VACANCY NOTICE

Consultant for Maternal and Perinatal Health and Preventing Unsafe Abortion Team

The vision of Department of Reproductive Health and Research (RHR) is the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of sexual and reproductive health (SRH). It strives for a world where all women’s and men’s rights to enjoy sexual and reproductive health are promoted and protected, and all women and men, including adolescents and those who are underserved or marginalized, have access to sexual and reproductive health information and services.

WHO/RHR’s work is premised on the need to achieve access to and quality of sexual and reproductive health, in order to meet the needs of diverse populations, particularly the most vulnerable. It is shaped around the five components of WHO’s Global reproductive health strategy:

- improving antenatal, perinatal, postpartum and newborn care;
- providing high-quality services for family planning, including infertility services;
- eliminating unsafe abortion;
- combating sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, reproductive tract infections, cervical cancer and other sexual and reproductive health morbidities; and
- promoting sexual health.

HRP is the main instrument within the United Nations system for identifying research priorities on sexual and reproductive health and rights; for promoting, conducting, evaluating and coordinating related interdisciplinary research; for collaborating with countries to build national capacity to conduct research; and for promoting the use of research results in policy making and sexual and reproductive health programmes.

The Department draws on research and global expertise to set norms and standards and develop global guidelines on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Currently, the team of Maternal/Perinatal Health and Preventing Unsafe Abortion in the Department of Reproductive Health and Research (RHR/MPA) is updating the Safe Abortion: Technical and Policy guidance (2nd edition issued in 2012, evidence assessed until 2010 - http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/70914/9789241548434_eng.pdf). The guidelines are intended to assist providers, and non-governmental and other organizations and professional societies involved in the planning, management and provision of medical services for abortion / post abortion care. These guidelines will assist national and sub national policy makers, and implementers and managers of national and sub national reproductive health programs. Additionally, since 2015, WHO has been developing a portfolio around experience of care by conducting evidence syntheses and research activities around mistreatment of women in labor to inform better measurement at the country and global levels; this work is now being developed as it relates to abortion care.

To support the current work within the, the WHO Department of Reproductive Health and Research seeks an individual with experience working in the area of abortion. The candidate will have experience conducting both quantitative and qualitative research, as well as extensive experience in conducting systematic reviews of the literature. The position also requires excellent writing skills in English and the ability to work independently. Comprehension of other UN languages would be an asset. The appointee will work as a part of a team of experienced staff dedicated to improvement of global sexual and reproductive health including strengthening transparency and accountability related to access to legal abortion. The position requires a high level of judgement, integrity, attention to detail and accuracy. The length of the consultancy is for one year and is at 50% time (i.e. 10 days/month).
The targeted start date is 01 September 2019. The consultancy is expected to be for 50% time, lasting one year.

Please submit (i) a letter of motivation, and (ii) your curriculum vitae to Antonella Lavelanet at lavelaneta@who.int indicating “MPA Consultancy” in the subject line.

Closing date for applications is 19 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.

Summary of duties:

Under the guidance of a medical officer on the Maternal and Perinatal Health and Preventing Unsafe Abortion (MPA) Team, the appointee will:

1. Support members of the RHR/MPA team in preparation of a meeting related to better understand and reflect the values and preferences of those obtaining comprehensive abortion services;
2. Assist in the evidence retrieval and synthesis related to clinical management and health systems to be used to update the Safe Abortion guidance, including provision of search strategies and relevant data extraction forms;
3. Support members of the RHR/MPA team in preparation of a systematic review related to hotline use and abortion care to be used to update the Safe Abortion guidance;
4. Support members of the RHR/MPA team in preparation of a case study related to integration of sexual and reproductive health services in UHC/primary healthcare;
5. Develop a draft protocol related to the application of WHO’s framework on quality of care, which places a strong emphasis on providing care that is safe, effective, timely, efficient, equitable and people-centred, as well as underlining the experience of care as an integral component of quality, and
6. Provide technical support to the RHR/MPA team for other activities as necessary.

WHO Competencies

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

**Essential knowledge and skill**

1. Fluency in spoken and written English is essential. Good comprehension of one or more other UN languages is an additional asset.
2. A demonstrated ability to understand complex medical and policy matters related to sexual and reproductive health in general and abortion in particular;
3. Exceptional analytical skills.
4. Strong planning and organizational skills demonstrated ability to manage converging priorities and deliver high-quality products under tight deadlines.
5. Ability to establish and maintain good working relations with colleagues, with senior WHO staff, and with the international constituency with which the project relates.
6. Tact and sensitivity in dealing with sensitive topics.

**Essential educational qualifications**

Advanced university degree in a relevant medical or social science discipline.

**Desirable educational qualifications**

Public health degree, and/or social science degree, and/or medical degree with a specialty in gynaecology.

**Essential relevant experience**

Clinical, programmatic or research expertise in providing facility and community-based family planning and comprehensive abortion care

**Language Skills**

Essential: Excellent knowledge English

**Other Skills**

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