Request for expressions of interest for technical support to the WHO Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Health (WSH) unit’s work on drinking-water quality

WHO is seeking expressions of interest from institutions or individual consultant(s) for technical support to WSH’s work on drinking-water quality and safety. The selected institutions(s) or consultant(s) will work under the supervision of the Team Leader, drinking-water quality and safety, in the WSH unit with respect to the on-going efforts to support the implementation of the WHO Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality (GDWQ) and the development of supporting resources.

We welcome expressions of interest for the listed Work Packages or any specific or combined element(s) of the Work Packages. **Deadline for applications: 31 January 2018 (full application details in section IV).**

1. **Background**

The WHO GDWQ provides the international reference point for the development of drinking-water regulations world-wide. The key recommendation in the GDWQ is the implementation of the Framework for Safe Drinking-water, which is comprised of health based targets, Water Safety Plans (WSPs) and independent surveillance. In addition to continual revision of the GDWQ to ensure that it remains up to date, WHO develops a number of supporting resources, which provide the evidence base supporting the recommendations in the GDWQ or provide detailed guidance to support effective implementation of WHO recommendations, including related to the three components of the Framework for Safe Drinking-water.

Moreover, WHO is increasingly focusing on supporting countries in implementing the recommendations in the GDWQ. Specifically, on the development of drinking-water regulations, the development and implementation of WSPs and independent surveillance to ensure that WSP are effective and that national drinking-water regulations are being met.

2. **Work Packages**

**Work package 1: Climate resilient water safety planning**

- Develop WSP templates incorporating climate resilience
- Develop guidance on conducting climate change risk assessments
- Prepare note for auditors on addressing climate resilience in water safety planning
- Update WSP training package to incorporate climate resilience
- Update [WSP manual](#) based on lessons learned, including from implementation of CR-WSPs
- Finalize guidance on integrating equity into the WSP process based on peer and public review comments
- Develop a guidance note on integrating water and sanitation safety planning
- Prepare a climate-resilient WSP assessment framework
- Country support activities. It is anticipated that support will need to be provided to countries in the WHO South East Asia (SEA) and Africa (AFR) regions, including Bangladesh, Nepal and Ethiopia:
  - Lead audit of climate-resilient WSPs implemented in both urban and rural water supply systems
Prepare recommendations reports based on WSP audit findings to improve WHO’s climate-resilient WSP programme of work
- Conduct impact assessment of WSPs, including collecting baseline and follow up data, analysis and reporting
- Develop technical assistance/assessment plans and support coordination and reporting of activities
- Provide technical assistance and training to support countries in climate resilient WSP development, implementation and update as well as the development or revision of national climate resilient WSP guidance materials

**Work Package 2: Drinking-water quality surveillance**

- Lead the technical editing of a WHO Guideline on small water supply systems (to update Volume 3 of the GDWQ: *Surveillance and Control of Community Supplies*).
- Lead the technical editing of a guide on undertaking drinking-water quality surveillance activities
- Lead the development of a surveillance training package
- Develop a drinking-water quality surveillance programme assessment framework
- Country support activities. It is anticipated that support will need to be provided to countries in the WHO South East Asia (SEA) and Western Pacific (WPR) regions, including Bhutan, Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam:
  - Lead the assessment of drinking-water quality surveillance programmes
  - Develop technical assistance/assessment plans and support coordination and reporting of activities
  - Provide technical assistance to countries in strengthening their drinking-water quality surveillance programmes including providing input into the development of national action plans, training packages, field tools and information management systems

**Work package 3: Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality and supporting publications**

- Provide technical input and support the coordination of the revision of *Toxic Cyanobacteria in Water*
- Provide technical input and support the coordination of the revision of *Legionella and the prevention of legionellosis*
- Provide technical input and support the finalization of the microbial fact sheets in the WHO *Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality*
- Develop a protocol and conduct a literature review to update the treatment tables in the *Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality* related to chemical and radiological aspects
- Provide assistance to support the coordination of the development or revision of other technical documents supporting the GDWQ on subjects such as water treatment, microbiology and toxicology

3. **Specific requirements:**

**Qualifications required:**
- University degree or equivalent experience in relevant area.

**Experience desired:**
- At least seven years’ relevant experience, with at least three years of international development and/or in-country experience.

**Skills/Technical skills and knowledge:**
- Excellent knowledge of drinking-water safety and risk assessment/management practices as applied at national, regional and global levels;
• Experience in interfacing with different actors and WASH partners (governments, NGOs, donors, inter-governmental organizations);
• Excellent organizational, team and inter-personal skills in view of interacting with multiple stakeholders at country and regional levels;
• Advanced training, presentation and facilitation skills (for parts of work packages related to technical assistance and training);
• Advanced writing skills with a strong attention to detail;
• Competency in understanding and interpreting reviews, reports and expert opinions on science as they relate to WASH and health.

Language requirements:
• Expert level in English (reading, writing and speaking). Proficiency in French and other UN (AR, CH, FR, SP, RU), African or Asian languages is an advantage.

Location and travel:
• No specified place of assignment. The incumbent can work remotely with occasional visits to Geneva may be necessary;
• The consultant will be expected to travel upon request as required for undertaking assigned tasks.

*Visa requirements: it is the consultant’s responsibility to fulfil visa requirements and ask for visa support letter(s) if needed.*

4. Medical clearance
The selected consultant(s) may be expected to provide a medical certificate of fitness for work.

5. Application details

Submission of application package:
Applications should be submitted by email by midnight GMT on 31 January 2018 to gdwg@who.int and include:
• Up-to-date curriculum vitae;
• Summary statement outlining:
  o Specific areas of interest from the above Work Packages (listed Work Packages and/or any combined element(s) of the Work Packages)
  o Expertise and experience relevant for the role(s)
  o Availability during 2018/19
  o Availability for field work
  o Consultancy rates (daily or monthly).

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 2018/19; and
3) Cost effectiveness.
Successful applicants will be contacted by email on 2 February 2018 to take part in phone interviews on 6, 7 or 8 February 2018. Please inform in your cover letter of any limitations to your availability on these dates.

Please note that applications for this request for expressions of interest will be used to develop a pool of consultants for both long and shorter-term consultancies.