

NOTICE FOR VACANCY

Technical Specialist to support to the HIV, Hepatitis, and STIs response in the Philippines amid COVID19 Pandemic and the transition towards Universal Health Care



**World Health
Organization**

Representative Office
for the Philippines

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 HIV, Hepatitis, and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) response in the Philippines amid COVID19 pandemic and the transition towards Universal Health Care, under Special Services Agreement (SSA) contract.

Applications are due by 07 April 2022.

2. Background

The Philippines has the fastest-growing HIV burden with a 237% and 315% increase in new infections and AIDS-related deaths from 2010 to 2020. The HIV epidemic is concentrated on key populations, including men who have sex with men, transgender women, people who inject drugs, the young key population, and their partners. Furthermore, the impact of COVID-19 led to a 61% decrease in HIV diagnosis and a 28% fall in treatment initiation. As a result, the Philippines has adopted the Health Sector-HIV Strategic Plan 2020-2022 and the HIV adaptive plan amidst of COVID19 pandemic to achieve the strategic plan goal to reverse the trend of the HIV epidemic by reducing the annual new HIV infections to less than 7,000 cases by 2022.

While we have seen improvements, the country still needs to strengthen the strategic interventions throughout the HIV, hepatitis, and STIs cascade of prevention, testing, treatment, and care to achieve the goal. These include implementing the differentiated testing service, expanding the rapid diagnostic sites, scaling up the treatment, monitoring viral load, and using strategic information for data-driven decision making. Additionally, many development partners are engaging in the HIV, hepatitis, and STIs response in the Philippines. Therefore, there is a need to enhance and strengthen coordination and collaboration of program and development partners for maximizing the efforts and resources toward the same national goals.

WHO Philippines supports the country in achieving the national goals and committing to HIV and viral hepatitis elimination 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 **16 April 2022 to 31 December 2022**, with a possibility of annual contract 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 support the HIV, Hepatitis, and STIs response in the Philippines amid COVID19 Pandemic and the transition towards Universal Health Care:

- Provide continuous technical support to WHO's HIV programme for planning, implementing, and monitoring the HIV, Hepatitis, and STIs response in line with WHO recommendations
- Provide technical inputs and suggest innovative responses to increase access to the multiple interventions included in the cascade of care, including:
 - Targeted combination of prevention strategies among key populations, including PrEP
 - Differentiated screening and testing strategies among key populations, including self-screening, partner notification, community-based screening, and implementation of desensitized confirmatory testing
 - Client-centred models of linkage to care, treatment enrollment, initiation, and retention, including dolutegravir-based regimens and multi-month dispensing of ART and viral load test access
- Strengthen the national HIV, Hepatitis, and STIs surveillance system
- Support the development of integrated approaches to UHC which may include initiatives on ending TB, HIV, Hepatitis, STIs, Malaria, and other diseases
- 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, epidemiology, or other related fields
- Desirable: University degree in medicine; postgraduate degree in medicine, public health, epidemiology, 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 HIV, hepatitis, or STIs with or for government health agencies in a multistakeholder environment in the Philippines. Working experience with WHO.

Skills / technical skills and knowledge:

- Sound knowledge of public health, and epidemiology
- Sound knowledge of 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

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

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 cover letter and 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 HIV, Hepatitis, and STIs response in the Philippines amid COVID19 Pandemic and the transition towards Universal Health Care"** 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 proposals is on **07 April 2022**.