Vacancy notice

Consultant

The WHO Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research (SRH) seeks a public health professional with a strong project management background in sexual and reproductive health. The incumbent has to demonstrate a successful track record in facilitating multi-stakeholder policy level dialogue.

The duration of the Consultancy will be 6-12 months in multiple locations: DRC – Brazzaville, Egypt-Cairo, Ethiopia-Kigali, Kenya-Nairobi, Morocco – Rabat, Nigeria – Lagos, Senegal – Dakar, Uganda, Kampala, Switzerland-Geneva

During the COVID19 pandemic, activities will be conducted online, and will depend on location.

Please submit (i) a letter of motivation, and (ii) your curriculum vitae to srshs@who.int, indicating “SelfCare Policy for SRHR” in the subject line. All applications received will be acknowledged. Closing date for applications is 4th May 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 implementation 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. The COVID19 pandemic has brought to the forefront the unprecedented demand on laypersons to manage and maintain their health through self care measures. Due to the increased demand on the health systems, it has become imperative to find urgent measures to adapt policies to support implementation of evidence-based self-care interventions for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).
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. Provide sustained and intensive technical support to countries to (i) change policy for rapid and sustained introduction of self-care interventions for sexual and reproductive health.; (ii) build capacity of health systems, and (ii) effectively and equitably deliver self-care interventions;
2. Develop, implement and monitor work plans and budgets aimed at integrating sexual and reproductive health as integral components of countries' health care and to reach Universal Health Coverage;
3. Liaise and coordinate with national and regional stakeholders, to realize project objectives; and
4. 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, and for francophone countries in the project, also in French
- 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: Advanced level university degree in Public Health or Medicine.
Desirable: Additional specialization in Reproductive Health.

Essential relevant experience
A minimum seven (7) years of combined national and international professional experience in supporting sexual and reproductive health programmes, including work on health policy, health service delivery, and/or regulatory considerations related to over-the-counter availability of health products and medicines. Demonstrated experience in project management. Demonstrated experience of working in the low and middle-income countries. Proven track record of strong writing and oral communication skills. Experience in providing programmatic and/or technical assistance through or within the UN system.

Desirable experience
Relevant experience within one of the countries that are a focus of this project. Experience with implementation of WHO recommendations and normative guidance. Understanding of self-care and digital health interventions.

Language Skills
Essential: Excellent knowledge English and for francophone countries excellent knowledge of French.
Desired:

Other Skills
The incumbent will have a sound technical knowledge of public health aspects of sexual and reproductive health, human rights and gender equality. S/he will have a demonstrated ability to work with multiple external partners in different countries and collaborate with a wide range of stakeholders both within and outside of the UN system. The incumbent will also exhibit tact and maturity in dealing with sensitive topics and be able to work under very short timelines and produce high quality results. Excellent interpersonal, negotiating, intercultural communication skills and political acumen. Demonstrated ability to understand and work on complex policy and programme issues.