CALL FOR CONSULTANT

Ethics in the implementation of nutrition actions for women, children and adolescents

WHO is seeking a public health ethics expert with experience of implementing public health ethics guidance in a wide range of settings and population groups. The consultant will conduct a scoping exercise for the ethics-related guidance to be developed by the Department of Nutrition for Health and Development.

Interested individuals are invited to send in their expression of interest, a copy of their CV, and a budget. The proposed budget should be based on the expected time frame, and the resources necessary to carry out this project. The proposed budget should also be commensurate with the level of experience of the individual(s) who would carry out this work and consistent with the costs of doing similar work in the country or region where the applicant(s) is (are) based.

WHO Department of Nutrition for Health and Development

The Evidence and Programme Guidance unit (EPG), Department of Nutrition for Health and Development (NHD) follows a rigorous process to produce evidence-informed guidelines and provides programme guidance for their implementation. WHO nutrition guidelines provide Member States and their partners with recommendations for optimal nutrition at population level in stable, fragile and humanitarian settings, so decision makers can develop policy options and integrate nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive actions into health programmes. Implementing the recommendations contained in guidelines requires support for adaptation and adoption at national and subnational levels. This must be grounded on a sound understanding of existing health inequities and contribute to narrowing them because individuals and population groups are positioned differently within each setting and thus are affected differently by public health interventions. Putting guidelines into practice implies making decisions, which must be guided by the recommended course of action from evidence-informed guidelines and also by sound ethics guidance that better equip health workers when faced with ethically-challenging situations.

In order to provide this support, the Department of Nutrition for Health and Development (NHD) builds and implements a science-informed, comprehensive and action policy-oriented 'Nutrition Agenda' at global, regional and country levels. The 'Nutrition Agenda' seeks to contribute to the achievement of the Development Goals (MDGs), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and other nutrition-related international commitments, including the 2025 Global Targets for the Comprehensive implementation plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition endorsed by the World Health Assembly and the Framework for action adopted at the Second International Conference of Nutrition (ICN2) held in Rome, Italy in November 2014. NHD coordinates nutrition efforts in WHO emphasizing the areas of global nutrition surveillance, food and nutrition policy, and evidence and programme guidance. NHD acts globally and internationally to raise awareness and commitment, as well as to build alliances, networks and partnerships in a human-rights and multi-stakeholder perspective.

WHO Department of Knowledge, Ethics and Research (KER)

The Global Health Ethics Unit (GHE), Department of Knowledge, Ethics and Research (KER), develops guidance for policymakers and government on a diverse range of bioethics issues including patient safety, epidemic response and vaccine research. The Unit also produces resources for national and local ethics
committees, which suggest practical ways on how to resolve common ethical issues and conducts and coordinates training for Member States on public health ethics and research ethics. The Global Health Ethics Unit hosts the WHO Ethics Review Committee, which ensures all research supported by WHO is conducted to the highest ethical standards. Although public health activities raise similar ethical issues as research projects, most organizations do not have formal mechanisms to provide public health practitioners with advice on how to identify and address ethical issues in the implementation of public health programmes. The Public Health Ethics Consultative Group consists of staff members experienced in public health ethics and in development and implementation of public health projects. WHO is among the first public health institutions worldwide to offer such a service.

**Terms of Reference for the consultant**

The consultant will use a multi-modal approach to carry out the following activities in consultation with the coordinators of EPG/NHD and GHE/KER:

- Preparing a review of existing and planned nutrition related guidance documents being developed by NHD in collaboration with other internal WHO partners;
- Interviewing professional staff working in NHD, both at HQ and in the Regional Offices, on their planned activities for the 12th Programme of Work 2014-2019; and
- Scoping a review of the literature on ethical issues in nutrition-related public health activities.

**Expected deliverables**

The consultant will submit a report to WHO identifying the gaps in ethical guidance in existing NHD documents. The consultant will also provide a proposal for how EPG and its partners can bridge these gaps and identify the resources needed.

**Required qualifications**

The consultant must have a degree in bioethics with at least 7 years of experience in the field of public health, or a degree in public health with at least 7 years of work experience in the field of bioethics.

**Time Frame**

This work will require 4 days on site (WHO/HQ) and 10-12 days for reviewing documents and existing literature. The expected deliverables must be submitted by 9 October 2015.

*Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest, a proposed budget and a CV to nutrition@who.int. Submission deadline is 21 July 2015, 17:00 hours CET. The selected individual(s) will be informed by 10 August 2015.*