Vacancy notice

Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Consultant

The WHO Department of Reproductive Health and Research (RHR) seeks an experienced adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights (ASRHR) consultant to support its large and growing portfolio of work on ASRHR. In particular, the consultant will support activities related to the FP Accelerator and UNFPA Out-Of-School CSE Initiatives, new and updated guidelines and tools, and documentation.

1. The FP Accelerator Initiative
   From 2015-2018, WHO RHR led the BMGF-supported FP Umbrella Project to promote equitable access to quality contraception services by strengthening policy- and health system-level responses. The project resulted in increased awareness and use of WHO evidence-based recommendations; development, update, and use of national guidelines; and dialogue with ministries of health, academia, professional associations and local civil societies.

To scale up these achievements and to accelerate access to family planning, WHO is embarking on the BMGF-supported FP Accelerator Project from 2019-2022. This project will include an expanded focus on adolescents and youth through the creation of an adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health and rights (AYSRHR) Technical Assistance (TA) coordination mechanism. The coordination mechanism will focus on selected countries that are ready and willing to act to improve AYSRHR, providing them with the TA that they need for designing, implementing, monitoring, reviewing and documenting their AYSRHR programmes, in ways that are timely (from a mechanism that can respond in a punctual manner), effective (from individuals with the right technical and practical experience in a similar context and with back-up from evidence-based programme-support tools), efficient (from experts located as close to the respective country as possible, using methods that are appropriate and take cost into consideration) and, where appropriate, provide mentoring and contribute to capacity development.

2. The UNFPA Out-Of-School CSE Initiative
   In 2019, UNFPA will publish new International Technical and Programmatic Guidance on Out-of-School CSE. This resource is meant to complement the 2018 revised edition of the International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education, and includes an overview of out-of-school CSE, guidance on designing and implementing out-of-school CSE, and guidance on delivering out-of-school CSE to specific groups of young people.

To roll out and operationalize the new guidance, UNFPA has received financial support from NORAD to implement the project ‘Reaching those most left behind through CSE for out of school young people’. The initiative will use a three-phased approach to design and deliver out-of-school CSE programmes for specific groups of young people – as informed by the new guidance – in Colombia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Iran, and Malawi.

Much of the evidence we have on CSE comes from research conducted on CSE delivered in schools. Therefore, the evidence base on out-of-school CSE is relatively weak, by comparison. Likewise, there are a number of potential barriers to the implementation and effectiveness of out-of-school CSE, specifically (Figure 1). As such, UNFPA has request WHO RHR/HRP to lead implementation research in each of the five countries to generate evidence and lessons learned on designing and delivering out-of-school CSE.

3. New and updated guidelines and tools
In 2011, RHR/HRP published guidance on Preventing early pregnancy and poor reproductive outcomes among adolescents in developing countries, which provided recommendations related to five key outcomes: reducing marriage before the age of 18 years, reducing pregnancy before the age of 20 years, increasing use of contraception by adolescents at risk of unintended pregnancy, reducing coerced sex among adolescents, reducing unsafe abortion among adolescents, and increasing use of skilled antenatal, childbirth, and postnatal care among adolescents. In 2018, RHR/HRP published a document which compiled all of WHO’s recommendations on adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights, which also served as a scoping exercise for areas in which new and/or updated guidance is needed. The areas that were identified through this process include: adolescent contraception, child marriage, and menstrual health.


4. Documentation
On an ongoing basis, RHR/HRP supports the documentation of experiences with implementation of ASRH programmes. This includes documentation of specific project/programme evaluations (e.g. the rapid programme review of India’s National Adolescent Health Strategy), emerging evidence of specific interventions (e.g. collaborative learning in the context of a Global Fund-supported initiative in the Democratic Republic of Congo), and experiences in overcoming specific programmatic challenges (e.g. resistance to sexuality education in India, Pakistan, and Mexico).

5. Other
Additionally, there is a need for a consultant to support – to a lesser extent – activities under the ASRHR portfolio of work, such as research (e.g. the Global Early Adolescent Study, implementation research in the Democratic Republic of Congo, India, and Liberia), country support (e.g. the learning district initiatives in India and Ethiopia), partnerships (e.g. with FP2020, the Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage), dissemination (e.g. of the guidance on ethical considerations on conducting research with adolescents), and advocacy (e.g. meetings and conferences).

This position is based in Geneva, Switzerland and will be commensurate with experience.

Please submit (i) a letter of motivation, and (ii) your curriculum vitae to chandramouliv@who.int, indicating “ASRHR Consultant” in the subject line. All applications received will be acknowledged. Closing date for applications is 15 September 2019.

Terms of reference

Organizational Background

The Department of Reproductive Health and Research (RHR) 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.
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 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.

Summary of duties:

Under the guidance of the supervisor, the Consultant will:

1. **The FP Accelerator Initiative**
   Support management of the AYSRHR TA coordination mechanism, including: finalizing engagement agreements with partner organizations, soliciting and reviewing TA requests from countries, overseeing the provision of TA in response to country requests, and supporting monitoring and evaluation of the mechanism in line with the Standard Operation Procedures.

2. **The UNFPA Out-Of-School CSE Initiative**
   Support coordination of the implementation research in up to five countries, including: developing and securing clearances for core and country-specific protocols, liaising with global and in-country research institutions for data collection/management/analysis, and coordinating cross-country learning and sharing.

3. **New and updated guidelines and tools**
   Support development process of new and updated guidelines and tools, including: overseeing work of consultants, securing clearances and approval for publication, liaising with the editor/layout artist for publication, and contributing to dissemination of the published guidelines and tools.

4. **Documentation**
   Lead and support documentation and publication of experiences with implementation of ASRHR programmes.

5. **Other**
   As needed, support additional activities under the ASRHR portfolio of work.

The individual will work as a part of a team of experienced and talented staff and consultants dedicated to the improvement of global sexual and reproductive health and rights.

**WHO Competencies**

1. Producing results
2. Communications
3. Building and promoting partnerships across the organization and beyond

**Essential knowledge and skill**

1. A sound understanding of public health
2. A sound understanding of ASRHR
3. An understanding of WHO’s working processes
4. Ability to effectively write and present in English

Essential educational qualifications

Masters of Public Health

Essential relevant experience

1. Experience in ASRH in low and middle income countries
2. Experience in organizing and reporting on meetings
3. Experience in preparing journal publications

Essential language skills

Excellent knowledge English

Other Skills

Skills required to use e-mail, PowerPoint, Excel, and word processing software independently and efficiently.