

# **NOTICE OF VACANCY**

## **Community Engagement Consultant for the COVID-19 Response**



**World Health  
Organization**

Representative Office  
for the Philippines

### **1. Summary**

The World Health Organization (WHO) Philippines is looking for an individual contractual partner who will serve as community engagement consultant for the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) response.

The submission of applications is due by 7 March 2021.

### **2. Background**

On 31 December 2019, WHO was informed of cases of pneumonia of unknown cause detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China. Since 2 January 2020, the three levels of WHO (Country Office, Regional Office for the Western Pacific and Headquarters) have been working together to respond to the outbreak of the disease now known as COVID-19. On 30 January, WHO declared the outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). On 11 March, the WHO Director General characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic. Communicating and engaging with communities to enable and empower individuals, groups, and relevant entities to practice recommended behaviours, follow non-pharmaceutical interventions and building and expand networks that play an important role in the response is an important part of the existing response and needs to be scaled up dramatically.

In the Western Pacific Region (WPR), the Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases and Public Health Emergencies (APSED III) is a common strategic framework guiding the joint action of Member States, WHO and partners to advance implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005). Through strengthening the core capacities required under the IHR (2005), including risk communication, countries can save lives and protect health during outbreaks and health emergencies such as the current pandemic. Community engagement is listed as a critical component under the risk communication focus area in APSED III. In addition, the WHO Western Pacific regional action plan for the response to large-scale community outbreaks of COVID-19, community engagement is one of the key priority areas quickly and effectively mobilize and empower communities to engage, reverse and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 through non-pharmaceutical public health measures and to give the health sector more time to prepare for and respond in realistic, relevant and appropriate ways to the needs and challenges of every population group.

WHO seeks support of an external consultant to assist for a period of 4 months.

### **3. Timeline**

The contract period is from **15 March 2020 to 30 June 2021**. Depending on availability of funds and satisfactory work the contact can be extended.

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

The consultancy will be based in Manila, Philippines with the option of limited remote support (except in the scenario that travel restrictions are reinstated, limiting relocation).

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

Under the supervision of the WHO Representative in the Philippines and the COVID-19 Incident Manager in the WHO Country Office and in collaboration with colleagues in the WHO Country Office and Western Pacific Regional Office, particularly the Community Engagement Consultant in the Incident Management Support Team and the Risk Communication Officer in the WHO Health Emergencies Programme (CPI/WHE), the Consultant will be responsible for delivering the following:

Output 1: Provide technical support on community engagement for COVID-19 prevention and control to Department of Health (DOH) and, where appropriate regional / local authorities

Deliverable 1.1:

Provide technical and operational support to COVID-19 health promotion and community engagement activities with the DOH. Work with the DOH and its partners to further strengthen community engagement, risk communication and social mobilization strategies and their adaptation and implementation by regional and local authorities. This may include looking at how to further strengthen coordination and collaboration within the health sector and between health and other sectors. It may also include helping to prepare and organize webinars, teleconferences and meetings with DOH and its partners.

Deliverable 1.2:

Work with DOH and partners to design, pre-test, post-test and evaluate (where appropriate) COVID-19 communication campaigns and materials, looking in particular at the community engagement aspects of those campaigns / materials. Advise on local and regional leaders and influencers who should be engaged in such campaigns.

Deliverable 1.3:

When needed, assist DOH and partners in design and implementation of applied studies and surveys to gain insights into community knowledge, attitude, behaviours, beliefs and perceptions relating to COVID-19 and COVID-19 prevention / control.

Output 2: Support community engagement projects led by WHO Philippines in relation to COVID-19

Deliverable 2.1:

Manage and oversee the implementation of the 3 Civil Society Organization (CSO) projects, 'Strengthening Civil Society Engagement in the COVID-19 Response at National and Local Levels'. Ensure timely delivery of CSO partners' workplans, progress reports, final narrative report and financial reports. Conduct monitoring and evaluation as per WPRO guidelines. Strengthen partnership with DOH through the implementation of the CSO projects. Support engagement of partners and ensure risk communication tools, messaging, materials and networks are harnessed for community engagement.

Deliverable 2.2:

Provide technical and operational support relating to community engagement aspects of the Urban health projects in Parañaque City and Valenzuela City.

## **6. Qualifications**

The contractual partner must fulfil the following qualifications:

### **Education and Certifications**

- Essential: University degree in community development, sociology, community nursing or public health from an accredited/recognized institute.
- Desirable: Advanced University degree in Public Health or Management.

### **Work Experience**

- Minimum of five years of experience at the national and international levels, in applying and monitoring multidisciplinary approaches in community engagement, social mobilization programmes and/or multidisciplinary team management.
- The Consultant should have private sector work experience (outside health) to understand the varying needs and conflicting priorities.
- Experience of working within the UN system or with UN partners is preferred.
- Previous NGO and/or INGO work experience, particularly managing community-based projects.

### **Language requirements:**

- Written and spoken fluency in English is essential.
- Fluent in Filipino and preferably additional local languages and dialects

## **7. Competencies**

The following competencies are mandatory:

- Technical competence in the field of water supply, sanitation, hygiene, environmental health and climate change

- 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
- Willingness to travel extensively nationwide

In addition, the Consultant must have no direct or indirect interest in the tobacco industry, alcohol industry, arms dealing or human trafficking, and breast milk substitutes.

## 8. Other Requirements

- Readiness to travel, if needed
- Medical Clearance through WHO HR/Admin
- Required and/or willing to relocate to live in close proximity of the DOH premises

## 9. Competencies

- Teamwork
- Producing results
- Ensuring effective use of resources
- Respecting and promoting individual and cultural differences

## 10. Submission Requirements

Interested individuals should submit electronic copies of the following:

- Cover letter
- Curriculum vitae

Address all applications to:

### **Dr Rabindra Abeyasinghe**

WHO Representative in the Philippines  
Ground Floor, Building 3, Department of Health  
San Lázaro Compound  
Rizal Avenue, Sta Cruz, Manila

Please submit the electronic copy of the applications with the title: **Community Engagement Consultant for the COVID-19 response** 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 applications is on **7 March 2021**.