Vacancy notice

Consultant

The WHO Department of Reproductive Health and Research (RHR) seeks a public health professional with strong analytical skills and programmatic management for research related to sexual and reproductive health issues as well as experience. In addition, the incumbent has a track record in dissemination/communication of technical topics and experience in successfully convening large multi-stakeholder meetings.

Please submit (i) a letter of motivation, and (ii) your curriculum vitae to rhr_monitoring Eval@who.int, indicating “Consultant” in the subject line. All applications received will be acknowledged. Closing date for applications is 30 January 2020.

Terms of reference

Organizational Background
WHO leads the UN Maternal Mortality Estimation Interagency Group (MMEIG) composed of WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, the United Nations Population Division, and the World Bank Group. The MMEIG is tasked with generating internationally comparable estimates of maternal mortality for the purposes of global monitoring, having done so for Millennium Development Goal reporting and will continue to do under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) framework.

In alignment with the SDGs, the Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health has described an ambitious action and measurement agenda around the three pillars “Survive, Thrive and Transform as well as the “Strategies toward ending preventable maternal mortality”. Reducing maternal deaths, requires understanding of why those deaths occurred, and in identifying and understanding the cause of maternal death enables effective policy, education, and health programme decisions.

Activities to communicate, disseminate, and provide technical capacity strengthening are required to ensure broad understanding by Member States on the processes and methods used for measuring and monitoring maternal health.

Summary of duties:
The consultancy requires a high level of analytical skills, communication skills and proven implementation research and health sector strategic planning experience.

Under the guidance of the focal person on maternal mortality estimation and measurement, the Consultant will:

1. Support logistics and planning needs for at least 2 regional (i.e., multi-country) consultations related to thematic areas of data/measurement in maternal health outcomes (in the broader context of sexual and reproductive health) with a focus on discussion the status, milestones and targets for maternal mortality reduction.
   a. Under the guidance of the Secretariat, support the technical activities of the conferences
      i. Initiate and draft conference agendas/plans
ii. Initiate and support finalization of presentations by the Secretariat
iii. Provide support, as needed to other presenters
b. Manage the activities of support staff to ensure organization of participants
2. Support dissemination/communications plans by:
   a. Drafting technical content for webpages related to maternal mortality estimation/measurement
   b. Drafting summaries for journals, blogs, etc., as requested
   c. Developing audience appropriate materials/messages for infographics and other social media fora
   d. Working with the Secretariat to finalize and post translations of official materials
3. Support the activities of Secretariat and the Coordinator, as requested
4. Prepare and contribute to briefings, presentations and other documents as necessary for internal and external requests.

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

Essential knowledge and skill
- Excellent written English
- Strong analytical skills and understanding of evidence synthesis and how to interpret evidence
- Demonstrated planning and organizational skills
- Demonstrated ability to manage multi-stakeholder meetings
- Good understanding of strategic planning and implementation in sexual and reproductive health issues
- Ability to communicate effectively with different audiences
- Ability to deliver high-quality products under tight deadlines
- Sensitivity in dealing with sensitive topics

Essential educational qualifications
Advanced degree in medicine, public health, demography, epidemiology, sociology or related degree, ideally with a focus on maternal health and measurement/monitoring.

Desirable educational qualifications
Public health degree

Essential relevant experience
Essential relevant experience At least 5 years of experience combining:
1. Proven competencies in interpreting evidence
2. Proven competencies in health sector strategic planning, including development of M&E frameworks
3. Experience with developing and organizing the technical content needed for multi-stakeholder conferences
4. Proven communications skills and publications
5. Experience working in sexual and reproductive health, ideally with experience on maternal health

Desirable experience
experience conducting systematic reviews; experience in health sector strategic planning including development of M&E frameworks, experience working for an international organization in low resource settings; work experience in countries with high levels of maternal mortality

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

Other Skills
Skills in Stata, SPSS, or R; ability to use e-mail, PowerPoint, Excel, and word processing software.

Location: Switzerland-Geneva

Contract duration: 12 months