Request for expressions of interest for technical support on assessing health impacts from environmental risks

WHO is seeking expressions of interest from institutions or individual(s) for technical support on assessing health impacts from environmental risks. The selected institutions(s) or individual(s) will work under the supervision of the focal point for burden of disease estimates within the WHO Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Health (WSH) unit. The two main areas of activity for which technical support is sought include: (1) updating the data inputs for estimates of the burden of disease from inadequate WASH, and (2) contributing to documents describing interventions that can improve environment and health.

We welcome expressions of interest for the listed Work Packages or any specific or combined element(s) of the Work Packages. **Deadline for applications: 8 November 2019 (full application details in section IV)**

I. Background

The workplan of WHO’s Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health (PHE) includes the management of information on key risks to health to support evidence-based policy making. WHO is also the custodian agency for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goal’s Indicator 3.9.2, “Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, sanitation and lack of hygiene”. Monitoring of the mortality related to WASH raises awareness on the issue of the relevance of WASH to WHO and the broader health sector, provides information to national governments on the health gains that can be made by improving the WASH situation in the country, and informs national and international priority setting. WHO’s WASH Strategy 2018-2025 identifies estimation of the burden of disease from unsafe WASH as a priority intervention area, where WHO plays a pivotal role.

The department furthermore aims at supporting policy decisions in health and environment in line with the recent WHO global strategy on Health, Environment and Climate Change. In that context, guidance on interventions and their implementation needs to be made available and easily accessible to a wide variety of users that will assist in scaling up implementation of the strategy.

The individual or institution contracted to support these activities is expected to contribute at least 0.7 full-time equivalents (FTE) during the period January-December 2020. Pending satisfactory performance and availability of funding, the work packages may be revised and extended into 2021.

II. Work Packages

**Work package 1: Burden of disease estimates**

The individual or institution selected will support updating the estimates of the burden of disease attributable to unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene. Specific tasks will include modeling estimates of input data for WASH coverage, along with confidence intervals on the estimates. These estimates will draw upon published data from the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP). The individual or institution will support WHO staff in updating the methods and documentation of the burden of disease from water, sanitation and hygiene, and in running the models to produce estimates of the burden of disease, along with confidence intervals on the estimates. Finally, when new estimates are generated, the individual or institution will support WHO staff in development and dissemination of communication materials around the burden of disease.

**Work package 2: Interventions on health and environment**
The individual or institution selected will support WHO staff in drafting the sections on water, sanitation and hygiene and other selected sections as part of the a planned catalogue of interventions, and will contribute to other related documents as required.

### III. Specific requirements

**Qualifications required:**
- Postgraduate education (Master’s level education or higher) in statistics, epidemiology, public health, or related field

**Experience required:**
- At least five year’s relevant experience, of which at least three years at the international level

**Skills/Technical skills and knowledge (will vary depending on work package of interest):**
- Sound understanding of the health impacts of WASH and other environmental risks on health,
- Solid understanding of the tools, methods, existing databases, statistics and types of survey data available related to WASH;
- Specific expertise on meta-regression techniques;
- Specific experience with the application of multilevel modelling techniques on environmental datasets;
- Ability to develop estimates of health impacts from environmental risks (e.g. WASH);
- Competency in understanding and interpreting reviews, reports and expert opinions on science as they relate to WASH and health;
- Proficiency with statistical software, including STATA, and various approaches of data analysis of large datasets.
- Broad understanding of linkages between key environmental risks and health, and familiarity with underlying evidence.
- Good knowledge of evidence grading applied to environmental health.

**Language requirements:**
- English expert level (reading, writing, speaking)
- Desirable: Good working knowledge or fluency in other UN official language(s) (AR, CH, FR, SP, RU)

**Location and travel:**
- Home-based; with occasional visits to Geneva to discuss with WHO colleagues.
- The individual or institution may be expected to travel upon request to participate in meetings.
- All travel arrangements will be made by WHO – WHO will not be responsible for tickets purchased without the express, prior authorization of WHO. While on mission under the terms of this consultancy, the participants will receive subsistence allowance.
- Visas requirements: it is the traveler’s responsibility to fulfil visa requirements and ask for visa support letter(s) if needed.

### IV. Application details

**Submission of application package:**

Applications should be submitted by midnight GMT on 8 November 2019 to johnstonr@who.int and include:
- Up-to-date curriculum vitae including links to relevant work, articles or reports in this field.
• Cover letter outlining:
  o Specific areas of interest and expertise from the above Work Packages (listed Work Packages and/or any combined element(s) of the Work Packages),
  o The unique skills and contribution you bring to this work,
  o Availability during 2020 and 2021

Application review criteria includes:

1) The required qualifications, experience, technical skills and knowledge and language skills outlined above, as relevant to the selected elements of the work package(s);
2) Availability for specific tasks and travel in consideration of needs during 2020; and
3) Cost effectiveness.

*Shortlisted applicants will be contacted by email no later than 15 November 2019. Telephone interviews will take place during the week of 18-22 November. Please inform in your cover letter of any limitations to your availability on these dates.*