1. Summary
The World Health Organization (WHO) Philippines is looking for an individual contractual partner for the elimination of measles and rubella in every region of the Philippines. The submissions are due by 31 January 2019.

2. Background
Member states in Western Pacific Region have endorsed the regional goal of achieving Measles and Rubella elimination during the 68Th regional committee meeting in 2017. Philippines as a representative have a mandate and obligation to follow through on the regional goal by controlling the Measles outbreak and prepare plan of action for eventual elimination of measles and rubella.

In 2017, there were 3,706 reported measles cases with 23 measles deaths in the Philippines. In 2018, there were 17,298 reported measles cases with 158 measles deaths up to 10 November 2018.

An outbreak response immunization (ORI) was conducted in the Regions as early as last quarter 2017 and a nationwide phased MR-SIA has been conducted since April 2018. Coverage of the Phase 1 MR-SIA in April to Jun 2018 reached 53%, while for Phase 2 only reached 12.8% (preliminary report as of Nov). Some regions did not implement the recommended SIA as per national guideline but the city or province wide defaulter’s immunization or ORI was conducted.

The ongoing measles outbreak started in the last quarter of 2017 from ARMM region in the islands of Sulu and Basilan, then slowly the outbreak spread to Region 9 in the city of Zamboanga and then to Region 11 Davao city, cities in National Capital region like Manila and Quezon City and eventually all the regions reported measles cases. The less then optimal coverage from routine measles vaccine since last few years lead to the accumulation of high number of susceptible children particularly under 5 years of age. And as the indigenous measles was still on transmission, the high number of susceptible eventually reached a threshold resulting in such a large scale outbreak. In addition Philippines also have significant vulnerable adolescence and adult population that are susceptible to measles infection. Available data shows that 30% of the reported measles cases are above 5 years of age out of which 20% are above 15 years of age.

As per the weekly PIDSR report from the Epidemiological Bureau, more than 300 cases of suspected measles are still being reported nationally. Many regions, particularly the one that conducted unsuccessful SIA, are still reporting many measles cases. . Out of the total suspected cases, 66% have not been immunized with measles vaccine and further 21% has unknown doses. This proves a significant susceptible population particularly children below 5
years of age are still unvaccinated hence signifying the risk of continuous transmission for foreseeable future.

Pertaining to the vulnerability of population above 5 years, it is highly imperative that children below 5 years are fully vaccinated so as to prevent a high morbidity and associated mortality. Historically Philippines needed to conduct additional immunization activities after the 2014 SIA to control continuing Measles outbreak hence to stop the ongoing Measles outbreak same kind of concentrated effort is highly necessary.

3. Timeline
The implementation timeline for the project is from February to May 2019.

4. Place of Assignment
Manila, Philippines

5. Scope of Work
In coordination with WHO Philippines and the Department of Health, the selected contractual partner shall perform the following activities:

Output 1: Submit a progress report and a final technical report at the end of the consultancy
- Deliverable 1.1: Review and perform epidemiologic analysis using available measles surveillance data
- Deliverable 1.2: Collaborate and provide technical support to the DOH National Immunization Program, VPD surveillance and National Measles Laboratory
- Deliverable 1.3: Support development of Measles Outbreak Response Plan as per the need in each of the outbreak setting. Liaising with municipality or city health Immunization Officer and formulating response plan under the supervision of WHO EPI Medical Officer
- Deliverable 1.4: Facilitate convening the immunization, surveillance and laboratory measles focal points for a regular monthly technical and consultative meeting with WHO
- Deliverable 1.5: Prepare weekly measles updates and outbreak situation reports for each region
- Deliverable 1.6: Support DOH in building capacity at the regional, provincial and city levels for outbreak investigation and response

6. Qualifications
The contractual partner must fulfil the following qualifications:

Education and Certifications
- The individual must have a university degree in medicine
- An advanced postgraduate degree on public health is an advantage

Work Experience
- The individual must have at least five (5) years of demonstrable experience related to management and implementation of immunization programmes and/or disease surveillance
• Previous experience in working with the World Health Organization, other United Nations agencies, or the Department of Health is desirable.
• A portfolio of previous epidemiologic work with similarity to this TOR must be submitted

Technical Skills and Knowledge
• Strong background and proven track record in strategic planning, programme coordination, facilitation, motoring and epidemiologic analysis
• Excellent command of English. Expertise in Filipino is desirable.
• Familiarity with health policy on immunization and disease surveillance

Language Fluency:
• Fluency in the English language (Expert – read, write and speak). Expertise in Filipino is desirable.

Competencies:
• Creative and has meticulous attention to detail and accuracy.
• Able to adapt to relevant and reasonable project demands and submit deliverables within timelines.
• Able to communicate effectively and function well in a multicultural environment.

In addition, the contractual partner must have no direct or indirect interest in the tobacco industry, alcohol industry, arms dealing or human trafficking.

7. Other Requirements
N/A

8. Submission Requirements
Interested individuals should submit electronic copies of the following:
• Cover letter
• Curriculum vitae

Address all proposals to:
Dr Gundo Weiler
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 Local Consultant for Measles to Dr Achyut Shrestha (shresthaa@who.int), Ms Maricel Castro (castroma@who.int), Ms Angel Dizon (dizona@who.int) and wpphilwr@who.int. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted by WHO Philippines.

Deadline of submission of proposals is on 31 January 2019.