

NOTICE OF VACANCY

Technical Specialist to support the TB Response in the Philippines amid COVID19 pandemic and the transition towards Universal Health Care



TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Summary

The World Health Organization (WHO) Philippines is looking for an individual who will be tasked to support the WHO Philippines Country Office in providing technical support to the Tuberculosis (TB) response in the Philippines amid COVID19 pandemic and the transition towards Universal Health Care under Special Services Agreement (SSA) contract.

The proposals are due by 13 May 2022.

2. Background

The Philippines has the second highest per capita burden of Tuberculosis (TB) in the world. The country is strongly committed in their battle against TB by following through with their plan, the Philippine Strategic Elimination Plan (PhilSTEP), with clear goals and ambitious targets which is supported by the multi-year campaign "Race to End TB" nationwide. DOH has steadily progressed in their TB elimination efforts however, disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has set the country back in line with reaching their targets. In 2021, there were an estimated 591,000 TB cases in the Philippines, only 46% were notified, a drop of 37% in the number of notifications in comparison to the previous year. This figure not only reflects the existing gap on missing TB cases but how COVID-19 affected the continuity of TB services in the country. To address this, the Philippines has adopted the TB adaptive plan, including innovative digital solutions and its Department of Health (DOH) has unceasingly worked with the local government units and partners to ensure resumption of TB services nationwide.

While we have seen improvements, the country still needs to strengthen the strategic interventions throughout the TB cascade of prevention, testing, treatment, and care to achieve its goal and truly get back on track. The country needs to do this as part of the integrated approaches of universal health care. Therefore, there is a need to ensure that timely coordination and productive collaboration with the program and development partners is achieved to maximize the efforts and resources toward the same national goals.

WHO Philippines supports the country in achieving the national goals and committing to end TB by 2030. It includes supporting the programs and partners through direct technical assistance to implement the strategies and ensure that interventions are technically sound and aligned to internationally and nationally accepted guidelines.

3. Timeline

The implementation timeline for the project is from **23 May to 31 December 2022**, with a possibility of annual renewal subject to good performance of the incumbent and program needs.

4. Place of Assignment

Manila, Philippines; some tasks may be performed remotely upon approval.

5. Scope of Work

This work will involve the following under direct supervision and guidance of the Team Leader, WHO Country Office Philippines, to Tuberculosis response in the Philippines amid COVID19 Pandemic and the transition towards Universal Health Care:

- Provide continuous technical support to TB and other droplet and airborne transmission disease integration, testing, prevention, care, and control, ensuring that planning and implementation are at par with WHO recommendations;
- Support development and implementation of cross-programmatic policies for TB and other Droplet and Airborne Transmission towards UHC integration through data analyses and literature review for advocacy documents and analytical reports;
- Support development, uptake, and promotion of digital innovations and solutions;
- Participate in meetings and workshops with relevant partners and stakeholders and strengthen multisectoral and multiprogram engagements and implementation of existing grant agreements;
- Oversee relevant activities for the Race to End TB Campaign;
- Support the development of integrated approaches to UHC which may include initiatives on the elimination of HIV, Malaria, and other diseases.
- Support monitoring and supervision of project interventions, and address implementation gaps as appropriate;
- Engage in coordination meetings of the WHO and other development partners.
- Render other duties and responsibilities related to WHO and DOH mandate that may be assigned.

6. Qualifications

Specific requirements

Education:

- Essential: University degree in public health, nursing, or other related fields
- Desirable: University degree in medicine; postgraduate degree in medicine, public health, or other related fields

Experience required:

- Essential: At least three (3) years' experience in public health and project management

- Desirable: Experience in project management in TB with or for government health agencies in a multistakeholder environment in the Philippines. Working experience with WHO or other UN agencies.

Technical Skills and Knowledge:

- Sound knowledge in medicine, nursing and/or public health
- Sound knowledge in project planning, implementation and evaluation
- Ability to work harmoniously as a member of a team, adapt to diverse educational and cultural backgrounds and maintain a high standard of personal conduct

Language requirements:

- Written and spoken fluency in English is essential

Competencies:

- Technical competence in the field of communicable diseases
- 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

7. Other requirements

The contractor shall have no direct or indirect involvement or interest, in any form, in arms dealing, drugs, alcohol industry, tobacco industry or human trafficking. The contractor and personnel involved in this work shall have no conflicts of interest in relation to the work being undertaken.

8. Management of Conflict of Interest

Any interest by an entity (individual/organization/company), expert or member of the project team that may affect or reasonably be perceived to (1) affect the expert's objectivity and independence in providing advice to WHO related to the conduct of a project, and/or (2) create an unfair competitive advantage for the expert or persons or institutions with whom the expert has financial or interests (such as adult children or siblings, close professional colleagues, administrative unit or department).

WHO's conflict of interest Rules are designed to identify and avoid potentially compromising situations from arising thereby protecting the credibility of the Organization and of its normative work. If not identified and appropriately managed such situations could undermine or discount the value of the expert's contribution, and as consequence, the work in which the expert is involved. Robust management of conflicts of interest not only protects the integrity of WHO and its technical/normative standard setting processes but also protects the concerned expert and the public interest in general.

Confidentiality Statement

All input and all related documents about the project are confidential and must **NOT** be handed over to third parties. The DOH and WHO have the exclusive ownership of all

documents, and only DOH and WHO have the right to disseminate any information outside the agreed project's scope.

9. Ethical and Professional Standards

- WHO prides itself on a workforce that adheres to the highest ethical and professional standards and that is committed to put the WHO Values Charter into practice.
- WHO has zero tolerance towards sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), sexual harassment and other types of abusive conduct (i.e., discrimination, abuse of authority and harassment). All members of the WHO workforce have a role to play in promoting a safe and respectful workplace and should report to WHO any actual or suspected cases of SEA, sexual harassment, and other types of abusive conduct. To ensure that individuals with a substantiated history of SEA, sexual harassment or other types of abusive conduct are not hired by the Organization, WHO will conduct a background verification of final candidates.

10. Submission Requirements

Interested individuals should submit electronic copies of the following:

- Cover letter
- Curriculum Vitae

Address all proposals to:

Dr Rajendra Yadav

Acting 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, **Technical Specialist to support the TB Response in the Philippines amid COVID19 pandemic and the transition towards Universal Health Care** to Mrs Ying Chen (cheny@who.int) and wpphlwr@who.int.

Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted by WHO Philippines.

Deadline of submission of proposals is on **13 May 2022**.