

CALL FOR PROPOSAL

**Contractual Partner for the Development of the
Technical Report and Manuscript for the 3rd
Philippine TB Drug Resistance Survey (DRS3)
Project**



**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 support the National Tuberculosis (TB) Reference Laboratory – Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (NTRL/RITM) in developing the technical report and manuscript for the third national drug resistance survey on TB (DRS3) under an Agreement for Performance of Work (APW) contract.

The proposals are due by 16 July 2022.

2. Background

Although progress has been made in the fight against TB, major obstacles remain in the efforts to achieving global targets to end TB. Drug-resistant TB is one of them. The emergence of drug resistance, especially multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB), poses a serious threat to public health and progress achieved in recent years in the management of drug-resistant TB and constraints to healthcare systems; the latter, in particular, as a result of high costs of providing treatment and care which can be disproportionately high in comparison to those of drug-susceptible TB. Surveillance of drug resistance is therefore important to estimate the magnitude of potential emergence of resistance at the population and programme level, understand disease trends, and forecast diagnosis and treatment supplies, among others.

The first nationwide systematic drug resistance survey in the Philippines was conducted in 2004, and a second survey then carried out in 2012. This third survey was completed in 2022 by NTRL/RITM. Currently, the NTRL/RITM requires technical assistance to analyse and synthesise DRS3 data and write the findings of this survey within an official report. In addition, an article for publication in peer-review journal is required to help disseminate the experience of the Philippines and DRS3 results.

3. Timeline

The implementation timeline for the project is from **22 July to 23 September 2022**

4. Place of Assignment

Manila, Philippines or can be conducted remotely.

5. Scope of Work

Under the supervision of the National TB Reference Laboratory and in consultation with the World Health Organization, the contractual partner shall perform and accomplish the following tasks and deliverables:

Outputs and deliverables

Outputs:

- Report* of the 3rd Philippine TB Drug Resistance Survey and one manuscript for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.
- * An example of the minimum number of sections and structure that could be used for the report is available at this link: <https://ritm.gov.ph/second-national-drug-resistance-survey-on-tuberculosis-in-the-philippines/>.

Deliverables:

Output 1: DRS3 Technical Report	
Deliverable 1	Discuss the development plan to understand the needs of NTRL/RITM and seek agreement on the requirements of the report and its content, in particular: - Agree on the structure and main sections of the report; - Arrange bi-weekly progress calls with NTRL/RITM, including inception meeting;
Deliverable 2	Conduct data analysis and interpret the results
Deliverable 3	Develop technical report detailing the process and findings of the third anti-TB drug resistance survey (DRS3) in the Philippines - Submit draft report, including summary tables and figures, and providing a comparative overview of the evolution of drug-resistant TB epidemic in the Philippines. Planned draft submission: 26 August 2022; - Revise draft DRS3 report based on feedback obtained from NTRL/RITM and WHO; - Submit final DRS3 report following feedback obtained from NTRL/RITM and WHO, by latest 9 September 2022;
Deliverable 4	Develop a slide set, including summary tables and graphs, and outlining key findings (maximum 10-15 slides).
Output 2: Manuscript for peer-review journal	
Deliverable 1	Manuscript describing the experience and results on the third national anti-TB drug resistance survey in the Philippines - Write up a 3000-word manuscript, formatted for submission to a peer-review journal (Journal to be discussed/agreed with NTRL/RITM) - Undertake finalisation of the manuscript following 2 rounds of review by NTRL/RITM and WHO

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.

Management of Conflict of Interest

Any interest by an entity (organization/company), expert or member of the project team that may affect or reasonably be perceived to (1) affect the expert's objectivity and independence in providing advice to WHO related to the conduct of a project, and/or (2) create an unfair competitive advantage for the expert or persons or institutions with whom the expert has financial or interests (such as adult children or siblings, close professional colleagues, administrative unit or department).

WHO's conflict of interest Rules are designed to identify and avoid potentially compromising situations from arising thereby protecting the credibility of the Organization and of its normative work. If not identified and appropriately managed such situations could undermine or discount the value of the expert's contribution, and as a consequence, the work in which the expert is involved. Robust management of conflicts of interest not only protects the integrity of WHO and its technical/normative standard setting processes but also protects the concerned expert and the public interest in general.

6. Completion of Work

The work to be done under this contract shall be a Contractual Partner for the Development of the Technical Report and Manuscript for the 3rd Philippine TB Drug Resistance Survey (DRS3) Project as set out in the Terms of Reference. The contract shall be completed in not more than 2 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 an acknowledgment 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 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.

7. Qualifications

The contractual partner or institution's members must fulfill the following educational qualifications and work experience:

Education of staff involved:

- Essential: A qualified specialist in the areas of microbiology, mycobacteriology or relevant public health areas, with demonstrated knowledge of anti-TB drug resistance survey.
- Desirable: Postgraduate degree in microbiology, mycobacteriology or any equivalent field; Advance training in TB drug resistance surveillance would be an asset.

Experience required:

- Essential:
 - At least 3 years of relevant experience in working in TB reference laboratories; or
 - Sound knowledge of and demonstrated knowledge of TB laboratory systems; and
 - Experience in analysing and synthesising drug resistance surveillance data.
- Desirable:
 - Technical writing, publication management, and similar works.

Technical Skills and Knowledge:

- Sound knowledge of drug resistance surveillance
- Drug resistance surveillance data analysis and use of statistical software (e.g. STATA, R, others).
- Ability to summarise key findings and highlight crucial challenges or questions going forward for key stakeholders.

Language requirements:

- Written and spoken fluency in English is essential

Competencies:

- Ability to multi-task and produce results under pressure
- Technical competence in the field of communicable diseases
- Ability to engage and communicate with multiple stakeholders
- Skills to respect and promote individual and cultural difference
- Proven ability to communicate in a clear and effective way, with tact, diplomacy and courtesy.

Other requirements:

The contractor shall have no direct or indirect involvement or interest, in any form, in arms dealing, drugs, alcohol industry, tobacco industry or human trafficking. The contractor and personnel involved in this work shall have no conflicts of interest in relation to the work being undertaken.

Ethical and Professional Standards

- WHO prides itself on a workforce that adheres to the highest ethical and professional standards and that is committed to put the WHO Values Charter into practice.
- WHO has zero tolerance towards sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), sexual harassment and other types of abusive conduct (i.e., discrimination, abuse of authority and harassment). All members of the WHO workforce have a role to play in promoting a safe and respectful workplace and should report to WHO any actual or suspected cases of SEA, sexual harassment, and other types of abusive conduct. To ensure that individuals with a substantiated history of SEA, sexual harassment or other types of abusive conduct are not hired by the Organization, WHO will conduct a background verification of final candidates.

8. Submission Requirements

Interested institutions and/or individuals 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 an individual)
- Link to a portfolio of previous work relevant to the TOR (e.g. A writing sample or any other technical reports developed). In case these files are too large, this work can be shared via file-sharing services such as Dropbox or Google Drive.

Address all proposals to:

Dr Lluís Vinals Torres

Officer-in-Charge

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 documents with the title, **Contractual Partner for the Development of the Technical Report and Manuscript for the 3rd Philippine TB Drug Resistance Survey (DRS3) Project** 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 **16 July 2022**.