

# NOTICE OF VACANCY

Technical Specialist to support the Quality Laboratory Services of HIV, hepatitis, and STIs in the Philippines, Special Services Agreement (SSA)



**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 provide the WHO Philippines Country Office the technical support to the HIV, Hepatitis, and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) response with special focus on ensuring quality laboratory services and network enhancements of the aforementioned diseases in the Philippines, 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 the annual incidence of new infections and AIDS-related death, respectively. Furthermore, the impact of COVID-19 led to a 61% decrease in HIV diagnosis and a 28% fall in treatment initiation. Nonetheless, the Philippines continuously adapt to reach the HIV Health Sector Plan 2020-2022 targets, particularly on orchestrating strategies to decrease annual incidence to 7,000 by 2022.

Pivotal to achieving these goals is the accessibility to quality laboratory services and networks across the cascade of HIV screening, diagnostic testing, viral load testing, and drug resistance testing. The National Reference Laboratories-San Lazaro Hospital /STD-AIDS Cooperative Central Laboratory (NRL-SACCL) was designated as The National Reference Laboratory for HIV AIDS, hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in 2000 (Departmental Order 393-E) to provide screening and confirmatory laboratory services, training, and surveillance and external quality assurance programmes for laboratory tests (AO 2005-0027).

In order to achieve the ultimate goals of elimination of HIV and viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030, it is essential to strengthen the national laboratory system by supporting the NRL-SACCL, which includes support laboratory quality management system, scale-up, and improvement of decentralized diagnosis, and development of the on whole-genome sequencing protocols.

## 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 Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) response in the Philippines:

- Provide technical inputs for the quality laboratory services of the HIV, Hepatitis, and STIs and enhancement of the laboratory service network in the county.
- Support development of the Training of Trainer materials about Quality Management System (QMS).
- Support finalization and implementation of the rHIVda scale-up plan.
- Support development of the alternative rHIVda algorithms including combination of RDT and machine-based testing.
- Support for ISO 17043 accreditation of NRL-SACCL.
- Support to identify the national prevalence of HIV subtype identifications.
- Support development of the whole genome sequencing protocols.
- Support viral hepatitis response including the development of a national referral system for Hepatitis B and C diagnostic testing and treatment services.
- Support the development of the HBV/ HCV whole genome sequencing protocols
- Support the development of integrated approaches to UHC which may include initiatives on the elimination of TB, Malaria, and other diseases.
- Render other duties and responsibilities related to WHO mandate that may be assigned.

#### **6. Qualifications**

##### **Specific requirements**

##### **Education:**

- Essential: University degree in medical technology, public health, epidemiology, or other related fields

Desirable: Postgraduate degree in medical technology, public health, epidemiology, or other related fields

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

- Essential: At least three (3) years' experience in public health and project management
- Desirable: Working experience in the HIV, hepatitis, and STIs laboratory services and whole genome sequencing technologies. Working experiences for government health agencies in a multistakeholder environment in the Philippines, and WHO.

**Skills / technical skills and knowledge:**

- Sound knowledge in laboratory medicine, public health, and epidemiology
- 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

**Competency:**

- 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, drugs, arms dealing, 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 Quality Laboratory Services of HIV, hepatitis, and STIs in the Philippines**" to Mrs Ying Chen [cheny@who.int](mailto:cheny@who.int) with a copy to [wpphlwr@who.int](mailto:wpphlwr@who.int).

Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted by WHO Philippines.

Deadline of submission of proposals is on **07 April 2022**.