

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE NATIONAL HEALTH PROMOTION OFFICER PAHO/WHO GUYANA**

### **BACKGROUND**

Health promotion is a cross-cutting theme and an important component of all health Programmes. Its application is important in addressing the underlying determinants of population risks; promoting multi-sectoral policies and programmes to improve health and reduce health inequalities and supporting the development of evidence-based interventions. The Government of Guyana has recognized the importance of health promotion as an effective means of preventing diseases and improving the health care system and general living conditions of people. The implementation of health promotion interventions will contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and National Health Outcomes.

In all countries of the Region of the Americas including Guyana, noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and injuries have overtaken communicable diseases and maternal and neonatal conditions as causes of ill health, disability, and mortality. In response to this high burden of NCDs, the government is placing greater priority on these diseases in the context of the rapid economic, commercial, and social transition occurring due to newly found oil resources. There is the recognition that primary health care must continue to form the basis for the health system response in this area even as secondary and tertiary care levels are developed. Concurrently, the country continues to be affected by communicable diseases thus government has committed to the WHO Disease Elimination Initiative strategically focused on select communicable diseases and neglected tropical diseases. Work also continues across the lifespan to achieve zero maternal deaths, the promotion of healthy nutrition and healthy living across the lifespan, and healthy aging.

Given the critical importance of NCDs and mental health to Guyana at this stage of its epidemiological transition, greater emphasis on this role will be placed on the prevention of NCDs, the promotion of mental health, and also on primary care-based initiatives.

### **PURPOSE**

The Health Promotion Officer (HPO) will be responsible for collaboration with PAHO/WHO Technical Advisors to provide technical cooperation to the Ministry of Health for the implementation of national programs and activities related to health promotion, prevention & protection of public health to improve health and wellness of all Guyanese. The role of the HPO will encompass both the preparedness planning process and the reaction to health risks with an emphasis on non-communicable diseases.

## OBJECTIVES

1. To provide support to the Ministry of Health and to build the capacity of all stakeholders for the effective implementation of health promotion interventions at all levels of care
2. To empower individuals, families, and communities to participate in activities to foster healthy lifestyles.
3. To promote multi-sectoral approaches to health promotion development and implementation at all levels.
4. To develop a framework to implement evidence-based interventions for individuals, families, and communities.
5. To promote evidence-based research as a prerequisite for the development of health promotion interventions and monitor and evaluate interventions on their process and outcomes.

## SCOPE OF WORK

The Health Promotion Officer (HPO) will support the coordination of Technical Cooperation for developing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating policies, strategies, and plans to prevent and control health conditions and their risk factors. The chosen candidate will be expected to apply a health promotion approach to support the development of evidence-based informed policies and programs to reduce the burden of non-communicable disease and mental health.

## TASKS

To achieve the expected results, the HPO will carry out the following tasks:

- Support PAHO technical cooperation teams in the capacity-building of community-based and healthcare workers regarding priority health conditions (e.g. mental health, substance use, cardiovascular diseases) using WHO frameworks and tools
- Develop risk communication strategies and conduct community engagement and social mobilization initiatives to prevent and control public health emergencies including relevant components in preparedness
- Establish and support multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary collaboration amongst all stakeholders to develop integrated and comprehensive interventions, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of health communication policies, strategies, and plans to reduce communicable and noncommunicable diseases

- Provide technical advice and support to the Ministry of Health to strengthen its health promotion capacity, in line with the guidance of the Technical Advisors, including creating strategies and interventions (including community-based) for supportive environments for health toward the reduction of risk factors and underlying social and commercial determinants for non-communicable and communicable diseases
- Assist in the coordination of the adaptation and implementation of evidence-based norms, standards, guidelines, and tools in the broad programme areas related to non-communicable diseases and mental health
- Deliver details about potential health risks and possible treatments to the media, the public, other healthcare experts, or local, state, and national health regulators.
- Support the establishment of innovative action plans for the inclusion of noncommunicable disease prevention and control and mental health interventions across the life course and continuum of care
- Analyze and evaluate a diverse range of data and information related to noncommunicable diseases and mental health and implementation of preventative and control measures

## **QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE**

- Candidates should have a master's degree in a health-related field such as health promotion, public health, or any area related to health and public health
- At least 5 years of previous experience at the national level in project/programme management focused on integrated health services, health promotion, and people-centered care.
- Previous experience supporting NCDs and Mental health initiatives
- Knowledge of international best practices in communicable and noncommunicable disease prevention and control areas, ideally of WHO's policies, practices, guidelines, and procedures
- Knowledge and skills in health promotion, monitoring, and evaluation including grant management
- Strong public health and strategic thinking background showing resourcefulness, initiative, and leadership qualities
- Ability to identify, assess, analyze, synthesize, and provide recommendations on key technical issues
- Strong professional oral and writing skills, including the development of reports, oral presentations, and technical/persuasive documents

**SUPERVISION:**

Under the direct technical and administrative supervision of the Technical Advisor for NMH PAHO/WHO Guyana CO and the second level supervision of the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) Representative (PWR) for Guyana, the HPO will work in collaboration with the Communications Officer, Program Assistant, and Administrative Officer at the PAHO Guyana Country Office, and national counterparts in the Ministry of Health.