

TERMS of REFERENCE

Coordinator of the Component 2

AF – SSHP item 4.5

Background

The Republic of Serbia has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in the amount of EUR 29.1 million equivalent toward the cost of the Second Serbia Health Project (SSHP) and EUR 25 million equivalent toward the cost of the Additional Financing for the Second Serbia Health Project (AFSSHP), Loan No.: 8830-YF.

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to contribute to improving the efficiency and quality of the public health system through the strengthening of: (i) health financing, purchasing, and maintenance systems; (ii) quality improvement systems and management of selected priority non-communicable diseases.

The project includes the following components:

1- Improvement of Health Financing

This component aims to strengthen the performance of the health financing system by supporting introduction of incentives to improve quality and efficiency at the primary care and hospital levels.

2- Improve Access to Quality Health Care

This component is organized around the following main areas: improve access to medicines; strengthening of Health Technology Assessment (HTA); and improving systems for medical equipment maintenance.

3- Strengthening Quality of Service Delivery

This component aims to improve standards of quality and efficiency of care in the Serbian health sector through: (i) strengthening quality improvement systems, (ii) modernizing cancer treatment at selected tertiary facilities.

4- Project management

This component will support the day-to-day Project management, including fiduciary tasks, monitoring and evaluation, audits of Project financial statements.

Key Issues

The activities under component 2 of the SSHP (Improve Access to Quality Health Care) are directed at following main areas: improve access to medicines; strengthening of Health Technology Assessment; and improving systems for medical equipment maintenance. Activities in this component will support technical assistance, training and equipment, including a piloting of a multi-vendor medical equipment maintenance contract.

Antibiotic resistance (ABR) is a global problem. It knows no geographical or biological boundaries and poses a significant threat to public health. The situation is aggravated

through the emergence of new multidrug-resistant strains of bacteria (simultaneously resistant to 3 or more groups of antibiotics). Serious healthcare-associated infections (HAI) are caused by multidrug resistant, extensive drug resistant or pandrug resistant strains, therapeutic options are significantly reduced, there is an increasing morbidity, mortality, length of hospital stay and costs. The Republic of Serbia is among the European countries with a high antibiotic consumption rate, and understandably, among countries with high resistance rates. The emergence of ABR limits the options for treatment of communicable diseases because of which it poses a growing global issue in health care programmes, in both human and animal medicine.

Another challenge is deciding which new (and often expensive) drugs and medical technologies will be financed by HIF and MOH - decision that is often subject to public pressure and lobbying by pharmaceutical companies and suppliers. Health Technology Assessment is a systematic and transparent appraisal and deliberation process that uses criteria such as efficacy, cost-effectiveness, population health needs and overall fiscal space to make decisions on the public reimbursement of medical technologies, devices and procedures. HTA has the greatest impact when recommendations are the basis for inclusion into a health benefits package and decisions are linked to clinical guidelines and protocols, which is increasingly the practice among many European Union countries. In general, there is a suboptimal awareness of the role and benefits of HTA amongst policymakers, but also significant opportunities for Serbia to link with the growing HTA network in Europe.

Another critical concern is protecting the substantial investments that have already been made, including for medical equipment. A strategic approach to maintenance of medical equipment, aimed at developing a cost-effective system, represents one of the priorities for delivery of good quality health services in Serbia. The total replacement value of the equipment installed in Serbian health care facilities is estimated at about 800-900 million US\$. An internationally accepted figure for annual cost of good maintenance program is 6-8 percent of the equipment capital value, which would correspond to the expenditure of 56-63 million US\$ per year - much higher than the budget currently allocated for maintenance. This explains in part the large number of unrepaired devices in hospitals. Hospitals also encounter difficulties procuring spare parts for high-tech equipment, contributing to equipment “downtimes” of several months. Despite fiscal constraints, the problem cannot be ignored.

Objectives

The main objectives of this assignment are (1) to coordinate and facilitate activities under component 2 of the SSHP project (Improve Access to Quality Health Care) towards fulfillment of its objectives and outcomes and to (2) to cooperate, collaborate and follow activities under other components of the SSHP project, but also other active projects in health, to use synergies and avoid waste of resources in conducting activities and fulfilling objectives.

Scope of work

Main activities of this assignment include:

- Coordination, organization, support and monitoring of the project activities to support the rational use of antibiotics. These activities include: (i) improvement of

E-health System to support the rational use of antibiotics; (ii) implementation of the National Antibiotic Resistance Control Programme and Action Plan for the period 2019-2021.; (iii) implementation of the National Good Clinical Practice Guideline for the rational use of antibiotics.

- Coordination, organization, support and monitoring of the project activities related to improvement and implementation of the E-Prescription System in Serbia. These activities include: (i) cooperation and teamwork with the IT consultant; (ii) implementation of the E-Prescription in social welfare institutions and penitentiaries and inclusion of healthcare institutions outside the network plan; (iii) ensuring the control mechanisms in cooperation with the National Health Insurance Fund; (iv) further improvement of the E-Prescription System.
- Coordination, organization, support and monitoring of the project activities related to improvement and implementation of HTA in Serbia. Project activities related to the improvement and implementation of HTA in Serbia include: (i) cooperation and teamwork with the international and national consultants; (ii) development of partnerships with relevant regional and international HTA organizations, (iii) strengthening of the capacity of the relevant Serbian institutions to carry out improved HTA for pharmaceuticals and medical devices, (iv) development proposals for strengthened institutional arrangements, regulations and bylaws in health sector in Serbia related to the optimal use of HTA and (v) support to the establishment of a HTA unit.
- Coordination, organization, support and monitoring of the project activities related to the improvement of the medical equipment maintenance system in Serbia. These activities include (i) cooperation and teamwork with the international and national consultants; (ii) cooperation with the Human Resources Development, Equipping and Capital Investment in Health Institutions Group of the Ministry of Health and (iii) piloting multi-vendor maintenance services in one or more hospitals by an Independent Service Organization to be selected.

Perform any other appropriate tasks determined by PCU Coordinator and/or officials of the Ministry of Health.

Qualification requirements

- Candidate has to hold:
 - University degree in Medicine, Pharmacy, Economics or a related field
 - Completed courses in health policy, pharmaceutical policy or health economics;A postgraduate degree in in Medicine, Pharmacy, Economics or a related field would be considered as an advantage.
- Candidate has to have at least ten (10) years of professional experience;
- Candidate has to have at least four (4) years of experience working on reform of health systems, preferably reform of procurement practices in health sector.
- Previous experience with the World Bank funded projects and other internationally financed health related projects in Serbia is strongly preferred;
- Candidate has to be fluent in Serbian and English.
- Candidate has to be computer literate.

Reporting requirements

Consultant is obliged to report to the Minister of Health of the Republic of Serbia and persons named by him/her and SSHP/AF-SSHP PCU Coordinator in the schedule and format agreed.

Duration of the assignment

This is a full time position. Subject to satisfactory performance, after the three months' probation and confirmation based on adequate performance for all newly hired staff, the Coordinator of the Component 2 may be employed for the life of the Project.