Request for expressions of interest for technical support on water, sanitation, hygiene and waste in health care facilities

WHO is seeking expressions of interest from institutions or individual(s) for technical support on WASH in HCF. The selected institutions(s) or individuals(s) will work under the supervision of the focal point for WASH in health care facilities in the WHO Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Health (WSH) unit. The three main areas of activity for which technical support is sought include: capacity building and learning, global coordination, advocacy and leadership, and health care waste.

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

Effective universal health coverage will not be achieved without fully functioning basic water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services in all health care facilities (HCF). Such services are needed to provide quality care, ensure sufficient infection prevention and control (IPC) practices and guarantee environments that respect the dignity and human rights of all care seekers, especially mothers, newborns and children. Shockingly, many health care facilities still lack WASH and thus cannot provide quality care. According to estimates released in 2019 by WHO/UNICEF, globally, 1 in 4 facilities lack basic water, 1 in 5 have no sanitation and 2 in 5 have neither hand hygiene facilities at the point of care nor systems to segregate waste.

The 2018 Global Call to Action on WASH in HCF by the UN Secretary General has elevated this issue among all UN agencies, partners and among Member States. Building upon this Global Call, all 194 WHO Member States unanimously approved a resolution on WASH in health care facilities at the 2019 World Health Assembly. The resolution, calls on countries to establish baselines and set targets, embed WASH in key health programmes and budgets and to regularly report on progress.

WHO and UNICEF, along with over 60 partners have committed to support countries in implementing the resolution and to work with health partners to achieve universal WASH services in all health care facilities. The global guidance on practical actions for achieving universal access provides an important framework for taking action at the national level and WHO and UNICEF have established a global portal (www.washinhcf.org) to share tools and experiences, elaborate commitments and stimulate further action.

II. Work Packages

Work package 1: Capacity building and learning

The capacity building and learning will involve supporting and linking the global plan of work with existing efforts taking place in every region to strengthen WASH in health care facility policies, monitoring, health workforce/training and operational research. A particular focus will be on supporting countries in implementing the key elements of the aforementioned WHA resolution and the eight practical steps. This may involve contributing content to national roundtables and situational analyses. In addition, this work

---


package will involve developing a package of materials for the Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool (WASH FIT), including a “climate smart” addendum which elaborates how to make WASH services climate resilient and also incorporates energy, a series of case studies on how WASH FIT has been adapted and the results, a mobile e-version of WASH FIT and finally updated, interactive training modules. The new WASH FIT package will need to be then piloted and implemented at a number of regional (SEARO, February 2020) and country led training events. Support as requested by countries (and for which funding has been secured) includes: Specific countries will evolve but include those where work is ongoing and/or funded such as: Bhutan, Ghana, Indonesia, Liberia, Mali, Philippines, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Vietnam and Zambia.

Work package 2: Global coordination, advocacy and leadership
Global coordination will involve providing input to WHO on how to strengthen the existing advisory group on WASH in health care facilities, driving action and specific outputs of identified global work areas (e.g. health workforce development, implementation research) and mapping key health and WASH partners and identifying strategic areas of engagement. On advocacy, this work will involve building the “movement” from “resolution to revolution” by communicating and developing key tools, messages and strategies that existing and future partners can use to advance efforts on WASH in health care facilities. Finally, this area will involve capacitating leaders at the national, regional and global level, particularly in health, with the key evidence and arguments for making the case for greater investments in WASH in health care facilities.

Work package 3: Health care waste
This work package will involve providing expert advice and technical support (remotely and in person) to countries as they update national policies, including with a greater climate focus, and work to transition to more environmentally friendly technologies. In particular, efforts will focus on four African countries (Ghana, Madagascar, Tanzania and Zambia) funded through the UN Global Environment Facility Grant. Finally, strategic inputs are needed to best direct energies of health actors, including Global Fund and GAVI who are increasing their investments and attention on health care waste. Key deliverables include: learning briefs on strengthening policies and practice on health care waste, updated health care waste training modules with strong focus on climate smart and resilient approaches and practices.

III. Specific requirements

Qualifications required:

- Master level or equivalent experience in relevant area

Experience required:

- At least ten years’ experience in working on WASH in health care facilities or related areas of infection prevention and control or quality care. At least seven years of international development and/or in-country experience supporting capacity building, training and/or coordination.

Skills/Technical skills and knowledge (will vary depending on work package of interest):

- Experience in interfacing with different actors and WASH and Health partners (governments, NGOs, donors, inter-governmental organizations and in facilitating regional and global events on WASH and Health;

- Experience in developing and conducting effective adult training on WASH and health in a variety of regions and contexts, and ideally experience implementing the WHO/UNICEF WASH FIT tool and use of various technologies to support ongoing follow-up and mentoring;
• Specialized training, expertise and experience in one or more of the following areas: safe health care waste management, WASH, infection prevention and control, public/preventive health, including in development and emergency settings;
• Clear and concise writing skills with demonstrated ability to analyze systems and distill key concepts;
• Excellent organizational, team and inter-personal skills in view of interacting with multiple stakeholders at country and regional levels.

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 regular visits to countries and/or Geneva to discuss with WASH and Health colleagues.
• The consultant will be expected to travel upon request as required for undertaking assigned tasks (approximately 30-40% travel).

IV. Application details

Submission of application package:
Applications should be submitted by midnight GMT on 8 November 2019 to montgomerym@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.

Successful applicants will be contacted by email no later than 12 November 2019. If successful interviews will take place over the phone 14 and 15 November. Please inform in your cover letter of any limitations to your availability on these dates.