

TBCARE 1 – VIET NAM PROGRAM

SCOPE OF WORK

Senior Public Health, Tuberculosis or Laboratory Consultant to implement and monitor the national sputum sample transportation system, primarily to facilitate improved access at the district level to TB diagnosis and detection of rifampicin resistance.

I. Period of performance:

Up to 6 months from 1 March 2014 – 29 August 2014

Technical Supervisor: MSH's Principal Technical Advisor for Laboratory Services

II. Context and Background

Funded through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the TBCARE 1 Program globally supports the implementation of USAID's TB strategy as well as collaborates with other national and international initiatives in providing global leadership and support to National TB control efforts.

Viet Nam ranks 12th among the 22 countries with a high burden of Tuberculosis (TB) which account for 80% of the world's TB burden. It is also one of 27 countries with a high burden of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB). The TBCARE 1 – Viet Nam Program has the following objectives:

- Objective 1: Reduce the prevalence of TB infection and mortality, prevent MDR-TB development, and reduce TB transmission
- Objective 2: Enhance the effectiveness of TB screening activities with symptoms of lung disease in order to improve capacity of diagnosis and TB patients' management (including children) at grassroots level.
- Objective 3: Implement procedures of TB/HIV coordination to reduce the burden of HIV- related diseases
- Objective 4: Improve Public – Private Mix (PPM) strategy in order for successful detection and treatment, according to the guidelines of NTP
- Objective 5: Strengthen the MDR-TB management in order to avoid disease spreading, and create fair approach for the community
- Objective 6: Develop and implement an ACSM policy for different partners in order to maximize the range of components in the NTP
- Objective 7: Improve the capacity of NTPs to analyze and use quality data for the management of the TB program
- Objective 8: Ensure sufficient provision of second-line drugs, and ancillary medicines for MDR-TB treatment

III. Consultant scope of work

The consultant's overall objective is to work with the TBCARE 1 technical assistance consortium of partners and the National TB Program (NTP) of the

Ministry of Health (MOH) to fully implement the sputum sample transportation system, primarily to facilitate access at the district level to TB diagnosis and detection of rifampicin resistance by GeneXpert testing, and secondarily to facilitate Line Probe Assay, TB culture and drug sensitivity testing identification of drug-resistant TB, as needed. A technical orientation on the assignment will be provided at the beginning of the consultancy.

IV. Activities and Outputs

1. Facilitate the NTP and related laboratory services to implement the national policy, and guidelines for the referral, reporting and transport system for specimens for GeneXpert testing, Line Probe Assay, TB culture and identification of drug-resistant TB.
2. In line with the approved TBCARE 1-Vietnam workplan and budget for 2014, the major focus of the work will be to ensure that districts have access to GeneXpert testing. This will require working at the provincial level to assist their district TB units with specimen collection, storage, and transport and delivery of specimen to GeneXpert sites, and ensuring timely results and feedback to patients
3. Provide appropriate orientation of clinical, public health and laboratory staff to enable them to implement the referral system at district level. Identify gaps and need for changes or improvements.
4. Work with MOH, USAID and the NTP to collect data from project sites relating to current number of TB specimens referred, number of MDR-TB cases identified and numbers started on 2nd line drug treatment and treatment based on results.
5. Document how the project sites are currently implementing the specimen referral system and how this is facilitating implementation of the national PMDT guidelines in relation to the diagnosis and identification and management of MDR-TB
6. Collect and analyze quarterly post-implementation data and compare with baseline.
7. Participate in bi-weekly TBCARE 1 team meetings. provide monthly written progress reports and an end-of assignment full technical report on the progress made towards achieving the expected project outputs in the table below
8. Perform other duties as assigned.

EXPECTED PROJECT OUTPUTS TO BE ACHIEVED BY AUGUST 2014:

- Countrywide, 350 sites (35 Provincial Sites and their districts) regularly referring specimens for diagnosis of drug resistant TB
- 8000 specimens referred annually across Viet Nam for testing by GeneXpert
- 1500 drug resistant cases identified annually from referred specimens

V. Qualifications

1. Good understanding of the Vietnamese health sector at the national, provincial and district levels. Working experience with the National TB Program is an advantage
2. Bachelor of Science or medical degree, plus a higher degree in public health, biomedical science, microbiology or relevant related field, essential.
3. At least 3 years' post-qualification, practical experience in public health, preferably in TB control, including MDR-TB, and management of the TB diagnostic process.
4. Understanding and working knowledge of the role of the laboratory in TB prevention, care and treatment, TB/HIV, and Programmatic Management of Drug-resistant TB (PMDT)
5. Knowledge and understanding of both traditional and new TB diagnostic technologies, required for the scale-up of TB diagnosis and PMDT.
6. Knowledge of and demonstrated experience in capacity building, supervision, monitoring, and evaluation of clinical, public health and laboratory staff.
7. Demonstrated managerial and organizational skills in a developmental setting with flexibility to adapt to changing priorities and deadlines.
8. Ability to collaborate with the lead TBCARE 1 partner, KNCV, to effectively communicate program objectives, progress, and challenges to the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders and to successfully develop creative and strategic solutions to achieve common goals.
9. Experience with USAID-supported projects preferred.
10. Strong organizational, administrative and both written and oral communications skills.
11. Proficiency in English and Vietnamese, including reading, writing, and speaking skills, with ability to write lucid technical reports and documents in English and Vietnamese is required.
12. Computer literacy; competency with Microsoft Office, data management, internet and email systems.
13. Ability to work independently as well as in collaboration with colleagues and partners.
14. Ability to travel within Vietnam up to 30% time as needed.

To apply for this position (deadline: 28th February 2014- early application is encouraged and will be prioritized), please send cover letter and CV via email, fax or regular mail to:

***MSH TBCARE 1 Project –Senior Public Health, Tuberculosis or Laboratory Consultant position for its TBCARE 1 Project
3rd floor, 189 Nghi Tam, Tay Ho, Hanoi, Vietnam***

Fax: + 84 4 3 945-4563

Or email: mshhr@msh.org