



SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND REGIONAL PROJECT PLUS (SWEDD+)

Project Officer for Components 2 and 3 of the SWEDD+ Project

TERMS OF REFERENCE

February 2025

Introduction:

The West African Health Organization (WAHO) is the specialized Institution of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) responsible for health matters. Its mandate is to provide the highest level of health care delivery to populations in the sub-region. Communicable and non-communicable diseases are the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in the region; therefore, disease control and the prevention of epidemics are among the priorities of the 12 countries in the ECOWAS region and a central tenet of WAHO activities.

WAHO has as one of its major themes, Maternal and Child Health and therefore has prioritized alongside global leaders the need to ensure a region where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled. In a world where fundamental human rights are at risk, there is a need for principled and ethical staff, who embody these regional and international norms and standards, and who will defend them courageously with full conviction.

The World Bank has provided grant to ECOWAS for WAHO to implement and support countries' implementation of the Sub-Saharan Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend Plus (SWEDD+) Regional Project, currently involving, seven countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal, The Gambia and Togo). The overarching goal of the project is to increase girls' and women's access to learning, economic opportunities, and utilization of health services, and to strengthen the region-wide institutional capacity for gender equality, and coordination and thus to achieve the broader goals of triggering the demographic dividend (i.e. economic gains) and reducing gender inequality in the Sahel region.

COMPONENT 1. Design and implement gender transformative interventions that promote girls' and women's social and economic autonomy;

COMPONENT 2: Improve the availability of Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCAHN) Services and Number of Qualified Health Workers at the Community Level

Sub-component 2.1: supporting the operationalization of pooling procurement mechanism and seamless cross-border movements; and (iii) supporting Participating Countries supply chain governance and coordination for effective last mile distribution of quality sexual and reproductive health rights commodities.

Sub-component 2.3: Improving availability and capacity of health workers providing RMNCAHN services in underserved rural/isolated areas and increasing collaboration and knowledge sharing between health workers across borders, including (a) enhancing recruitment, training, and deployment of health workers, particularly midwives to rural areas; (b) initiating a regional dialogue on the rural pipeline of health workers, including a situational analysis of the rural pipeline, and workshops; and (c) establishing three regional centers of excellence to train midwives.

COMPONENT 3: Foster Regional and National Commitment and Capacity for Policy Making on Gender Equality, and Project Management

Sub-Component 3.1: Strengthening capacity for advocacy and political commitment for policy making, and monitoring and evaluation related to the demographic dividend and gender issues, in particular: (a) (i) supporting the Participating countries and ECOWAS member countries effort in elaboration of a regional directive and guide on sexual and reproductive health for adoption and implementation of said regional directive and guide by the Participating Countries, and ECOWAS member countries; (b) strengthening the regional level capacity and establishing a regional demographic dividend observatory, (c) Strengthening the capacity of WAHO and the ECOWAS Commission's Department of Human Development and Social Affairs (DHDSA) and for Project management, implementation and coordination at the regional level.

It is against this backdrop that WAHO seeks to recruit a qualified and experienced Project Officer to support the implementation of Components 2 and 3 of the SWEDD+ Project.

Main Purpose of the Assignment:

This Specialist provides strategic, technical and programmatic support to the implementation of the Sub-Saharan African Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend plus (SWEDD+) Project in WAHO's regional interventions in the area of young girls and women empowerment and Demographic Dividend ensuring the attainment of the objectives of Components 2 and 3 which are the important work on increasing utilization of quality reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and nutrition services and qualified health workers at the community level.

Duties and Responsibilities:

The Specialist for the management of Components 2 and 3 will work under the direct supervision of the Coordinator of the SWEDD+ Project at WAHO in an efficient and cost-effective manner through interaction with the projects management team.

- providing technical support to the SWEDD+ project in WAHO on WAHO's interventions spanning components 2 and 3;
- support the attainment of the objectives of components 2 and 3 allocated to WAHO which are:
 - support the strengthening the legal frameworks – the completion of the regional Guide and Directive on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR);
 - support the development of adolescent-specific and sensitive modules in the midwife and nursing training curricula;
 - support the conduct of advocacy missions at the level of governments and parliaments of ECOWAS, Traditional and Religious Leaders (TRL) for the adoption of the Directive and Guide on SRHR in the ECOWAS region as key partners to lead social and behaviour change and promote gender equality;
 - Draw up the annual work plan and budget (AWPB) of the project;
 - Develop terms of reference and memoranda for activities;
 - Make arrangements for meetings and field missions;
 - Prepare correspondence and letters of invitation to be sent to participants for the various activities and meetings;
 - Prepare activity and progress reports;
 - Prepare follow-up meetings on activities implementation with countries and partners and project implementation agencies;
 - Collect information and data from the Project Coordination Units (PCUs) at country level, as well as project partners and implementing agencies;
 - Support the Monitoring & Evaluation Unit to populate the project results framework;
 - Organize field supervision and monitoring missions;
 - Prepare the Technical Committees and Project Regional Steering Committee Meetings;
 - Monitor implementation of the recommendations of all meetings;
 - Represent the SWEDD+ Coordinator at any meeting in the event of absence or whenever required to do so, within the framework of the implementation of the project.
 - Do all other tasks assigned to him/her by WAHO management on gender mainstreaming.

Qualification, Experience and Core Competencies:

- Have a Master's degree in Public Health, Epidemiology, Human Resource in health, Economics, Management, Policy Administration.
- A certificate in Project management would be an advantage.
- Have at least 7 years of professional experience.
- Professional experience in World Bank-funded project management would be an asset.
- Excellent team building and leadership skills in a multicultural setting.
- Strong computer skills (key MS office application, including project management tools) and ability to use information technology as tool and resource.
- Highly organized and self-directed with a positive interpersonal attitude.
- Demonstrated experience working with a wide variety of partners and diverse stakeholder groups.
- Candidate must be from one of the Members State of ECOWAS,
- Proficiency in one of the three working/official languages of ECOWAS: English, French, Portuguese. A working knowledge of a second official language would be an advantage.

Duration, Duty Station and Nature of Appointment

This is a contract to be financed by funds available in the portfolio under the financing agreements signed with the World Bank SWEDD+. The duration of the contract is **two (02) years**, renewable for a period over the duration of the active project as financed by the World Bank with available funding and satisfactory annual performance evaluations.

To this end, clear performance evaluation indicators will be defined and annexed to the contract. WAHO reserves the right to terminate the contract if the consultant's annual evaluation is not deemed satisfactory. However, the decision to continue or terminate the contract must be subject to the non-objection of the World Bank.

The Specialist in Component 2 and 3 of the SWEDD+ project will be based in WAHO Headquarters. He or She will travel across the ECOWAS region as required.