**Research Assistant**

This APW is requested by:

# **Purpose of the Consultancy**

The purpose of this consultancy is to provide administrative support to the Ministry of National Health Services with Regulation and coordination in developing the National health financing framework

# **Background**

Health outcomes in Pakistan are subpar and inequitable, which reflects poor coverage of quality health services. Health financing is one of the main factors responsible for this. Total health spending in 2017-18 comprised only 3% of GDP ($52 per capita), which is low compared to a global average of 9.9%. It also the lowest in South Asia. However, the root cause of Pakistan’s relatively low levels of health coverage remains its chronically low levels of public financing for health. Public health expenditure in 2017-18 accounted for 1.2% of GDP, or around $21 per capita. This level of public spending on health is among the lowest worldwide.

In the absence of adequate public financing (efficiency and effectiveness of spending included), Pakistanis often resort to financing health care via out-of-pocket payments, which account for 51.9% of total health expenditures in 2017-18. In addition, most health allocations are consumed by secondary and tertiary care, leaving a scant allocation for preventive and primary care. There are inefficiencies in the public health spending due to weak management systems, resulting in low utilization and eventual lapse of funds. Donor funding has been minimal.

Health financing strategy of a country define how resources are collected, pooled, and used to purchase health services for the population and typically result from a structured policy- making process. Health financing strategy diagnoses health system performance and identifies a prioritized set of actions – reformative and evaluative - within a 5-10 year period; and develops a service delivery plan for ALL, ideally integrated within national/provincial plan or health policy document. A health financing strategy is only useful, and successful, if it is based on and responds to a detailed analysis of both the current performance problems in the health sector and their underlying causes.

The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination (M/o NHSRC) is working for the development of the Health Financing Strategy in consultation with provinces/ federating areas, partner organizations, and key stakeholders. In this regard, a Technical Working Group (TWG) has been notified.

The WHO being a major technical agency is an important stakeholder, it seeks the services of a short-term consultant to support Ministry in the development of the Health Financing Strategy.

# **Planned timelines** (subject to confirmation)

Start date: 24 July 2023

End date: 15 September 2023

# **Work to be performed**

1. Support the official at the Ministry dealing with the health financing desk.
2. To provide facilitation to senior Health Financing Consultants in the finalization of the working Paper on Health Financing and getting approval from provinces and federating areas
3. Arranging meetings at the federal and provincial level and taking minutes of technical working groups, core committee meetings, etc.
4. Coordinate during the provincial consultation, maintaining the list of participants and stakeholders.
5. To provide facilitation to senior health financing consultants in organizing a technical working group (TWG) on Health Financing

# **Technical supervision**

The selected APW Holder will work under the supervision of the Ministry Of National Health Services Regulation & Coordination

# **Specific requirements**

## Qualifications required:

* Must have a university degree (graduation level) in management science, finance, or a relevant discipline

## Experience required:

* At least six-month working experience in the same field

## Other Skills and knowledge:

* Basic knowledge of health finance
* Good writing and communication skills
* Good knowledge of MS Office applications

# **Place of assignment**

The consultant will be based at the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (MNHSR&C) in Islamabad, Pakistan.