



Health Surveillance & Disease Prevention & Control
Communicable Diseases Project (HSD/CD)

Call for Expression of Interest in a Consultancy on the Social Determinants of Neglected and Other Poverty-Related Diseases in Latin America and the Caribbean

HSD/CD/

This Call is an initiative of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), in the context of its program for the Elimination of Neglected and Other Poverty-Related Diseases.

Background: During 2008-2009, PAHO/WHO carried out a study of the epidemiological profiles of the major neglected diseases affecting 14 countries in the Americas, using secondary data from the countries. The study shows epidemiological 'hot spots', at the first subnational level, where these diseases overlap in specific areas and where, through greater efforts and integrated actions, the disease burden could be targeted for reduction. These profiles will be used to select the communities where the consultancy on the social determinants (SDs) will be conducted. See:

http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1247&Itemid=211

The 49th Directing Council of PAHO, having reviewed the document Elimination of Neglected Diseases and other Poverty-related Infections, recently approved Resolution CD49.R19 urging member states to eliminate or drastically reduce the burden of NIDs in the Region. See:

http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=2647

http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=3124

The PAHO/WHO Health Surveillance and Disease Prevention and Control Area, Communicable Disease Project invites academic institutions, specialized centers and public-health-related consulting firms in PAHO/WHO Member States to express their interest in providing the requested consultancy services described below:

The **purpose** of the consultancy is to conduct qualitative studies to identify, in two specific communities¹, the **neglected infectious diseases** (NIDs) affecting them, the **social determinants of health** (SDH), and to establish their relationship. The aim is to address the social determinants of NIDs in a multi-sectoral and integrated approach to reduce the risk and burden of the NIDs.

The NIDs to be considered (but which will depend on the epidemiological profile of the selected communities) are: onchocerciasis, lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis, soil-transmitted helminthiasis, trachoma, Chagas' disease, human rabies transmitted by dogs, plague, leprosy, and congenital syphilis, among others considered to be important by the two selected communities.

¹ These two communities with overlapping of NIDs will be identified in agreement with PAHO. Possible sites include Brazil and Mexico.

The **specific objectives** of this consultancy are:

1. To identify, at the local level, the NIDs and their social determinants perceived by the members of the two selected communities and by relevant stakeholders and actors, including the health system, in two selected communities, and the importance given to both the NIDs and the social determinants.
2. Analyze—involving community members and relevant stakeholders and actors in the process—the role of the social determinants associated with the perceived NIDs, within the framework of Social Determinants of Health as defined by the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health (CSDH). See: http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2008/9789241563703_eng.pdf
3. Identify—involving community participation and relevant stakeholders and actors—priorities, mechanisms and key interventions and present specific recommendations to address the Social Determinants of Health that could be used to develop a comprehensive, integrated and multi-sectoral approach in the selected communities to reduce the risk of NIDs as well as their burden.

Deliverable: A final report that includes an analysis of how the Social Determinants of Health are related to and impact the neglected infectious diseases, and recommendations as to potential multi-sectoral approaches to prevent and/or reduce the risk and burden of neglected diseases in the selected communities.

The report should include the following elements for each of the selected communities:

- Methodology, data collection and analysis of results of the perceived diseases and their associated social determinants.
- Recommendations on how to approach the social determinants of NIDs with a multi-sectoral and integrated approach to reduce their risk and burden, including.
 - The identified of priorities, mechanisms and key interventions to reduce the risk and burden of NIDs,
 - Identification of the roles to be played by the members of the communities, the local authorities, direct stakeholders and other interested actors.
 - Identification of the interventions of other sectors (education, environment, housing, agriculture, etc.), besides the health sector, as part of the multi-sectoral framework.
 - Diagrams/maps of how the different actors and sectors could participate in the prevention and reduction of NIDs.
- Recordings and transcripts of interviews with communities, direct stakeholders and other key actors.

Duration: The overall duration of the assignment must not exceed five (5) months, during which deliverables should be provided according to an established timeline.

Budget: The expected overall budget to complete the assigned tasks should not exceed US\$ 78,000, which includes all associated travel costs and honorarium.

Requirements

- The consulting firm or institution is expected to provide a team of interdisciplinary social sciences professionals, e.g. anthropologists, sociologists, health professionals, etc., with knowledge and experience in qualitative and quantitative research methodologies, able to analyze the social determinants of health at the community level and, ultimately, to link qualitative and quantitative analysis.

Submission of Expressions of Interest

- Expressions of interest (3 copies) in either English or Spanish, consisting of a capability statement of no more than 5 pages, abridged *curricula vitae* (CVs) of key staff, and supporting references (academic, professional, scientific publications, etc.).
- Additionally, the interested parties must provide a brief description of the proposed methodological approach, of no more than 5 pages.
- Prices and budget are not needed at this stage (the expression of interest stage); however, when required later, all prices must be in US dollars (US\$).
- Documentation from the academic institutions, specialized centers, or consulting firms interested in participating, indicating the name of the contact person and/or of legal representatives, their position in the respective institution, their mailing and e-mail addresses, telephone and fax numbers, website, and other relevant contact data.

The Expressions of Interest and corresponding documentation should be submitted in electronic format (MS Word) as well as printed format (hard copy) and should be received by no later than **15 January 2010**. It should be sent to the following address:

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