Public Health Analyst in Serbia

Background

Vital Strategies is an international public health organization. Our programs strengthen public health systems and address the world's leading causes of illness, injury and death. We currently working in 73 countries, supporting data-driven decision-making in government, advancing evidence-based public health policies, and mounting strategic communication campaigns. This consultancy will support implementation of the Country Health Information Systems and Data Use (CHISU) project, a USAID Bureau for Global Health data and information system project. The project aims at strengthening country capacity and leadership to manage and use high quality health information systems to improve evidence-based decision-making. JSI is the prime contractor for the project, with Vital Strategies as a partner organization.

The Consultancy

A key area of technical assistance offered through the project is to strengthen the production of high-quality analyses to inform decisions that will improve public health programs and policies at the Institute of Public Health (IPH) of Serbia "Dr Milan Jovanović Batut". In addition, these types of analyses will support the development and improvement of data products, such as dashboards, that make critical data sources more visual, more interactive, and more accessible to public health decision-makers and stakeholders. The purpose of this position is to participate in the definition of analyses, visualization, interpretation, and presentation of data in the field of public health to guide decision making processes. These tasks include data management, data quality control, as well as the definition and generation of various types of reports.

The consultant will be responsible for implementing the statistical component of public health projects and tasks, including data management, statistical analysis, and reporting of results. The consultant will also provide guidance and technical assistance to IPH Batut staff on defining the data needs and analyses, and design of digital tools for public health decision-making (like dashboards). The consultant will provide input on best practices for data use and support the development of analyses and tools from defining their content, through the development of statistical analysis and tool prototypes, and the initial launch of the tools among users.

Key Activities

The consultant will be responsible for delivering the following activities:

1. **Support analytic projects**
   - Performs statistical analyzes on large data sets using R/SPSS/Stata or other statistical packages or specialized software.
   - Presents health data in the form of reports, records and presentations, including tables (detailed and summarized), graphs and charts.
   - Implement methods of descriptive and interference statistics and provide guidance and support to IHP staff for implementing these methods.

2. **Support development of digital tools for public health decision-making**
   - Engage with stakeholders and potential users to define detailed scenarios that identify the specific data, analyses and functionality that should be included in digital tools to meet their needs
   - Collaborate with application developers, subject experts and data experts to design the tools that illustrate the use scenarios
   - Collaborate with subject and data experts to understand available data for use in the digital tools and define optimal data structures and data preparation guidelines
   - Collaborate with CHISU staff on the creation and delivery of programs that train users to utilize the tools regularly

The consultant will receive guidance from Vital Strategies to follow a standard process for the development of digital tools for public health intelligence and on best practices for performing analysis for public health practice.

Assignment

This is a full-time consultant position with an anticipated level of effort of 4 months. The consultant must be based in Serbia with the ability to meet with IPH Batut staff frequently and work on-site. The expected completion of this phase of the project is 31 March 2023.

The work will be overseen by Vital Strategies, a partner organization of CHISU based in New York City, USA. The contractor will also coordinate with CHISU's country office in Serbia. Note that contracts are executed and paid in the currency of the country where the consultant is based and that payments are tied to deliverables.

Qualities and Qualifications

   - Master's degree on public health, epidemiology, statistics, or related fields required
   - 8 or more years of relevant experience in public health practice, epidemiology, or global health policy
   - Demonstrated experience preparing and managing public health data
   - Demonstrated experience analyzing and interpreting public health data
   - Professional competence to work in one of the statistical packages: SPSS, Stata or R
   - Preferred experience using Power BI or Tableau, and developing dashboards or other digital data products for public health audiences
   - Preferred prior experience working in or with government agencies who focus on public health
   - Experience engaging and working remotely with stakeholders
   - Excellent written and oral English and Serbian language proficiency

Application

Submit a CV and cover letter including your daily/monthly rate to locaranza@vitalstrategies.org by 7 December 2022, 5.00 PM EST.