Vacancy notice

Health policy and health systems consultant

The WHO Department of Reproductive Health and Research (RHR) seeks an early career health policy and systems researcher to appoint in this newly created position. The consultant will support the Adolescents and At-Risk Population (AGH) team on a range of projects related to health systems and universal health coverage (UHC). The consultant will report to Scientist, health systems and UHC/SRHR.

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 govenderv@who.int, indicating “Health policy and health systems consultant” in the subject line. All applications received will be acknowledged. Closing date for applications is Friday, 12 July 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.

Member states commitments to SRHR and UHC and WHO’s General Programme of Work 13 strategic focus on UHC which makes specific reference to SRH and RR, present an important opportunity to ensure SRHR are incorporated into UHC-related health reform policies and programs at the global, regional and country level. In moving this agenda forward, the department of RHR supports the development of SRHR within national UHC-related health reforms through 1) development of normative guidelines to support the incorporation of SRHR within UHC plans at regional and country plans; and 2) strengthening the evidence base to support national level priority setting and decision-making. Relevant for this consultancy, this includes two activities. The first is the development of a guidance document that will provide guidance on key health systems issues to consider in both the design and implementation of SRHR under UHC. The second is a repository of case studies documenting countries’ stories implementing SRHR in UHC.
Purpose of the Consultancy

The purpose of this consultancy is to provide technical support in the development of a guidance document and a repository of implementation stories towards advancing sexual and reproductive health in the context of UHC.

Summary of duties:

Under the guidance of the Scientist, the Consultant will:

1. Support the development of a guidance document including organizing meetings, preparation of background documents, drafting sections of the document, reviewing the literature, coordinating teleconferences with the Core Working Group, preparing meeting notes and organizing all documentation produced and maintaining a shared point and a platform of discussion.
2. Support the development of a repository of implementation stories of SRHR and UHC through reviewing the literature and contacting different stakeholders (i.e. researchers, international agencies, policy makers), drafting stories, liaising with communications and a web developer to develop an online repository.
3. These tasks will also include communicating regularly with different stakeholders either through emails or teleconference and may include site visits.
4. Prepare and contribute to updates, presentations and other documents and assist the team as necessary.

Essential knowledge and skill

1. Faultless written English.
2. Analytical skills and demonstrated knowledge on how to perform health systems research
3. Strong planning and organizational skills, demonstrated ability to manage converging priorities and deliver high-quality products under tight deadlines.
4. Experiences from working in multi-national teams with researchers and/or technology stakeholders
5. Excellent report writing skills
6. Ability to establish and maintain good working relations with colleagues, with senior WHO staff and with external project collaborators.

Essential relevant experience

At least 2-3 years of experience combining:

1. Proven competencies in conducting health policy and health systems research and analysis
2. National and international experience in global / public health
3. Proven communications skills and publications

Essential educational qualifications

Master's degree in public health, social and political sciences, economics and concentration/major in health policy, health systems and health financing.

Desirable educational qualifications

Post graduate training in sexual and reproductive health is desirable.
Language Skills
English expert proficiency in reading, writing and speaking is required

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

WHO Competencies
1. Producing results
2. Communications

Timelines
July 2019 – February 2020

Place of assignment
The consultancy is based in Geneva, Switzerland.