



The mission of WHO is the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health.

Title: National Consultant in Social Science

Date: July 25, 2017

Application Deadline: 01 August, 2017

Contract type: Consultant

Duration of contract: 3 months

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

The responsibility for deciding whether to introduce a new vaccine rests with the national Government. To encourage the strengthening of national capacity to formulate evidence-based policies around vaccine introduction, the Global Vaccine Action Plan 2011-2020 recommended that all countries create or strengthen independent national immunization technical advisory groups (NITAGs) and in 2010 the World Health Organization (WHO) published guidance for NITAGs. Most industrialized and some developing countries rely on evidence-based recommendations from a NITAG. However, it is not clear to what extent NITAGs are integrated into the policy process.

The Republic of South Africa (RSA) was selected for a qualitative assessment to understand the contextual adaptation of the structure and function of their NITAG, called the National Advisory Group for Immunization (NAGI), and its integration into the policy process that have led to successful immunization policy in countries with the most recent vaccine introduction. In addition, linkages between the NAGI and the National Certification Commission for the Eradication of Poliomyelitis (NCC) in the context of the transition of polio assets will be explored. The work will be a collaboration between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Ministry of Health RSA.

Data collection methods for this assessment will include a document review/abstraction and semi-structured in-depth interviews with key informants in the policy process. To assist with planning as well as collection, coding, and analysis of qualitative data, two national consultants with expertise in social science are needed.

PURPOSES:

- Identify documents and key informants, arrange interviews.
- Assist other investigators in conducting document review and interviews.
- Transcribe interviews
- Code and analyze data using NVivo.

DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES

During the mission, the consultants will work with investigators from the CDC, WHO, and the Ministry of Health RSA.

- **Estimated timeframe:** 21 August- 28 August 2017
 - Compile a list of key informants who have first-hand knowledge of the actual process of the NITAG establishment and functioning and the policy dialog between the NAGI and the Government. Potential individuals may include those serving as the NAGI Chair, NAGI members, member of the NAGI secretariat, NCC Chair, NCC members, EPI manager, MoH and MoF officials, and representatives of the National Regulatory Authority (NRA).
 - Use snowballing technique to identify other immunization stakeholders involved in the immunization policy process or immunization policy champions and influencers
 - In collaboration with partners, finalize the list of key informants and documents.
- **Estimated timeframe:** 28 August to 8 September 2017
 - Conduct desk review of documents, translation of relevant sections, and completion of SIVAC assessment tool
 - Conduct recorded interviews with key informants on the policy process and NITAG
- **Estimated timeframe:** 9 September to 21 November 2017
 - Transcribe and (translate into English if needed) the interview recordings in full text to enable the capture of relevant quotes. Assume 20-25 key informant interviews.
 - Code the qualitative data and analyze using NVivo.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

Education

- Graduate Degree in Social Science or Behavioral Epidemiology

Experience

- Minimum 2 years experience and expertise in public health policy
- Minimum 2 years experience doing in-depth interviews
- Minimum 2 years experience coding and analyzing qualitative data using the software NVivo
- Eligible and available through WHO contract, supported by CDC funds to RSA country office of the WHO

Skills

- Producing results
- Technical Expertise
- Communication

Use of Language Skills

Expert knowledge of English.

Proposed Period:

- 21 August to 21 November 2017

Please send all applications to mabason@who.int