

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO CONDUCT INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF TB INFECTION CONTROL MEASURES IN BO REGIONAL HOSPITAL, SIERRA LEONE

1. RATIONALE

1.1. Purpose of the consultancy:

The purpose of the technical assistance is to conduct a comprehensive assessment of TB infection prevention and control measures in Bo regional hospital in Sierra Leone, evaluate the feasibility of initiating drug resistant TB treatment in the Bo hospital context and provide recommendations on specific measures in the Bo hospital context to decrease the risk of transmission in health care facilities. Specifically, to access:

- Organizational/structural settings providing an enabling environment for the integration of drug resistant TB patients care in the same hospital
- Work practice and administrative controls to reduce M. tuberculosis transmission to health workers, clients attending the hospital for health care services or other persons in the hospital settings with a high risk of transmission.
- Existing environmental controls reduce the concentration of infectious droplet nuclei in the air to minimize the risk of transition in the hospital setting.

The consultant will work with the National TB Programme and conduct comprehensive assessment of TB infection control measures in Bo regional hospital and provide expertise advice on the way forward to address the staff and clients safety concerns before commencing MDR-TB treatment services in the hospital.

Background

Sierra Leone is one of the world's 30 most affected countries that account for 90% of the global TB burden. Every year, over 23 000 people develop TB and about 4,000 people die because of the disease. With limited national capacity to diagnose and treat, drug resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB) has continued presenting a serious antimicrobial resistance (AMR) threat to national health security. In 2018, about 660 people estimated to develop drug resistant TB in Sierra Leone.

The first ever drug resistant TB management center was established in the Lakka government hospital in 2017 and still Lakka hospital is serving as the only referral center for the treatment of MDR-TB and access to service is remains a challenge to timely enrol confirmed drug resistant TB patients to care. The Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS) has renovated two blocks in Bo regional referral hospital with the funding support from the Global Fund to decentralize the management of drug resistant TB and improve access to services.

However, the Bo DHMT team and hospital management raised a concern about the TB infection control measures and safety of staff and their clients to initiated the treatment of MDR-TB in the newly renovated MDR-TB blocks.

In this regard, the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS) of Sierra Leone has requested the World Health Organization (WHO) to provide technical support to conduct an independent assessment of TB infection control measures in Bo regional hospital and advice on the way forward to address the staff and clients safety concern and commence services in the renovated wards.

2. WORK TO BE PERFORMED

OUTPUTS

The consultant shall:

1. Produce a comprehensive assessment report on the feasibility of initiating drug-resistant TB treatment services in Bo hospital
2. Develop key action points and recommendations to reduce exposure to M. tuberculosis and prevent the risk of transmission in the hospital setting.

DELIVERABLE

- Review all existing technical briefs, including the national IC guide, relevant to the infection control and prevention
- Lead the related discussions with the NLTP and relevant programs in the Ministry of Health, WHO, local experts and other stakeholders involved in the process
- Conduct field visit to the Bo regional hospital for TB risk assessment
- Assess the work practice and administrative controls to reduce the risk of health care workers and patient exposure in the Bo hospital
- Evaluate existing environmental controls reduce the concentration of infectious droplet nuclei in the air;
- Assess the knowledge of using masks or other personal respiratory protection measures
- Facilitate the discussion and agree on the further steps on initiation of DR TB care in the facility
- Identify area of further technical assistance need to improve TB infection control practices in the health care settings.
- Meeting with the WHO representative, partners and USAID country representatives and discussion on the key findings and agreed action points.
- Key recommendations and action points to reduce M. tuberculosis transmission in the Bo hospital's and address the staff and client safety concerns.
- Submission of the mission report.

3. TECHNICAL SUPERVISION

The selected consultant will work under the overall guidance of the World Health Organization Representative (WR) to Sierra Leone and under the direct supervision of TB Medical Officer for the country office.

4. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Education:

Essential

- Masters degree in health sciences, preferably in engineering or related field in health sciences to address infection control and prevention requirements in TB

Desirable

- Degree or training in public health or infectious diseases, preferably tuberculosis

Experience:

Essential

- At least 7 years or more of professional experience in providing technical assistances in resource limited countries of the WHO African region
- Previous experience in conducting similar assignment
- Documented experience in writing of technical reports

Desirable

- Experience in WHO or a sound understanding of its mandate and goals in the field of communicable diseases, particularly tuberculosis, or similar experience in another international organization/institution
- Knowledge of high-burden, resource-constrained countries and organization of national TB programmes based on practical experience

Skills / Technical skills and knowledge:

- Sound technical knowledge of TB infection control measures and biosafety
- Excellent interpersonal skills with ability to cooperate and negotiate with technical and funding agencies, and to establish and maintain effective working relationships with international and national staff at all levels
- Knowledge of current WHO policy recommendations on Infection control and prevention measures
- Experience in training or facilitating similar the workshops for health care workers

Language requirements

- Fluency in English (Read - Write -Speak)

5. PLACE OF ASSIGNMENT

National TB reference laboratory, Freetown, Sierra Leone.

6. PERIOD OF ASSIGNMENT

December 2019 or January 2020

7. LEVEL OF REMUNERATION

Remuneration: P4