

Senior Tuberculosis Technical Advisor to the  
National TB Program of the Philippines  
Vital Strategies

Vital Strategies, based in New York City, is an international public health organization. We develop and oversee programs to strengthen public health systems and address leading causes of morbidity and mortality, providing expertise in project implementation and management, strategic communications, epidemiology and surveillance, and other core public health capacities. Our specific programs include road safety, obesity prevention, tobacco control, and activities to strengthen public health data systems and the use of public health data to guide policy and decision-making. Activities are based in low and middle income countries and cities in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Pacific. Please visit our website at [www.vitalstrategies.org](http://www.vitalstrategies.org) to find out more about our work.

### Background

USAID, as the lead US Government agency for international TB, has developed a technical assistance model to ensure that TB programs are successfully implemented; to improve coordination between partners; to build country capacity; and to ensure that the greatest challenges in TB prevention and control are met. TREAT TB will support this model by facilitating the hiring of in-country consultants who help to build and strengthen the capacity of national TB programs. During FY 2014-18, TREAT TB has facilitated the hiring of several in-country consultants who serve as advisors for National TB Programs, focusing specifically on TB technical issues and the successful implementation of Global Fund (GF) TB grants.

This posting is for an in-country advisor for the Philippines. The need for this long-term technical assistance is to support the National Tuberculosis Program (NTP) in accelerating TB prevention and care activities and support the successful implementation of the new GF TB grant during the 2018-2020 funding period. This position will have a focus on MDR-TB issues, including detection, treatment, prevention and the introduction of new tools and treatments. The NTP and USAID will be responsible for the technical oversight of this advisor and will support them in achieving their work objectives.

### The Position

Vital Strategies is seeking qualified candidates for a consultancy position of **Senior Tuberculosis Technical Advisor to the National TB Program of the Philippines**. This is a full-time position based in the Philippines. Applicants must possess a valid work permit to work in the Philippines.

The goal of the USAID in-country advisor activity is to provide technical expertise and guidance to the NTP in the Philippines related to the implementation of the Global Fund grant for TB control and to provide technical expertise in selected TB and MDR-TB technical areas. In addition, the advisor, in partnership with NTP staff, will identify programmatic challenges that may require external assistance, and work with the USAID Mission in Manila, USAID-funded partners in the country and globally.

Objectives of the in-country advisor activity are:

- Support the NTP to introduce new policies, guidelines, approaches and technologies to improve implementation of the National TB program
- Support the NTP in the implementation of TB and M/XDR-TB activities;
- Identify programmatic bottlenecks and facilitate solutions through coordinated technical assistance;
- Assist countries to leverage resources for TB control;
- Improve capacity of the Principal Recipient to effectively implement GF grants;

The Advisor will be located at the central office of the National TB Program in Manila.

**Specific Duties:**

- Provide continuous, in-country day-to-day technical support to the NTP on the implementation of the 2017 – 2022 Philippine Strategic TB Elimination Plan (PhilSTEP). This includes technical support to selected DOH-regional offices in the finalization of regional PhilSTEP and initiation of activities.
- Assist the NTP with monitoring the progress of implementation of the Global Fund TB grant through participation in planning and performance review workshops/meetings, field visits and consultation with partners and implementers to identify barriers and recommend solutions.
- Lead the priority setting, harmonization and monitoring of the 2018 technical assistance of various implementing partners that includes guiding partners to focus on key technical NTP priorities.
- Assist NTP with the provision of technical assistance in the following:
  - a. Improving sustainability of private sector engagement in TB control by scaling-up innovations in service delivery models, financing and mandatory case notification.
  - b. Ensuring access and optimum utilization of WHO recommended rapid diagnostic tool through revision of diagnostic algorithm and initial planning, procurement, distribution and maximum utilization of rapid TB diagnostic tool and improvement of the sputum transport system.
  - c. Monitoring of the implementation of various TB case finding strategies expanding coverage among high risk and vulnerable populations.
  - d. Formulation of guidelines on patient centered TB care.
  - e. Development and implementation of behavior change communication initiatives.
- Collaborate with other technical partners in addressing the issues on case finding and case holding of the drug resistant TB cases through:
  - a. Expansion of decentralized and community based Programmatic Management DR-TB care
  - b. Monitoring and analysis of the operations research on nine-month treatment regimen, Bedaquiline and other new second line drugs for drug resistance TB.
- Update USAID/Philippines and USAID/Washington D.C. on the progress of this scope of work through regular meetings, teleconferences and submission of monthly activity reports.

**Qualifications and skill set:**

- University degree in Medicine. MPH degree is desired
- At least 10 years of experience in TB field. Experience with MDR-TB is desired
- Experience working in and/or advising national TB programs
- Familiarity with the Global Fund procedures and implementation. Experience with the implementation of the GF grants
- Experience working in decentralized and devolved health systems
- Experience working across sectors and with multiple partners including the private sector
- Demonstrated experience in high level policy dialogue and diplomacy
- Regional experience on TB in Western Pacific Region and Philippines preferred
- Sound analytical and negotiation skills
- Excellent coordination and facilitation skills
- Sensitivity to cross-cultural issues
- Good English language skills
- Ability to relocate to Manila, Philippines for at least two years

**Duration of Contract:**

At least 1 year with possible extension

**Salary and Benefits:**

Salary will be based on commensurate experience and earnings history

**Duty station:**

National TB Program office, Department of Health, Manila, Philippines

**How to apply:**

Please send CV and a cover letter, including salary expectations, to [skozikott@vitalstrategies.org](mailto:skozikott@vitalstrategies.org) by **May 17, 2018** indicating the position applied for in the subject line.

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