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 undertaking various projects related to dissemination of its current guidelines on medical management of safe abortion and for the updating the Safe Abortion: Technical and Policy guidance (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 within their national contexts. As part of this effort, the Department is looking for support in evidence syntheses and around implementation considerations in humanitarian settings and in the application of digital decision-making support tools.

To support this work, the WHO Department of Reproductive Health and Research seeks an individual with experience working in abortion related issues, but particularly with areas of digital decision support tools, self-management and is also experienced with working within and with stakeholders working on SRHR in humanitarian settings. The candidate will also 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. 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 least 50% time (i.e. 10 days/month) but potentially as high as 75% of time.

The targeted start date is 15 September 2019. The consultant does not have to be Geneva based, remote arrangement is possible but must be willing to commit for the one-year time frame.
Please submit (i) a letter of motivation, and (ii) your curriculum vitae to mpa-info@who.int indicating “MPA Consultancy” in the subject line.

Closing date for applications is 28th August 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 senior scientist on the Maternal and Perinatal Health and Preventing Unsafe Abortion (MPA) Team, the appointee will:

1. Assist in the development of innovative approaches to improve dissemination and accessibility of Safe Abortion guidance for providers and health systems/program managers. This may include but not limited to digital decision support tool(s).
2. Support members of the RHR/MPA team to develop country case study(s) and framework specific to integration of implementation considerations of safe abortion provision in humanitarian settings.
3. Assist in the evidence retrieval and synthesis for update of Safe Abortion guidance, including preparation of several systematic reviews including on the use of hotlines, costs of unsafe abortion to health systems. This includes search, retrieval and synthesis of evidence as well as preparing a draft manuscript.
4. Assist in the follow up to the guidelines scoping meeting to develop a framework to consider values and preferences of individuals seeking care.
5. 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. Excellent written communication skills.
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. 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**

Medical degree with a specialty in gynecology.

**Essential relevant experience**

Experience within the humanitarian setting, demonstrable experience in working with digital decision support tools,

**Language Skills**

Essential: Excellent knowledge English. Working knowledge of French is an additional asset.

**Other Skills**

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