

# CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Contractual partner to support the development of HIV drug resistance survey protocol in the Philippines



**World Health  
Organization**

Representative Office  
for the Philippines

## 1. Summary

The World Health Organization (WHO) Philippines is seeking proposals from institutions to provide technical assistance to strengthen HIV drug resistance surveillance, under an Agreement for Performance of Work (APW) contract.

The proposals are due on 21 October 2021.

## 2. Background

HIV drug resistance (HIVDR) has been identified as a major public health threat as countries struggle to ensure continuity of treatment services, especially during unprecedented times of public health and humanitarian emergencies, like COVID-19. These gaps include attrition in treatment services, lacking adherence support, medication stock-outs, and low uptake of viral load testing. Treatment gap has increased by 19% in 2020 as access had been more difficult during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

HIVDR survey and surveillance has been limited in the Philippines. This is more than timely and relevant as dolutegravir and pre-exposure prophylaxis have been recently introduced among the previously limited options of antiretroviral therapy (ART) regimens. As the country also suffers from high HIV co-infection rates with tuberculosis and hepatitis B, further limiting options for ART regimen and facilitating tenofovir monotherapy, respectively, HIVDR surveillance is urgently needed. A previous study by Salvaña, et. al., noted a treatment failure rate of 10.3% in their cohort of treatment naive patients alongside high rates of tenofovir and multiclass resistance.

Given the limited survey of HIVDR in the country and gaps in the service delivery, HIVDR survey needs to be done along with other public health interventions to improve service delivery and retention of people living with HIV to the treatment cascade.

## 3. Timeline

The implementation timeline is from **1 November to 29 December 2021**.

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

Manila, Philippines; may be done remotely.

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

In close collaboration with the National AIDS, STI Prevention and Control Program (NASPCP), Epidemiology Bureau, Global Fund Primary Recipient Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (GF-PSFI), and other relevant partners, under the supervision and guidance of the WHO Country Office Philippines, the contractual partner shall perform the following:

**Task 1:** Develop a research protocol and report on acquired (ADR) and pre-treatment (PDR) HIVDR survey in adults

Deliverable 1.1: Desk review of appropriate literature on ADR and PDR

Deliverable 1.2: Scoping of laboratory capabilities for HIVDR among available facilities in the country

Deliverable 1.3: Draft of the research protocol with a systematic review, methods, budget and costing, and timeline

Deliverable 1.4: Presentation to the stakeholders

Deliverable 1.5: Final research protocol

**Task 2:** Develop a technical brief on monitoring quality of care (QoC) indicators as early warning indicators (EWI) for HIVDR

Deliverable 2.1: Desk review of appropriate literature on QoC and EWI

Deliverable 2.2: Scoping of data sources of existing indicators being collected by the national HIV surveillance in Epidemiology Bureau and programmatic data collected by the NASPCP and program implementers

Deliverable 2.3: Data collection of EWI in the sample sites in NCR

Deliverable 2.4: Final research report (introduction, methods, results, and discussion, with recommendations)

#### **6. Qualifications**

##### **Education of staff involved:**

- Essential: University degree in medicine, microbiology, public health, or any related field
- Desirable: Postgraduate degree in public health or molecular biology

##### **Experience required:**

- Essential: In-depth knowledge on microbiology, HIV drug resistance, public health, and HIV prevention and treatment
- Desirable: Experience working in HIV with or for government health agencies in a multi-stakeholder environment in Philippines

#### Technical Skills and Knowledge:

- Extensive skills in research, data collection and analysis, and scientific and technical writing
- Sound knowledge in medicine, microbiology, public health, and HIV prevention and treatment
- Sound knowledge in the culture of key population groups
- Ability to work harmoniously as a member of a team, adapt to diverse educational and cultural background and maintain a high standard of personal conduct

#### Language requirements:

- Written and spoken fluency in English is essential

#### Other requirements:

- Essential: No conflict of interest regarding the concerned companies which might bias judgement. In addition, the contractual partner must have no direct or indirect interest in the tobacco industry, alcohol industry, arms dealing or human trafficking.

### **7. Competencies**

- Technical competence in research, medicine, microbiology, and public health
- Ability to engage and communicate with multiple stakeholders
- Skills to respect and promote individual and cultural difference
- Capability of working harmoniously with a positive attitude at work

### **8. Submission Requirements**

Interested individuals and institutions should submit electronic copies of the following:

- Cover letter
- Proposal with financial details and proposed timeline (Gannt chart)
- Curriculum Vitae (for individuals)
- Company profile (for institutions)
- Previous relevant works

Address all documents 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 documents with the title “**Contractual partner to support the strengthening of HIV drug resistance surveillance in the Philippines**” to Mrs Ying Chen ([cheny@who.int](mailto:cheny@who.int)) copied to [wpphlwr@who.int](mailto:wpphlwr@who.int). Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted by WHO Philippines. Deadline of submission of proposals is on **21 October 2021**.