CALL FOR PROPOSALS
Technical Assistance for the Costing of the Proposed Comprehensive Primary and Outpatient Care Benefit

1. Summary
The World Health Organization (WHO) Philippines is looking for an individual or institutional contractual partner to manage and implement the activities and scope of work, deliver the outputs, and help achieve the objectives and purposes below. The proposals are due by 7 November 2019.

The contractual partner will collect and analyze robust cost data using a scientific approach that will be used to develop a comprehensive primary and specialized outpatient care benefit under the new UHC Act. Major objectives are the following:
- Assist PhilHealth in developing a costing library to institutionalize costing for primary care and outpatient benefits; and
- Assist PhilHealth in developing policy guidelines and tools for the analysis of costing data.

2. Background
The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) currently implements several benefit packages, of which some service inclusions can all be provided by a primary care provider. Primary care as defined in Republic Act No. 11223 or the UHC Act and its implementing rules and regulations (IRR) refers to initial-contact, accessible, continuous, comprehensive and coordinated care that is accessible at the time of need, including a range of services for all presenting conditions, and the ability to coordinate referrals to other health care providers in the health care delivery system, when necessary.

The existing primary care benefit prioritizes some diagnostic services and drugs with reference to the management of seven (7) disease conditions (i.e., acute gastroenteritis, urinary tract infection, upper respiratory tract infection, pneumonia, asthma, diabetes, and hypertension) for selected PhilHealth member sectors. It is provided in rural health centres, ambulatory clinics, and outpatient sections of hospitals. The other benefit packages such as a tuberculosis package, malaria, animal bite, and antenatal care are being claimed separately by the same providers of the primary care benefit. Recently, PhilHealth has also conducted a peer review of inpatient admissions that were reimbursed under the All Case Rate (ACR) policy. The exercise identified certain disease conditions admitted as inpatient cases that could have been managed in a primary care/outpatient setting.

The UHC Act directs PhilHealth to implement a comprehensive outpatient benefit within two (2) years from its effectivity, including financial coverage for, among others: services of health care professionals; diagnostics; laboratory; dental and other medical services; personal preventive services; prescription drugs and biologicals, subject to certain limitations of the UHC Act; and other services deemed appropriate.

The UHC Act aims to provide health services in an integrated approach under a health care provider network (HCPN) structure, commencing with the primary care provider to act as navigator and coordinator for health care delivery. As it is the intent of the law to provide the
full continuum of care, it is appropriate that a comprehensive set of services be provided at
the initial contact and allow the primary care provider to navigate patients to next levels of
care. PhilHealth must ensure protection of patients from the financial risk of availing such
services; hence the need for a comprehensive primary care benefit.

Comprehensive services shall be defined by a technical working group from PhilHealth in
consultation with the DOH. The contractual partner shall provide technical services to
PhilHealth as it develops a costing library to institutionalize costing for primary care and
outpatient benefits, and as it develops policy guidelines and tools for the analysis of costing
data.

3. Timeline
The implementation timeline for the project is from 15 November to 27 December 2019.

4. Place of Assignment
Manila, Philippines

5. Scope of Work
In coordination with WHO Philippines and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation
(PhilHealth) particularly the Quality Assurance Group through the Primary Care Benefit
Team under the supervision of the Health Finance Policy Sector, the selected contractual
partner shall perform the following activities:

Output 1: Assist PhilHealth in developing a costing library to institutionalize costing for
primary care and outpatient benefits.
- Deliverable 1.1: Inception Report, including a sampling design as part of the costing
  methodology and draft survey tool for the costing exercise;
- Deliverable 1.2: Technical Report, including preliminary analysis of data generated
  from the costing exercise;
- Deliverable 1.3: Technical Report, including a recommended design/lay-out for a
costing library that can be integrated with existing PhilHealth information technology
systems;

Output 2: Assist PhilHealth in developing policy guidelines and tools for the analysis of
costing data.
- Deliverable 2.1: Technical Report, including draft policy guidelines and manuals on
  the costing methodology and analysis performed; and
- Deliverable 2.2: Final Report, including a training module for PhilHealth staff/users,
  executive summary and slide presentation of key findings, and financial report.

6. Qualifications
The contractual partner is for an individual or institution/firm with the following qualifications:

Education and Certifications
For institutions/firms, the criteria below applies to the team lead.

- Must have at least a degree in health economics, public health, accountancy, health
  policy/financing or any related field;
- An advanced postgraduate degree in health economics or accountancy is an
  advantage.
Experience
For institutions/firms, the criteria below applies to the team lead.

- Must have at least five (5) years of demonstrable experience in planning, developing and executing economic evaluations and/or costing exercises;
- Previous experience in working with the World Health Organization, other United Nations agencies, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation or the Department of Health is desirable;

For institutions/firms, the criteria below applies to the team lead or at least one other member.
- Must have experience in local health systems, health financing, and health service delivery;

Technical Skills and Knowledge
For institutions/firms, the criteria below applies to the team lead or at least one other member.

- Strong background and proven track record in economic evaluations and/or costing exercises;
- Able to write policy and technical papers and meeting proceedings; and
- Able to communicate well for policy and implementation dialogues with DOH, PhilHealth, health care providers, local government units, partners and other relevant stakeholders.
- Familiarity with concepts of universal health coverage, health systems and health financing is desirable.

Language Fluency
For institutions/firms, the criteria below applies to the team lead or at least one other member.

- Fluent in English and Filipino.

In addition, the contractual partner must have no direct or indirect interest in the tobacco industry, alcohol industry, arms dealing, breast milk substitutes, or human trafficking.

7. Other Requirements
Medical clearance is not required as this is an APW engagement.
Travel outside the duty station to selected provinces depending on the sampling design may be required.

NOTE: Every report should have the following disclaimer:

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The results, products and reports of the consultancy are to be treated as confidential and must not be handed over to third parties. The DOH, PhilHealth and WHO shall have the exclusive ownership of the reports and reserve the right to further disseminate relevant information.

8. Submission Requirements
Interested proponents should submit electronic copies of the following:

- Cover letter;
- Technical proposal including executive summary, proposed methodology, and proposed timeline;
- Financial proposal including cost estimates of all the necessary input goods and services; and
- Organizational/company profile and qualifications of team members.

Address all proposals to:

Dr Rabindra Abeyasinghe
OIC, WHO Representative in 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 for the Costing of the Proposed Comprehensive Primary and Outpatient Care Benefit” to Mrs Ying Chen (cheny@who.int) and wpphlwr@who.int. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted by WHO Philippines.

Deadline of submission of proposals is on 7 November 2019.