Consultancy Assignment
Research Consultant on FGM

The WHO Department of Reproductive Health and Research (RHR) seeks a public health professional with research experience in implementation research in sexual and reproductive health issues as well as experience working in health sector strategic planning and implementation of sexual and reproductive health activities in low income countries.

Organizational Background

The Department of Reproductive Health and Research (RHR) works towards improving sexual and reproductive health by developing guidance and tools on specific health topics, by supporting countries to implement these tools, and generating evidence on specific health topics. The Department addresses thematic areas related to vulnerability to sexual and reproductive health problems, in order to promote equitable access to services and sexual and reproductive health and rights for all. These activities are in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3, which seeks to ensure health and well-being for all and SDG Goal 5, which promotes gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, including the abandonment of FGM (SDG 5.3).

RHR includes the UNDP/UNFPA/UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP). HRP is the main instrument within the United Nations system for promoting, conducting, evaluating and coordinating interdisciplinary research on sexual and reproductive health; for collaborating with countries in enhancing national capacities to conduct this research; for promoting and facilitating the use of research results in policy-making and planning for sexual and reproductive health care; and for setting standards and guidelines, including technical and ethical guidelines, in the field of sexual and reproductive health research. More information about HRP can be found at http://www.who.int/reproductive-health/hrp.

The work on female genital mutilation (FGM) is based in the Department of Reproductive Health and Research.

Summary of duties:

The consultancy requires a high level of analytical skills, communication skills and proven implementation research and health sector strategic planning experience.

Under the guidance of the focal person on FGM, the Consultant will:

1. Support in and oversee the roll out of interventions in a multi-site implementation research in Guinea, Kenya and Somalia/Somaliland
2. Oversee research processes in countries through site visits and project management
3. Assist in the coordination and management of in-country research activities
4. Contribute to other research related activities, including but not limited to data analysis, summarizing results, and research capacity building
5. Provide technical support in countries’ FGM health sector strategic planning including M&E frameworks and in the implementation of selected priority activities aligned with WHO areas of focus
6. Assist the FGM Focal Person and Coordinator in other projects as necessary.
7. Prepare and contribute to briefings, presentations and other documents as necessary for internal and external requests.

Essential knowledge and skills

1. Excellent written English
2. Strong analytical skills
3. Demonstrated planning and organizational skills
4. Demonstrated ability to manage multi-site implementation research projects preferably with WHO
5. Ability to deliver high-quality products under tight deadlines
6. Good understanding of evidence synthesis and how to interpret evidence
7. Good understanding of strategic planning and implementation in sexual and reproductive health issues
8. Ability to communicate effectively with different audiences
9. Sensitivity in dealing with sensitive topics

**Essential educational qualifications**

Advanced degree in medicine, public health, demography, epidemiology, sociology or related degree, ideally with a focus on social determinants of health, including gender and health, and related topics.

**Essential relevant experience**

At least 5 years of experience combining:

1. Proven competencies in conducting research and in study design in general including implementation research
2. Proven competencies in health sector strategic planning, including development of M&E frameworks
3. Proven communications skills and publications
4. Experience working in sexual and reproductive health, ideally with experience on FGM

**Desirable experience**

Experience conducting implementation research in low-income settings on sensitive topics; experience conducting systematic reviews; experience in health sector strategic planning including development of M&E frameworks, experience working for an international organization in low resource settings; at least 3 years of work experience in FGM priority country.

**Language Skills**

Essential: Excellent knowledge of English.

Desired: Proficiency in another UN language, preferably French or Arabic.

**Other Skills**

Data analysis skills in Stata or SPSS; ability to use e-mail, PowerPoint, Excel, and word processing software.

**Application process**

Interested candidates should complete the personal history form (PHF) on the WHO employment page:
https://careers.who.int/careersection/ex/jobsearch.ftl and send a .pdf of the PHF form along with a letter of motivation to pallttoc@who.int, indicating “FGM Implementation Research Consultant” in the subject line. Closing date for applications is 09 December 2019.

Short-listed candidates will be expected to provide copies of diplomas.
Place of assignment

This position will be home-based, preferably in one of the study countries, with travel to Geneva, Switzerland and other countries in the AFRO or EMRO region.

Duration of assignment

This is a one-year assignment.

Medical clearance

The selected Consultant will be expected to provide a medical certificate of fitness for work.