

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 contractual partner to provide technical assistance to support the DOH Health Promotion Bureau (HPB) on the development and implementation of policy recommendations and strategies on trans-fat elimination under an Agreement for Performance of Work (APW).

Proposals are due by 10 October 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 artificial 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 industrial TFA from processed 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 have been 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, a consultant is required to support the DOH HPB and coordinate efforts with WHO for the development and implementation of relevant policy and strategies to eliminate TFA in the Filipino diet.

3. Timeline

The implementation timeline for the project is from **25 October 2021 to 25 February 2022**.

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: Technical support to policy development and implementation on TFA elimination

Deliverable 2.1: Review of situation and actions, and identification of gaps and policy and program recommendations on trans-fat elimination

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

Deliverable 2.3: Advocacy strategy for passage of legislation on TFA elimination

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

Deliverable 2.5: Development and implementation of partnership building, to include civil society organization and other government and non-governmental organizations, to support policy advocacy and implementation on TFA elimination

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 and Implementation of Policy and Strategies on Trans Fat Elimination**” to Mrs Ying Chen (cheny@who.int) with a copy to wpphlwr@who.int. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted by WHO Philippines.

Deadline of submission of proposals is on **10 October 2021**.

Office of the WHO Representative to the Philippines