



MDR-TB Consultant – TREAT TB Philippines

Vital Strategies

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 to find out more about our work.

TREAT TB

Technology, Research, Education and Technical Assistance for TB (TREAT TB) is a USAID-funded Initiative that seeks to contribute to new knowledge through field evaluations of diagnostic tools, clinical trials of priority research questions, and targeted operational research benefitting global, regional, and country TB control efforts. Since 2008, The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) and its affiliate Vital Strategies have been implementing TREAT TB under a cooperative agreement with the United States Agency for International Development.

The Position

Vital Strategies is seeking qualified candidates for the consultancy position of **MDR-TB Consultant – TREAT TB Philippines**. This position will be based in the Philippines. Applicants must have a valid work permit to work in the Philippines.

Background

TREAT TB is implementing a multi-year project in the Philippines to support the National Tuberculosis Program (NTP) in applying international guidelines and research results to guide implementation of new treatment regimens for multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB). The project's objective is to support the NTP's scale up under programmatic conditions of the 9-month regimen for MDR-TB (SSTR).

Overall Role

The overall purpose of this consultancy is to provide technical assistance to the NTP and regional NTP staff in three focus regions (National Capital Region, Region III, Region IV-A) with regards to implementation and scale up of the SSTR. The consultant will work closely with the TREAT TB team and support the NTP with implementation of TREAT TB's recommendations. The consultant will also be responsible for providing supportive supervision to healthcare workers particularly related to the diagnosis and management of adverse events associated with the treatment of MDR-TB. The

Consultant will report remotely to the TREAT TB team and at the NTP, the Consultant will report to the PMDT Coordinator.

Specific Duties

Under the guidance of the TREAT TB team and the NTP, the Consultant will undertake the following:

- Support the NTP with implementation of TREAT TB's recommendations related to scale up and implementation of the SSTR;
- Support the creation of a model for decentralization or referral network of PMDT services to local health facilities and pilot the model in three focus regions;
- Conduct monitoring visits to facilities (treatment centers/satellite treatment centers, iDOTS) implementing the SSTR in three focus regions to assess implementation, and to identify and address barriers;
- Work with the TREAT TB M&E coordinator to strengthen capacity at the subnational level to conduct monitoring and supervision;
- Provide supportive supervision to healthcare workers in three focus regions, with a focus on diagnosis and management of adverse events;
- Mentor regional, provincial, and city coordinators; and
- Coordinate activities with relevant PMDT implementing partners including the Global Fund, other USAID-funded projects, JICA, DOH regional offices, and local government units in the three focus regions; and
- Provide necessary support to the NTP in the integration of active drug safety monitoring in PMDT activities.

Qualifications and experience

Required

- Postgraduate degree in medicine (MD) in a related specialty (Internal Medicine, Infectious Diseases, Pulmonology, etc.) and a valid license to practice medicine
- At least 5 years of clinical experience in the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis
- At least 2 years of clinical experience in the diagnosis and treatment of MDR-TB
- At least 3 years of experience working for a tuberculosis control program in a high burden country, including programmatic management of MDR-TB
- Demonstrated ability to mentor and supervise healthcare workers
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office suite (MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- English language proficiency
- Excellent verbal and written communication skill

Desirable

- Advanced degree in public health or related field (epidemiology, biostatistics, etc.)

Time Frame / Duration

Through September 2018.

Location

The consultant will be based in the Philippines Department of Health and will be required to travel extensively in the three focus regions of the project. Filipino nationals are preferred, but non-Filipinos who are willing to relocate will be considered.

Compensation

Compensation will be based on experience and earning history.

How to Apply

Please send a CV, cover letter, and fee expectations (including historical data with respect to past consultancy fees earned) to Dr. Leena Patel at lpatel@vitalstrategies.org quoting reference “**MDR-TB Consultant – TREAT TB Philippines**” with the position applied for in the subject line.

Closing date for applications:

January 26, 2018, unless a suitable candidate is identified earlier.