



The Office of the World Health Organization in the Lao PDR has a vacancy for the position of:

Short-term Consultant for Tuberculosis (3 months)
Technical Assistance in Reducing the Tuberculosis (TB) burden in Lao PDR

Objectives of the programme:

Lao PDR remains a high TB burden country of the WHO Western Pacific Region with an estimated incidence of 175 TB all forms per 100,000 population. The National TB programme started the DOTS strategy in 1995 and covered the whole primary health care network since 2005. The estimated case detection rate is increasing progressively but still low at 42% in 2016 (WHO).

The TB action plan for the period 2017-2020 has set objectives and related targets in line with the End TB strategy to decrease TB incidence in Lao PDR by 20% in 2020 (compared to 2015 level). Priority high impact interventions aim at: Contributing to the Universal Coverage by providing TB prevention and cares in all facilities of the primary health cares, offering molecular testing (WHO recommended) to all presumptive TB and MDR-TB patients as first diagnosis test, maintaining high treatment success using WHO recommended treatment regimens, and addressing TB among high-risk patients and population groups including persons living with HIV, involving all partners and strengthening monitoring and evaluation, operational research and TB programme management.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFTAM) is the main contributor to the National TB programme (NTB). The Government of Lao PDR has signed a grant agreement with the GFTAM for supporting the TB programme during the period 2018/2020.

WHO provides regular technical support to the National TB Programme (NTP) since 2002.

Description of the duties:

Provide technical support to the Lao National TB programme in all aspects of implementation of TB control activities to:

- (1) Assist the Director of the National Tuberculosis Programme (NTP) regarding the following core responsibilities: (i) coordination of the central team; (ii) DOTS expansion activities at all levels of the primary health care and communities; (iii) strengthening surveillance and monitoring of TB control activities;
- (2) Work with NTP and other stakeholders in developing and maintaining functional quality assured TB laboratory (microscopy, culture and DST, rapid molecular tests), and scaling up and monitoring the use of WHO- recommended diagnostic tools (like Xpert[®] MTB/RIF assay);
- (3) Work with NTP and other partners in developing TB-HIV collaborative activities in collaboration with the National Centre against HIV/AIDS and STIs;
- (4) Work with NTP and other partners in programmatic management of drug resistant tuberculosis;
- (5) Plan and conduct intensified TB detection activities among high risk groups including PLHIV, TB patients contacts, prisoners, factories, co-morbidities and other priority groups as needed; and
- (6) Work with NTP and other partners on the implementation and monitoring of the Global Fund new funding model (NFM).

Knowledge and Skills:

- Technical expertise in the management of a TB programme with experience of designing and implementing TB/HIV activities including the management of drug resistant tuberculosis;
- Extensive knowledge of the TB laboratory and the interpretation of TB biology in a Public Health context;
- Proven successful experience of leading GFTAM grant development (grant writing and submission) and management (reporting, PUDR, M&E, including sub-recipients, procurement).
- Proficiency in standard MS Office applications.

Education:

Essential: Medical Degree or Masters in Public Health

Desirable: Post-graduate qualifications in TB, with a focus on epidemiology and disease surveillance.

Experience:

Essential: Minimum 5 years' experience in operational management of a TB programme preferably in Asia;

Desirable: Working experience with the UN system

Language: Written and spoken fluency in English is essential.

Other skills: Proficiency in standard MS Office applications.

Planned timelines : Period covered by the consultancy contract: 3 months

Start date: 16 January 2018

End date: 15 April 2018

Additional information:

Interested and qualified candidates are invited to submit application letter and curriculum vitae in English language with a subject "***Short-term Consultant for TB***" to the below address by **17 November 2017**.

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