

Technical Consultant - Measuring and Assessing Health Inequalities

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 work in 73 countries, supporting data-driven decision-making in government, advancing evidence-based public health policies, and mounting strategic communication campaigns. Vital Strategies' priorities are driven by the greatest potential to improve and save lives. They include non-communicable disease prevention, cardiovascular health promotion, tobacco control, road safety, obesity prevention, epidemic prevention, environmental health, vital statistics systems building, and multi-drug resistant tuberculosis treatment research. Please visit our website at www.vitalstrategies.org to find out more about our work.

Data Impact Program, Data for Health Initiative

The Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative aims to enhance public health data collection and use in low- and middle-income countries. Under this Initiative, Vital Strategies, in partnership with other global public health organizations, is implementing a multi-year program to provide support to numerous countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the Pacific in improving public health data systems, such as civil registration and vital statistics and cancer registries and enhancing the use of data for decision making.

As part of the Data for Health Initiative, the [Data Impact Program \(DIP\)](#) provides technical assistance to government public health agencies and national statistics institutes to support capacity development in the domain of data use, i.e., analysis, presentation, dissemination and translation of data into policy. The Program's objective is to help governments systematically strengthen the use of data in policy development and other key decision areas – to prevent data that has been collected from being “left on the shelf”. In each country, a specific activity plan is determined collaboratively with government partners, reflecting government priorities and requested areas of support. The ultimate goal of the Program is to improve population health for all.

Country Health Information and Data Use

The Country Health Information Systems and Data Use project (CHISU) strengthens country capacity, leadership, and self-reliance to manage and use high-quality [health information systems](#) to improve evidence-based decision-making. CHISU strengthens health information systems, interoperable information architecture, and data use, and supports countries' self-reliance by enhancing capacity for local leadership and engagement in every aspect of health data. The project is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development. JSI is the prime contractor for the project, with Vital Strategies as a partner organization, along with RTI International, Macro-Eyes, Jembi Health Systems, and the Global Evaluation and Monitoring Network for Health (GEMNet-Health).

Vital Strategies is seeking a consultant for two major efforts. First, working with the Data Impact Program, the consultant will develop an implementation toolkit that assists governments with measuring health inequalities to generate evidence that can inform decision making and improve population health. The consultant will also provide direct technical assistance to a selected group of countries to identify and develop areas of work in a specific dimension of health inequalities. Second, working with CHISU, the consultant will provide assistance and technical input to teams on incorporating gender equity in their activities.

Responsibilities/Deliverables

Work with the Data Impact team to:

- Identify and review global resources for assessing and reporting on health inequalities with a specific focus on routine health information systems
- Develop a toolkit for practical implementation in countries that public health officials could use to institutionalize the use of data to understand and address health inequalities in public health by collating global resources and developing new resources where needed
- Examples of resources to be curated or created include:
 - Checklist for assessing availability and quality of critical health equality indicators
 - Template for an annual report on health equity in public health
 - How-to guide for conducting analysis to assess disparities in public health
- Prototype of a digital tool to capture and present data through a health equity lens (working with the lead for digital tools in Data Impact)
- Produce a general implementation strategy for the toolkit.
- Using the toolkit develop areas of work in a maximum of three countries that are more impactful for certain dimensions of inequality, e.g., gender
- Develop a specialized toolkit focusing on gender equity.

Work with the CHISU team to:

- Help identify and incorporate gender considerations into appropriate CHISU activities
- Provide assistance to teams that are implementing activities in CHISU countries to help them report on gender considerations that have been incorporated into their activities,
- Assist with analysis and synthesis of project learning from the integration of gender considerations in activities.

Experience and Qualifications

- Post-graduate degree in relevant field such as community medicine, public health, epidemiology
- Experience working in low- and middle-income countries and on projects with health inequalities components, or extensive knowledge of health inequalities gained via academic/research work
- Experience in gender analysis or working on issues of gender inequity is desirable
- Experience in developing technical documents including guidance, reports and resource guides
- Written and oral English language proficiency
- Strong verbal and written communication skills
- Comprehensive project management skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines

Assignment

This is a consultant position with an anticipated level of effort of up to 96 days split between the two projects over a period of 6 months. Deliverables are expected to be completed by December 2022. 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.

Application

Submit a CV and cover letter to grai@vitalstrategies.org and Operationsrfp@vitalstrategies.org by **June 6, 2022, 5.00 PM EST**. Provide a quote for the total consultancy, including an estimate of the days needed per deliverable and the daily rate. Note any additional services you provide that you think may benefit this project.