

Terms of Reference

National PAHO Consultant,

Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Prevention, and Response

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

Health emergencies continue to have significant and sometimes catastrophic impacts on countries' health, economies and development. Both recent and ongoing public health events have demonstrated that the many communities remain at the high risk, and that strong levels of national preparedness across all relevant sectors are crucial to ensuring the effective management of health emergencies, when they occur. They also illustrate the need for scaling up the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR) that requires countries to build and maintain the capacities to prevent, detect and rapidly respond to, and recover from public health emergencies, anchored on strong and resilient health systems.

The objective of the work of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in Health Emergencies is to reduce vulnerability to disasters by increasing the health sector's resilience to emergencies and disasters. Our priority is to deliver rapid, predictable, and comprehensive support to Member States in terms of prevention, risk reduction, preparedness, surveillance, response, and early recovery in case of any threat to human health, including outbreaks or disasters caused by natural phenomena, biological, chemical or radiological agent, human activities, conflicts or any other hazard. When national capacities are overwhelmed, PAHO is ready to lead and coordinate the international health response to contain disasters, including outbreaks, and to provide effective relief and recovery to affected populations.

DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES

The incumbent will be a member of the inter-programmatic and inter-disciplinary team within the Office and will work in close coordination with the Health Emergencies Advisor for Caribbean in support of the implementation of the PAHO/WHO Strategic Plan on Health Emergencies 2020-2025 and in the implementation of all emergencies and disaster activities of the Country Office according to the Organization's administrative rules and procedures and donor requirements. He/she ensures technical support to all national and international activities of preparedness and response. The incumbent will be available for deployment in case of disasters. He/she liaises with external partners and national authorities to facilitate technical corporation including, but not limited to capacity building, information sharing and reporting. The incumbent demonstrates expertise that creates recognition of the Organization as the authority, source of innovation and effective hub of the global community in outbreaks and emergencies and disaster management.

Under the direct supervision of the PAHO Representative in Guyana, the incumbent is responsible for, but not limited to the following assigned duties:

- Provide technical support to PWR on the assessment of health situations and needs for in cases of disaster in the country and regular updates on the implementation of the PHE workplan.
- Provide technical support and assistance to the Ministry of Health in strengthening its disaster and emergency programme, as well as public and private health organizations working on disaster reduction and emergencies.

- Establishing a health emergency coordination mechanism to meet the minimum requirements for a satisfactory performance, strengthening the capabilities to reduce the risk of disaster and emergencies along with the Ministry of Health.
- Coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction; provide technical cooperation to strengthen the disaster preparedness and relief program within their health services.
- Update the Health Multi- Hazard Disaster Management Plan in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.
- Elaborate health emergency response projects to mobilize resources when a disaster affects the country.
- Support the PWR in leading the Health Cluster Coordination when the UN Cluster mechanism is activated in the country.
- Coordinate PAHO support on environmental determinants of health issues including prevention of related emergencies.
- Prepare supporting tools, culturally sensitive mechanisms and coordinate the health sector response for Migration and Health in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders.
- Develop a Working Plan in collaboration with national counterparts to support and implement actions in line with the health Vision 2030 and the Country Cooperation Strategy.
- Advocate for the incorporation of health priorities in National Disaster Management Offices Civil Defense Commission, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, University of Guyana, Guyana Red Cross, and other agencies that carry out similar activities in Guyana.
- In the event of disaster, provide guidance and support to the Ministry of Health in the evaluation of damages and needs, project development and international coordination for response in the health sector.
- Develop project reports on the implementation of approved workplans.
- Perform other duties on emergencies and disasters as required.

SKILLS

- Theoretical and practical knowledge and skills in all aspects related to disaster management, emergency preparedness and response.
- Demonstrated leadership and managerial skills in international and multi-cultural settings combined with proven ability to successfully coordinate, manage and lead projects, and build partnerships with multiple partners in the context of health emergencies.
- Mature judgment, strong technical, analytical and conceptual skills; demonstrated ability to assess, analyze, synthesize and provide recommendation on key technical issues.
- Ability to integrate managerial and technical inputs into recommendations for decision-making process and to formulate clear comprehensive policies, strategies and plans.
- Ability to create and advocate innovative approaches to facilitate and enhance project management capacity, as well as monitoring of these processes including the ability to manage multiple issues and tasks in a complex organizational environment.
- Excellent organizational and analytic skills combined with strong professional oral and writing skills including the development of reports, oral presentations, information management and technical/persuasive documents for consideration at the highest levels of the Organization.

- Demonstrated ability to effectively use current technology and software for developing presentations and reports.

COMPETENCIES

1. Teamwork
2. Respecting and promoting individual and cultural differences
3. Producing results
4. Communication
5. Ensuring effective use of resources
6. Moving forward in a changing environment

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

Education

Essential: A university degree (Master`s level or above) in Public Health, Social Sciences, Public Administration or related to the function of the post from a recognized university.

Desirable: Postgraduate training in disaster management, emergency/humanitarian response and training in leadership or management or other related areas would be an asset.

Experience

Essential: Five years of proven professional experience in the field of disaster management and development of strategies to reduce risk at national level. Proven experience in coordinating large scale projects with high political impact in developing countries.

Desirable: Experience working on environmental determinants of health; and the development of policy, guidelines, and reference standards to reduce disaster risk and mitigation of the impact of disasters in the health sector. Experience with the inter-agency mechanisms used to coordinate international preparedness for and response to health emergencies will be an asset.

Languages:

Excellent communication skills in written and spoken English; knowledge of Spanish and / or Portuguese would be an asset.

Duration of Consultancy:

The initial duration of the assignment is six months with the possibility of extension on an annual basis.

Payment Schedule:

The total payment for the assignment is contingent to the successful candidate`s qualifications; up to G\$ 2,700,000.00 (or G\$ 450,000 per month) to cover all related expenses.

Project Manager:

The incumbent will work under the direct supervision of the PAHO/WHO Representative to Guyana in close coordination with the PAHO-GUY Advisors on Health Surveillance, Disease Prevention, and Control, and on Health Systems and Services

Luis Codina

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Luis Felipe Codina
PAHO/WHO Representative, Guyana



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