

Call for Expressions of Interest and Proposal

VN049: Agencies to provide technical support to determine needs and gaps in risk communications for prevention and control of dengue in Ho Chi Minh City, Nha Trang and Ha Noi

1. Background

Dengue continues to be a public health problem in Viet Nam. In 2022, a surge in the number of dengue cases put pressure on Viet Nam's health system at a time when there were still surges in COVID cases. Moreover, with such high levels of infection, the country reported an unprecedented number of deaths from dengue, from across three regions of Viet Nam including big cities like Ho Chi Minh City, Ha Noi, and the surrounding provinces. As of mid-September 2023, more than 80,000 dengue cases have been reported in Viet Nam.

Among the important components of dengue prevention and control, effective risk communications, including greater community awareness that motivates action, especially in higher risk areas and communities, is essential to change behavioral outcomes, increase preventative actions and reduce the disease burden.

Improved risk communications are required to more effectively disseminate accurate information for targeted groups, as part of strengthening communication efforts for dengue control and outbreak response.

2. Planned timelines (subject to confirmation)

Start date: 16 October 2023

End date: 31 Dec 2023

3. Work to be performed

3.1 In consultation with WHO Viet Nam, review and analyze 2022 and 2023 (to date) dengue incidence related data to identify highest risk groups and areas to target.

3.2 Desk review and analysis of existing public communication materials in target areas.

3.3 Develop assessment plan (including target audience information) and questions for assessment

3.4 Conduct assessment to determine knowledge and attitudes towards dengue and also needs and gaps regarding dengue information and communication.

3.5 Conduct workshops with key stakeholders to disseminate findings and lessons learnt from the assessment and discuss next steps.

Methods to carry out the activity

- Knowledge and attitudes towards dengue and also needs and gaps regarding dengue information and communication will be determined through an assessment of the situation

in Ho Chi Minh City, Nha Trang and Hanoi (communities to be assessed will be those in higher risk districts/areas).

- Interviews will be conducted with local authorities and key community members.
- Selected districts and local authorities will be identified with the following criteria:
 - Selected districts are defined as:
 - Districts that have higher rates of morbidity and mortality of dengue compared to the overall incidence of dengue across Ho Chi Minh City and Nha Trang.
 - Local authorities are defined as:
 - Key leaders of health at the district level including officers of district health offices and officers of the district people committee that are involved in the development and/or dissemination of dengue-related public health information.
 - Health staff in charge of Health Education and Communication in District Medical Centers and Commune Health Stations in communes that have a higher prevalence of dengue cases.

These local authorities will be interviewed by structured questionnaires that cover all key aspects of dengue related communication, including administrative and technical areas.

- Scope of investigation:
 - Administrative aspects:
 - Current activities of dengue communication.
 - Financial investment, coordination, and implementation activities of dengue communication.
 - Monitoring and evaluation of the impact of dengue communication activities.
 - Challenges in dengue communication.
 - Needs and gaps in dengue communication.
 - Technical aspects:
 - Mode of communication.
 - Content
 - Challenges with reach and impact of dengue communication.
- Data collected from the assessment will be managed by statistical software to determine the needs and gaps in risk communication in dengue response and prevention.
- Results in needs and gaps in dengue communication will be disseminated to key stakeholders (list to be determined following analysis of community and health authority assessment) in three stakeholder workshops: HCMC, Nha Trang and Hanoi.

Outputs

Output 1: determination of needs and gaps in dengue communication for dengue response and prevention.

- Deliverable 1.1: detailed plan for the assessment

- Deliverable 1.2:
 - Structured questions for the assessment
 - Assessment delivery for two groups in each city (local authorities and community groups)
 - Statistical tool for data management
 - Data results analysis and recommendations
- Deliverable 1.3: report that determines the needs and gaps in current dengue communication, with recommendations.

Output 2: dissemination of findings and lessons learnt and discussion on next steps.

- Deliverable 2.1: workshop to disseminate findings and lessons learnt obtained from the assessment with participation of related stakeholders, and discussion of next steps.
- Deliverable 2.2: minutes of workshop and action framework to strengthen and enhance activities of dengue communication in high-risk areas in Ho Chi Minh City and Nha Trang and Ha Noi.

4. Specific requirements

Educational Qualifications required:

Essential:

- Vietnamese agency with health programme assessment/evaluation experience working in public health, information management, communications or closely related subject. Proven experience and demonstrated relationships working with key government stakeholders, in particular, those working in dengue control.

Team lead:

- Advanced university degree (Master's or equivalent) on public health, health policy, social science or related discipline from a recognized university.

Team member:

- University degree on public health, health policy, social science or related discipline from a recognized university

Experience required:

- Minimum 10 years (for team lead) or 5 years (for team members) of experience in conducting assessments/surveys of any health programmes, preferably on public health programme related interventions particularly on dengue.
- Minimum 5 years of experience in developing communication messages/materials/campaign

Skills / Technical skills and knowledge:

- Prior knowledge and skills in prevention and control of dengue particularly in the Southern Region, Viet Nam

- Desirable: knowledge on technologies and methodologies on knowledge management and communication

Language requirements:

Expert level proficiency of Vietnamese and English

Applications are invited from organizations/ institutes able to conduct the research in one or more of the three locations.

5. Competencies

- Teamwork
- Respecting and promoting individual and cultural differences
- Communication
- Building and promoting partnerships across the organization and beyond

6. Place of assignment

Ho Chi Minh City and Nha Trang and Ha Noi. Required to travel to district/communes if necessary

7. Travel

All travels related to this contract will be incorporated in the APW contract.

8. Budget

- Please submit price offer.
- The contractor will be responsible in paying tax, if any.

Those who are interested can submit application and proposal on or before 09 October 2023

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