2021**.