

## **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

**Technical Assistant on Training of  
Private Medical Practitioners and  
Pediatric Residents on AFP and  
Measles/Rubella Surveillance**



**World Health  
Organization**

Representative Office  
for the Philippines

### **1. Summary**

The World Health Organization (WHO) Philippines is looking for an institution contractual partner to provide technical assistance on Training of Private Medical Practitioners and Pediatric Consultants and Residents, Pediatric ward nurses on AFP and Measles/Rubella Surveillance on 15 March to 30 May 2021, under an Agreement for Performance of Work (APW) contract.

Contractual partner is responsible for conducting Webinars on Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) and Measles/Rubella Surveillance for private medical practitioners (pediatricians, family medicine specialists, pediatric neurologists) and pediatric consultants, residents and nurses in training hospitals in the National Capital Region, Region 4A CALABARZON and Region 3 (Central Luzon). In coordination with Department of Health (DOH) and World Health Organization (WHO) a standard curriculum and training materials will be created. The contractual partner will provide a monthly report to WHO on the progress of the training to include a list of physicians trained by specialty, region and provinces/cities where they are practicing and any hospital affiliation.

The proposals are due by 5 March 2021.

### **2. Background**

Polio is a highly infectious disease caused by a virus. The virus is transmitted by person-to-person spread mainly through the fecal-oral route or, less frequently, by a common vehicle (for example, contaminated water or food) and multiplies in the intestine. Polio infections can lead to irreversible paralysis (usually in the legs).

From July 2019 to December 2020, Polio Virus has been detected in environmental samples and in Acute Flaccid Paralysis cases, close contacts and Healthy Children from NCR, BARMM and Regions 3, 4A, 7, 10, 11 and 12. Polio vaccination responses have been ongoing since Aug 2019.

In addition to vaccination response, maintenance of optimal standard for Acute Flaccid Paralysis surveillance is a mandatory requirement to gather necessary evidence of the transmission and containment of the Polio virus. The AFP surveillance system serves as a sensitive tool for detecting potential poliomyelitis cases to alert the government and plan ahead for appropriate interventions for outbreak control measures as well as interrupt possible poliovirus transmission. Improving effective AFP surveillance is critical for verifying the absence of poliovirus circulation in the country to maintain a polio-free certification status.

DOH has had many challenges to sustain the optimal standard for the AFP surveillance and private medical practitioners play a critical role in early detection, reporting, investigation of AFP cases including the collection of adequate stool specimens. There is an urgent need to raise awareness among private practitioners (pediatricians, family medicine and pediatric neurology practitioners) as well as pediatric residents in large teaching/training hospitals across the country.

Measles continues to be a public health threat as its high communicability may greatly affect vulnerable populations. Measles outbreaks have been declared in 2014, 2018 and 2019, affecting many provinces and cities nationwide. From January 1 to November 28, 2020, a total of 3,794 measles cases with 38 deaths (CFR 1%) were reported.

One key strategy for interrupting measles transmission is through enhanced Measles/Rubella surveillance. Prompt detection and notification are some of the challenges encountered by the Philippine Surveillance System in ensuring timely response and control of outbreaks. Specifically, measles case reporting in healthcare facilities continues to be a challenge. Presence of fever and rash with any of the following: cough, coryza and conjunctivitis is used as the basis for reporting suspect measles cases, regardless of clinical diagnosis and laboratory confirmation. There is a need to enjoin private medical practitioners in detecting and reporting measles based on set surveillance criteria.

### **3. Timeline**

The implementation timeline for the project is from **15 March to 30 May 2021**.

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

Philippines

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

In coordination with the World Health Organization Philippine Country Office and the Department of Health, the selected contractual partner shall perform the following activities:

1. Develop a standard training curriculum and materials for the Webinars in collaboration with the Epidemiology Bureau, DOH and WHO PHL Country Office and other relevant technical partners including medical societies and associations.
2. Recruit and orient a pool of speakers/resource persons among noted clinical specialists, e.g., members of the Polio Expert Review Committees and National Verification Committee for Measles; Philippines Pediatric Society (PPS), Pediatric Infectious Disease Society of the Philippines (PIDSP), Child Neurology Society of the Philippines (CHSP).
3. Provide training via Webinars on AFP and Measles/Rubella surveillance to medical practitioners who see pediatric patients.
4. Maintain a list of trained medical specialists by region who completed

- the trainings via Webinar and submit the list to DOH and WHO.
5. Provide technical and financial reports to the World Health Organization.

## 6. Qualifications

The contractual partner must fulfil the following qualifications:

- Implementing partner should be a local agency or non-government organization duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) with at least 5 years' experience working with government agency and UN agencies.
- At least five years' experience working in the public health sector, including disease surveillance activities.
- Being an accredited Continuing Professional Development (CPD) provider by the Philippine Professional Regulatory Commission is desirable.

## 7. Other Requirements

Copy of SEC or CDA registration, company profile including organigram and updated resume with photo of the head of company, portfolio of previous projects implemented in collaboration with government agencies and/or developmental partners.

## 8. Submission Requirements

Interested institutions should submit electronic copies of the following:

- Signed letter of intent
- Proposal with methodology, financial details and timeline
- Company profile and qualifications/curriculum vitae of team members

Address all proposals to:

**Dr Rabindra Romauld Abeyasinghe**  
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 Assistant for Training of Private Medical Practitioners and Pediatric Residents on AFP and Measles/Rubella Surveillance** to Mrs Ying Chen ([cheny@who.int](mailto:cheny@who.int)) with a copy 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 March 2021**.