Vacancy notice

Consultant

The WHO Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research (SRH) seeks a public health professional with a research background in sexual and reproductive health, including HIV. The incumbent has to have a strong understanding of WHO normative guidance, experience in facilitating expert meetings with multiple stakeholders and a track record of publications in peer-reviewed journals.

The duration of the Consultancy will be 12 months and it will be based in Geneva, Switzerland.

Please submit (i) a letter of motivation, and (ii) your curriculum vitae to narasimhanm@who.int, indicating “SelfCare” in the subject line. All applications received will be acknowledged. Closing date for applications is 24 April 2020.

Terms of reference

Organizational Background

The Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research (SRH) works to enable people to protect their own health as it relates to sexuality and reproduction and to receive quality health care in matters related to sexual and reproductive health. To achieve this, the Department advocates and promotes sound public health strategies, sets norms and standards, engages in technical cooperation activities, and supports research. RHR's overall strategic framework is provided by the WHO Global Reproductive Health Strategy approved by the 57th World Health Assembly in 2004. More information about RHR can be found at http://www.who.int/reproductive-health.

SRH 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 the setting of 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.

A key priority for the Department is the development of normative guidance on self-care interventions. Self-care interventions are evidence-based, quality drugs, devices, diagnostics and/or digital products which can be provided fully or partially outside of formal health services and can be used with or without the direct supervision of health care personnel. For example, self-injectable contraception, HPV self-sampling kits or HIV self-tests. WHO recognizes the value and potential contribution of self-care interventions within health systems, and the rapid advances being made in services, behaviours and information that can be initiated by individuals. WHO’s framework for self-care interventions supports and promotes these innovative approaches as ways to accelerate attainment of universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals.
Summary of duties:
The consultancy requires advanced research skills and proven project development, implementation and communication experience.

Under the supervision of the Scientist, SRH/SHS, the Consultant will:
1. Coordinate mapping of relevant UN-led global initiatives and facilitate organizational communication across the three levels (HQ, Regional and Country Offices). This will involve convening expert meetings, implementing expert meeting decisions and lead the final write-up of a report.
2. Support the development of an expanded WHO normative guidance and implementation guidance on self-care interventions for SRHR. This will involve working closely with the WHO Steering Committee, the WHO Guideline Review Committee, and other expert WHO-led committees for guideline development. It will also involve identifying, monitoring and documenting programmes and policies that will inform WHO implementation guidance, working closely with WHO Country focal points to provide technical support to Ministries of Health.
3. Given the rapidly growing field of self-care interventions, support other relevant activities as requested.

WHO Competencies
1. Producing results
2. Team work
3. Building and promoting partnerships across the organization and beyond

Essential knowledge and skill
- Excellent written and oral communication in English
- Demonstrated research project management and implementation skills
- Strong analytical and scientific write-up skills demonstrated with track record of publications in peer-reviewed journals
- Ability to communicate effectively and tactfully with multiple stakeholders
- Ability to deliver high-quality products under very tight deadlines

Essential educational qualifications
Advanced degree (minimum Master’s level) in medicine, public health, or related degree

Desirable educational qualifications

Essential relevant experience
Essential relevant experience At least 5 years of experience combining:
1. Proven competencies in research development
2. Experience with developing and organizing the technical content needed for expert stakeholder meetings
3. Proven communications skills and publications
4. Experience working in sexual and reproductive health, ideally with experience in primary health care (PHC).
Desirable experience
Experience conducting systematic reviews; experience working for an international organization in low resource settings.

Language Skills
Essential: Excellent knowledge English
Desired: Proficiency in another UN language

Other Skills
Ability to use e-mail, PowerPoint, Excel, and word processing software.