

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **Support the Human Papilloma Vaccine(HPV) Strategy and Plan of Action**

#### **MINISTRY OF HEALTH IN COLLABORATION WITH PAHO/WHO, GUYANA**

### **BACKGROUND**

Cervical cancer continues to be a major public health problem for women in Guyana, as it is in many developing countries and throughout most of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). In 2002, an estimated 493,000 new cases of cervical cancer and 274,000 deaths due to cervical cancer occurred, with approximately 85% of this burden borne by developing countries. In addition, cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in women worldwide and leading cause of cancer mortality among women in LAC, where 50 percent more women die from the disease annually than from maternal causes.

Cervical Cancer is the second most common cancer in Guyanese women; the average annual incidence rate is 46.9 per 100,000 population. Afro-Guyanese women have the highest incidence rate of 56.1 per 100,000. Two thirds (2/3) of all cases are in women below the age of 60 years. The 15-39 years age group has the highest percentage of cervical cancer. Only 4% of all the cancers were diagnosed at stage 1, average annual mortality from cervical cancer 27 per 100,000, cervical cancer is the leading contributor to years of potential life lost (8,152 years).

Guyana was one of the first countries of the Caribbean to pilot the HPV vaccine in girls 11-13 years old in 2012. However, this campaign was marked with public protest and negative comments in the media. The post –evaluation results showed a high uptake for the first dose but high drop-out rates for the second and third doses. Though there was success based on the vaccination coverage, this introduction was challenged by many fractions of society based on misconceptions and lack of the correct information.

In 2017, HPV doses have been expanded from females to males to include the target group 9-16 years. However, due to COVID -19, the country was faced with several challenges to have this implemented due to the closure of schools. In 2022, EPI increased this to include all women up to 45 years old. However, challenges still exist on the acceptance of the HPV vaccines even though the schedule has been changed to one dose. In an effort to increase the uptake and coverage of HPV vaccination as part of the elimination strategy for cervical cancer in Guyana, there is a need to present evidence on the importance benefits of the HPV vaccinations as a cancer prevention strategy to decrease the high incidence in Guyana. In addition, there is a need to have a good effective HPV Plan and strategy to ensure that the update of the vaccines reaches the expected value.

## **Objective**

To develop a national HPV Strategy and Plan of Action for the Ministry of Health with targeted interventions to improve the health and wellness outcomes of the Guyanese population so as to improve the vaccination coverage of the HPV vaccines

## **PURPOSE**

To improve HPV vaccination uptake for the national immunization programme at the national and regional levels in Guyana

## **OBJECTIVE**

The objective of the consultancy is -

1. To develop an HPV Strategy and Plan of Action 2024 – 2027 in collaboration with the MOH and other key stakeholders.

## **ASSIGNMENT**

### **SCOPE OF WORK**

The consultant will perform the following activities:

Assist the Ministry of Health in the development of HPV Strategy and Plan of Action 2024 – 2027 with the inclusions

1. Review the focus areas with particular reference to the age groups to ensure that all the stakeholders are captured and their requirements with the MOH included. Each age group strategy should be clearly defined with the appropriate strategy, materials etc. for that particular category. The recommended vaccines and doses for that age group should also be clearly defined
2. Support the in-person consultation from 27 to 28 Feb 2024 during the HPV scientific country conference with all stakeholders.
3. Participate in the small group meeting on 29 Feb 2024 on the HPV Strategy and Plan of Action.
4. Prepare a written summary report on the workshop meeting on 29 Feb 2024 on the constraints, gaps and proposed solutions
5. Collaborate with the EPI and the Communication staff of the Public Relations and Communications Unit in assessing the Ministry of Health to identify the gaps, concerns and issues.

6. Work in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, in phases to develop the communication policy, which will guide the development of the HPV Strategy and Plan of Action 2024.
7. Development of the HPV Strategy and Plan of Action with all major key stakeholders
8. Final review of HPV Strategy and Plan of Action with all relevant stakeholders of the Ministry of Health and PAHO Technical Officer of the Healthy Life Course and Health Promotion Unit.

### **Qualifications**

- Master's in public health or any related social services field .
- Minimum of 10 years' experience in the field of health at the international level in the area of vaccination and planning of strategies.
- Sound understanding of experiences with assessment and methodologies
- Experience with facilitation of groups, i.e. group interviews
- A good relationship with the Ministry of Health, Non-Governmental Organizations, and other United Nations Agencies would be an advantage.

### **Deliverables**

- Report on the small group planning meeting on the HPV Strategy and Plan of action
- HPV Strategy and Plan of action 2024-2027 , categorized by age, vaccine requirements and strategic plan of actions for each category on satisfactory completion by the PWR and Technical Officer

**Duration: 26 Feb 2024 to 15 March 2024, in country consultation 26 Feb to 7 March 2024.**

**Total days 20 days**

Travel and per diem included for days in country including consultancy fees

**Supervisor :** PWR, Guyana and Technical Officer ,Specialist, Family and Community Health , PAHO/WHO

Approved by

*Luis Codina*

Dr Luis Codina

PWR , Guyana

Dated :

