

TERMS OF REFERENCE NATIONAL PAHO CONSULTANT, HEARTS Initiative

BACKGROUND

Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) which include conditions such as heart attacks, stroke and heart failure are the leading cause of deaths in the Americas. An estimated 2.0 million people died from CVDs in 2017. Of these deaths, 30% occurred in people 70 years and under. In Guyana, the disease burden is mainly that of chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and resultant complications with the second highest age - standardized mortality rate in the Americas.

In 2021, the Ministry of Health committed to reducing the burden of cardiovascular diseases through the adoption of the Global HEARTS Initiative. The HEARTS technical package provides a strategic approach to improving cardiovascular health, promote the adoption of global best practices in the prevention and control of cardiovascular diseases (CVD), and improve the performance of primary health care services through better control of high blood pressure.

Scaling up the implementation of the HEARTS Initiative in Guyana evidence-based clinical could significantly reduce the number of premature CVD deaths, have a positive impact on the attributable burden of these diseases and move towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

Within this context, the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) is committed to supporting interventions to reduce morbidity and mortality from cardiovascular diseases and strengthen the overall health sector response for treatment, prevention and control of cardiovascular diseases and scale-up country wide implementation of the WHO HEARTS technical package at the primary health care level.

1. Objective and Scope of Work

a. Objective

The objective of this assignment is to collaborate with the Ministry of Health to provide technical support for improved outcomes for NCDs prevention and control with a focus on the HEARTS Initiative and development and implementation of the National Cancer Control Plan for Guyana.

Scope of Work

1. Support the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the HEARTS Initiative for improved outcomes in the management of cardiovascular diseases in Guyana (including:
 - a. Support the coordination and conduct of site assessments as outlined in the HEARTS scale-up plan.
 - b. Support the conduct of capacity building on the HEARTS Initiative including the Diabetes component for health care providers and other stakeholders at implementation sites.
 - c. Support the implementation of the HEARTS Initiative in select health facilities in the framework of the Chronic Care Model for management and control of NCDs
 - d. Support the development and implementation of interventions to strengthen NCDs self-management.
 - e. Support the process for development of national guidelines for management of hypertension in primary care.
 - f. Review access to Patient Education and Patient Support programs/services, ensuring to document and share lessons learned from existing relationships.
 - g. Support the periodic review of patient education and support programs/services and existing self-monitoring tools (e.g. Health Passport)

- h. Support the conduct specialised training for health professionals as Diabetes/Hypertension Educators and relevant training for Lay persons in self -management
 - i. Support the development of a suite of patient education materials and tools using a mix of methodologies (print, social media applications, texting, audio/visual etc)
 - j. Support the development of health promotion/behaviour change campaigns to support behaviour modification and adoption of healthy lifestyles.
 - k. Document and share lessons learned from innovations in self-management.
 - l. Support the documentation of emergent lessons, impact and results supporting communications, in relation to both Ministry of Health and PAHO-led activities.
 - m. Provide regular inputs into process and outcome monitoring as well as reporting for both PAHO and MoH-led activities.
2. Support the process for the elaboration of a National Cancer Control Plan (NCCP) for Guyana
- a. Participate in the in-country consultations for the development of the NCCP
 - b. Participate in the bi-monthly meetings for the development of the NCCP.

3. Deliverables

The Consultant will submit the following deliverables:

1. Workplan in accordance with the scope of assignment described in the Terms of reference.
2. Monthly reports on achievement of deliverables outlined in work plan.

4. Duration of the Assignment

The projected timeline for the completion of this assignment is 9 months and will commence on 1 April 2023 and end on 31 December 2023.

5. Payment Schedule

Payments will be made upon the submission and acceptance of the deliverable, in accordance with these Terms of reference at a rate of G\$550,000/month.

6. Requirements:

Qualifications:

- University Degree in Medicine, Public Health Nursing, or related field from a recognized institution.
- A Master's degree in Public Health will be an asset.

7. Experience:

- At least three years' experience in public health with a focus on NCDs prevention and control; management, and coordination of public health programmes.
- Practical experience in capacity building, programme planning, development, implementation, and evaluation.
- Excellent command of English (Read - Write - Speak).

General comments

In carrying out these activities, the National PAHO Consultant will:

- Collaborate with the Ministry of Health; other ministries; bilateral partners and partners in UN and other international agencies; technical advisors in the PAHO/WHO Guyana CO and at other levels of the Organization, especially Health Systems and Services; and, as necessary, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector, with particular emphasis on approaches incorporating the social determinants of health and the Organization's cross cutting themes.
- Collaborate with the Advisor, Health Systems and Services (HSS), and others as necessary to strengthen the integration of prevention and control strategies for NCDs, and risk factors into primary health care.
- Collaborate with the Health Promotion (HP) focal point, the Knowledge Management and Communication (KMC) focal point, and others as necessary in the development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of health communication strategies and programs and enhance protective factors in the places where people live, work, and study (schools, communities, municipalities, and workplaces).
- Undertake other work-related duties and any other duties that may be deemed necessary as requested by the Specialist, NCDs and Family Health.

The activities are to be achieved within the time frame of this contract, as planned, and agreed with relevant national counterparts, other partners, and the PAHO Representation. The Specialist NCDs and Family Health will monitor the achievement of the outputs and approve payments as appropriate.

Duration of Contract: 1 April 2023 to 31 December 2023

Supervision: As noted above.

Payment: In keeping with Pay Band B on the NPC scale.