

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Technical Assistance to Support Development of a Policy and Strategy on Reducing Salt Consumption among Filipinos



**World Health
Organization**

Representative Office
for the Philippines

1. Summary

The World Health Organization (WHO) Philippines is looking for an individual or institutional contractual partner to provide technical assistance to the Department of Health's Health Promotion Bureau (HPB) on the development of a policy and strategy on reducing salt consumption under an Agreement for Performance of Work (APW) contract.

Proposals are due by 15 September 2021.

2. Background

Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) remain the leading causes of mortality in the Philippines responsible for 35% of all deaths, of which 53% are premature. One of the most important behavioural risk factors of CVDs is an unhealthy diet – consuming foods high in sugar, salt/sodium, and fat and containing industrially produced trans-fat.

To address this, the WHO Philippines, with support from Resolve to Save Lives, is implementing the Healthy Hearts Project to scale up actions to reduce premature CVD mortality and noncommunicable disease (NCD) risk factors. The overall goal of the project is to reduce premature mortality and morbidity due to cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) in the Philippines based on a three-pronged approach: a) improve blood pressure control rates; b) reduce population salt intake; and, c) eliminate artificial trans-fat in the diet.

Excessive sodium intake, defined as over 2 grams of sodium (or 5 grams of salt per day), has been linked to the onset of hypertension and its cardiovascular complications. Sodium consumption in the Philippines is high. The estimated sodium intake of adult Filipinos is 4.10 g (3.20–5.29) per day, more than twice the WHO recommended 2 g of sodium per day (Powles et al., 2013). Government strategies to reduce salt intake have focused primarily on influencing consumer behaviour through dietary guidelines, nutrition labelling and awareness campaigns. So far, there are no policies establishing maximum salt targets or providing salt warning labels on foods in the Philippines. Prevalence of hypertension among Filipinos remains high. Currently, about 20% of Filipino adults have high blood pressure.

In view of the above, a consultant is required to support DOH HPB and coordinate efforts with WHO for the development of a policy and strategy to reduce population salt consumption.

3. Timeline

The implementation timeline for the project is from **20 September 2021 to 31 December 2021**.

4. Place of Assignment

Metro Manila, Philippines

5. Scope of Work

Under the supervision and strategic guidance of the WHO Philippines NCD Technical Unit and Health Promotion Technical Coordinator, the contractual partner shall perform the tasks/ responsibilities listed below in close collaboration with the DOH HPB and related offices. All documents and related materials shall be submitted to WHO Philippines and for approval of WHO and DOH.

Expected Output

Output 1: Inception Report with Detailed Work Plan

Deliverable 1.1: Inception report with attached work plan, budget matrix, and Gantt chart of activities

Output 2: Policy and/or Strategy on Reducing Salt Consumption of the Population

Deliverable 2.1: Situational assessment on salt or sodium consumption

Deliverable 2.2: Draft policy and/or strategy on reducing population salt consumption

Deliverable 2.3: Stakeholders consultation/s on promoting multisectoral efforts on reducing salt in the diet

Deliverable 2.4: *Final draft of policy and/or strategy on reducing population salt consumption, based on advice of WHO and DOH experts and results of stakeholders' consultation/s*

Output 3: Technical and Financial Report

Deliverable 3.1: Final technical report with supporting documentation (e.g. proceedings, minutes, photos, videos, recordings, etc.)

Deliverable 3.2: Final financial report

6. Qualifications

The contractual partner must fulfil the following qualifications:

Education and Certifications

- With degree in nutrition, public health, health policy or another related field

Work Experience

- Minimum of five years of relevant field experience in public health, advocacy and partnership building, development of policies and legislation, conducting assessment and research, organizing, and facilitating meetings and workshops, and technical meetings, writing technical reports and documents
- Minimum of five years of experience collaborating with relevant government agencies at the local, regional and/or national levels
- Relevant experience working with international and multilateral agencies an advantage
- Relevant experience in health communication and education campaigns an advantage

Technical Skills and Knowledge

- With good technical writing skills, good facilitation skills, knowledgeable in basic computer programs, efficient organizational and management skills
- Extensive background in public health and public policy an advantage

Language Fluency

- Excellent verbal and written communication skills in English and Filipino

7. Other Requirements

The contractual partner must be able to adapt to relevant and reasonable project demands and submit deliverables within timelines.

In addition, the contractual partner must have no direct or indirect interest in the tobacco industry, alcohol industry, food/ sugar-sweetened beverages industry, arms dealing or human trafficking.

8. Contract Time

The work to be done under this Agreement for Performance of Work (APW) shall be completed as set out in the Terms of Reference, supported by the approved Inception Report. The contract will be completed in not more than **three and a half (3.5) 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 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 Inception Report, the Owner shall charge the Contractor liquidated damages. This shall be in the amount of 0.5% of total contract amount per day (Saturdays, Sundays and holidays are included) but not to exceed 10% (ten percent) of the contract amount. These liquidated damages shall be for the added cost incurred by the Owner for such delay and 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.

CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT

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.

9. Submission Requirements

Interested individuals should submit electronic copies of the following:

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

Kindly 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 Support Development of a Policy and Strategy on Reduction of Salt Consumption among Filipinos**” to wpphlwr@who.int Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted by WHO Philippines.

Deadline of submission of proposals is on **15 September 2021**.

Office of the WHO Representative to the Philippines