

# **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

## **Technical Assistance to Support Development and Implementation of Policy and Strategies on Trans Fat Elimination**



**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 support the DOH on the development and implementation of policy recommendations and strategies for trans-fat elimination under an Agreement for Performance of Work (APW) contract.

Proposals are due by 5 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 behavioral 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 industrially produced trans-fat in the diet.

Intake of trans-fatty acids (TFA) is associated with increased risk of heart attacks and death from coronary heart disease (De Souza, 2015). WHO recommends limiting TFA intake to <1% of dietary energy and has called for the elimination of industrially produced TFA from foods by 2023 (WHO, 2019). Globally, non-optimal ingestion of artificial TFA is estimated to cause more than 500,000 deaths every year (Wang et al., 2016). Currently, Trans Fat Free Philippines bills are being deliberated in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. For its part, the DOH, has issued an Administrative Order titled “National Policy on the Elimination of Industrially-Produced Trans-Fatty Acids for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases” which aims to provide a policy framework to eliminate industrially-produced TFA in the Philippines food supply by 2023.

In view of the foregoing, technical assistance is required to support the DOH HPB and coordinate efforts with WHO for the development and implementation of relevant policy and strategies to eliminate industrially produced TFA from the Filipino diet.

### **3. Timeline**

The implementation timeline for the project is from **10 September 2021 to 20 December 2021**.

#### **4. Place of Assignment**

Metro Manila, Philippines

#### **5. Scope of Work**

Under the supervision and strategic guidance of the WHO Philippines, 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: Technical support to development of policy and implementation of elimination of industrially produced TFA.**

Deliverable 2.1: Review of situation and actions, and identification of gaps and policy and program recommendations on elimination of industrially produced TFA.

Deliverable 2.2: Action plan to strengthen implementation of DOH Administrative Order on elimination of industrially produced TFA, and development of implementing guidelines of Food and Drug Administration and other relevant government agencies concerned

Deliverable 2.3: Advocacy strategy to support passage of legislation on industrially produced TFA elimination

Deliverable 2.4: Communication strategy for eliminating industrially produced TFA in population diet

##### **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, project coordination, 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 **four (4) 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
- Curriculum Vitae
- 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 Policy and Strategies on Elimination of Industrially Produced TFA**” to [wpphlwr@who.int](mailto:wpphlwr@who.int) Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted by WHO Philippines.

Deadline of submission of proposals is on **5 September 2021**.

**Office of the WHO Representative to the Philippines**