Vacancy notice
Consultant

The WHO Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research (SRH) seeks a skilled problem solver and a solution architect who can work with a wide variety of stakeholders in adapting existing workflows and implementation considerations around recommended self-care interventions and digital interventions.

The duration of the Consultancy will be 12 months based in Geneva, Switzerland with online support acceptable during COVID-19 pandemic.

Please submit (i) a letter of motivation, and (ii) your curriculum vitae to narasimhanm@who.int, indicating “Digital and Self-Care Interventions” in the subject line. All applications received will be acknowledged. Closing date for applications is 29 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:
Under the supervision of the Scientist, SRH/SHS, the Consultant will:

1. Coordinate a series of technical consultations to consider the operational considerations and implementation adaptations necessary for ensuring accessibility and appropriate use of prioritized self-care interventions. This will involve convening expert meetings, facilitating organizational communication across the three levels (HQ, Regional and Country Offices), implementing expert meeting decisions and lead the final write-up of a high-level implementation and dissemination plan.

2. Support the development of an expanded WHO normative guidance on digital implementation of self-care interventions for SRHR. This will involve working closely with experts in digital health as well as SRHR to determine key artifacts needed to facilitate implementation of digital solutions for self-care interventions. It will also involve working closely with in-country partners to gain insight in country needs as well as WHO Country focal points to provide technical support to Ministries of Health.

3. Given the rapidly growing field of self-care and digital health 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
- Excellent problem solver and understanding of how various technology solutions can be leveraged to address health care challenges
- Ability to frame and design technology solutions that would address health care challenges
- Demonstrated project management and implementation skills
- Ability to communicate effectively and tactfully with multiple stakeholders in an international environment
- Ability to deliver high-quality products under very tight deadlines

Essential educational qualifications
Advanced degree (minimum master’s level) in medicine, public health, business administration, health informatics, or related degree.

Desirable educational qualifications
Degrees or training in multiple disciplines mentioned above are a plus due to the interdisciplinary nature of this work.

Essential relevant experience
At least 3 years of experience combining:
1. Proven competencies in requirements gathering for digital health solutions
2. Experience with developing and organizing the technical content needed for a variety of stakeholders that include public health professionals as well as software developers
3. Proven communications skills
4. Experience working in sexual and reproductive health, ideally with experience in primary health care (PHC).

Desirable experience
- Experience implementing digital systems, specifically for self-care, in low resource settings
- Experience working for an international organization in low resource settings
- Understanding of informatics standards and terminologies that include HL7 FHIR and ICD-11 a plus

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

Other Skills
Ability to use e-mail, PowerPoint, Excel, Word processing software, Visio. Should be comfortable with web conferencing software.