CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR A CONSULTANCY TO CONDUCT TWO SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS ON SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

1. Purpose of the Consultancy
The World Health Organization (WHO) seeks a senior expert consultant or a team of consultants to conduct two systematic reviews on 1) the effectiveness and coverage of multi-component school health services in improving health outcomes for school-age children and adolescents and 2) the acceptability of multi-component school health services. The consultant(s) will work closely with the WHO School Health Services Steering Group to finalize the methods for the systematic reviews and to write up key findings and recommendations. The incumbent will be responsible for the objectives and deliverables detailed below, to be accomplished from 15 September to 31 December 2019.

2. Background
Global mortality and morbidity estimates in children and adolescents suggest that school-aged children have significant needs for health promotion, prevention and health care services. For many children, school health services are the first and most accessible point of contact with health care services. While evidence from systematic reviews suggests that school health interventions delivered by health care providers improve health outcomes for school-aged children, there is currently a gap in the literature regarding the effectiveness of comprehensive and multi-component school health services. As part of the Global School Health Initiative, the WHO is developing a guideline on school health services and these systematic reviews will inform the evidence-based for recommendations to countries and their partners on effective and acceptable school health services.

3. Scope of Work to be Performed
The WHO is seeking support to review the published literature using the PICO framework, inclusion criteria and search strategies provided in this call as a starting point to answer the following two research questions:
- Are multi-component school health services effective in improving health outcomes or increasing coverage of health services for school-age children and adolescents?
- Are multi-component school health services acceptable to stakeholders such as school-age children and adolescents, parents, teachers and policy makers?

4. Details of Systematic Reviews
4.1. Details of Systematic Reviews on EFFECTIVENESS
We are interested in studies evaluating whether multi-component school health services are effective (or not effective).

a. PICO Framework
Population
- Participants: children (5-9) and/or adolescents (10-19) enrolled in schools

Intervention
- School-based or school-linked
- The school health service provides interventions for at least 4 health areas*
- Using at least one strategy (such as screening, treatment and care, immunization, mass drug administration, male circumcision, counseling,...) +/- health education
• Either delivered by or supervised by a health worker (see note below)

Comparator
Any comparator (eg. vs. no school health service, different type of SHS, similar programme delivered through a community-based general or child/adolescent clinic, etc) or no comparator, evaluated through any type of quantitative study design (including RCT, CRT, QE, time series, before-after, cross-sectional, cohort, case-control, etc).

Outcome:
• Coverage (of WHO-recommended = “known effective” interventions) delivered with acceptable intensity and quality
• Effectiveness (incl. health behaviours)
• Cost and/or cost-effectiveness (including modeling of these)

b. Inclusion Criteria

Intervention
• School-based or school-linked
• The school health service provides interventions for at least 4 health areas*
• Using at least one strategy (such as screening, treatment and care, immunization, mass drug administration, male circumcision, counseling ,,...,) +/- health education
• Either delivered by or supervised by a health worker (see note below)

Evaluation
• Assesses at least one of: coverage or effectiveness or cost-effectiveness of the intervention

Languages
• At minimum English, French, Spanish, ..., more languages welcome.

Note I: The service must be delivered or supervised by a health worker (on the spot). If only delivered by trained teachers, it would be excluded.

Note II: Comprehensive services will be included unless we can read somewhere that they provide less than 4 services

Note III: If a paper looks at only one specific health outcome, of a multicomponent (more than 4 health areas) school health service, it would be included.

*Proposed Health Areas
1. Unintentional injury
2. Violence
3. Sexual and Reproductive Health, including HIV + other STIs
4. Other communicable diseases including vaccination
5. NCDs
6. Nutrition & Physical activity
7. Chronic physical disabling conditions
8. Oral health
9. Mental health (including mental disability)
10. Self-harm including suicide
11. Substance use
12. Positive development (see definition)
**Definition:** Positive development primarily aims to support healthy adolescent physical, sexual, cognitive and psychosocial development and its approach focuses on supporting healthy transitions, growth and behaviors in adolescence. Positive development interventions will lie within and outside the health sector and are often closely linked to parents, families and communities as well as “adolescent-friendly” services e.g. in health facilities, at school or online (including accurate protection measures). Importantly, a positive development approach recognizes adolescents as assets within their societies rather than problems and seeks to empower them to participate in an active way within their families and communities.

c. Draft concepts and Search Terms

The following three concepts and related search terms are suggested as a starting point. The consultant(s) should review and refine these criteria as they see fit. The results of PubMed search that was performed on August 16, 2019 are given below:

**Concept 1: School Health**


Comments
- Concept 1 alone = 25593 articles
- The terms: school-based health centre, school-based health center, school-based health centres, school-based health centers, school-based health service, school-based health services do not result in any additional hits
- All key articles are found with this search

**Concept 2: Evaluation**


Comments
- Concept 1 AND 2 = 9108 articles
- All key articles are found with this search

**Concept 3: Study population**


Comments
- Concept 1 AND 2 AND 3 = 7689 articles
• All key articles are included
• *The terms, boy(s), girl(s), schoolchild(ren), schoolboy(s), schoolgirl(s) have not been tested yet.*

**Note:** A 4th concept of ‘study type’ was also included to narrow the search. Searching Concepts 1 AND 2 AND 3 AND 4 identified 4948 articles but this resulted in 3 key articles being missed in the search (Hayek 2019, Anglin 1996). See Appendix 1 for the search terms used in concept 4.

d. **Key Articles**

Prior to running these searches, we had identified key articles that we believe should be included in the final review based on the inclusion criteria provided above. This is not a comprehensive list but can be used as a quality check to see if the search strategy is capturing the appropriate articles.


e. **Other Potential Databases to Search**

Besides PubMed we recommend searching some of the following additional databases to retrieve relevant articles that may be missed in the PubMed search. This is not a definitive list and is only meant as a general guide. If there are other databases that are found to be more relevant, they should be searched. Conversely, if the consultant(s) consider that any of these databases are redundant, they should drop them after consulting the WHO team.

• CINAHL
• ERIC
• Campbell Collaboration Library
4.2. Details of Systematic Review on Acceptability

We are interested in studies evaluating the acceptability, satisfaction and perceived quality of one or more components of a multicomponent school health service by students, their parents, teachers, school nurses (or other school health service providers) communities, policy makers

a. PICO Framework

Population

- Participants: 5-19-year-old learners in school, their parents, teachers, school nurses and other school health service providers, communities, policy makers

Intervention

- Multi-component school health service (provides interventions for at least 4 health areas, as defined in 4.1.)

Comparator

- Any comparator (e.g. community service, clinic, etc) or no comparator (with a scale of acceptability/satisfaction e.g. high vs low)

Outcome

- Acceptability (accepting the service and appreciating the service as useful);
- Satisfaction (e.g. would use the service again, would recommend to others, would have their child use the service again or would recommend the service to their students... etc);
- Perceived quality of service (confidentiality, respect, amount and clarity of Information provided).

b. Inclusion criteria

- School-based health services or school-linked services such as a school health clinic outside school.
- Language: English and (if possible) Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, Spanish
- Design: Any study design that includes some form of assessing acceptability, satisfaction or quality of school health services
- Participants: children (5-9) and/or adolescents (10-19) enrolled in schools
- Involvement of a health worker in at least one component of the school health service
- Outcomes: evaluation of the acceptability, satisfaction, perceived quality of at least one component of a multi-component school health service

c. Draft concepts and Search Terms

The following three concepts and related search terms are suggested as a starting point. The consultant(s) should review and refine these criteria as they see fit. The results of PubMed search that was performed on August 22, 2019 are given below:

**Concept 1: School Health**

**Concept 2: Acceptability**  

**Concept 3: Study population**  

Comments  
- Concepts 1 AND 2 AND 3 together resulted in 2221 articles  

d. **Key Articles**  
The following articles should potentially be included in the final review:  

e. **Other Potential Databases to Search**  
Besides PubMed we recommend searching some of the following additional databases to retrieve relevant articles that may be missed in the PubMed search. This is not a definitive list and is only meant as a general guide. If there are other databases that are found to be more relevant, they should be searched. Conversely, if the consultant(s) consider that any of these databases are redundant, they should drop them after consulting the WHO team.  
- CINAHL  
- ERIC  
- Campbell Collaboration Library  
- PsycINFO  
- Global Index Medics
5. Technical Supervision
The selected consultant(s) will work under the supervision of Dr. David Ross and Dr. Kid Kohl of the Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Department are the secretariat of the WHO steering group.

6. Timelines
Start date: 15 September 2019, End date: 31 December 2019

7. Work effort
Estimated 50 person/days, up to an amount of 25 000 USD.
If any travel will be required related to this work, it will be agreed and financed separately.

8. Qualifications and experience required
- Essential: Demonstrated experience in conducting systematic literature reviews on complex interventions in key databases leading to publications in highly-regarded scientific journals, WHO guidelines or the Cochrane Library.
- Essential: Demonstrated experience in assessing the quality of the evidence and levels of effectiveness of health interventions
- Desirable: Knowledge of health promotion, child and adolescent health, and/or school health is an asset.

9. Language requirements
- Ability to analyze literature in English, French and Spanish and other languages if possible
- Proficiency in written and oral communication in English

10. How to apply
The application should include: 1. a motivation letter highlighting why the interested candidate(s) is(are) suitable to undertake the assignment 2. Description of the research team and related CV(s), including a list of relevant publications 3. A brief outline and description of the planned methods and timetable to conduct the review.

11. Deadline for applications
All applications must be sent to: kohlk@who.int by 10th of September 2019.
APPENDIX 1: Concept 4 Search Terms

Concept 4: Study Type