

CALL FOR CVS
NATIONAL LEAD POISONING ACTION PLAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANT
LONG-TERM

Project title : Georgia Water and Health

Sector: Health / Sustainable development / Public Health policy

Job title: NATIONAL LEAD POISONING ACTION PLAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANT – LONG-TERM

Country: Georgia (Tbilissi) and home-based work ; regional mission(s) may occur

Duration: 110 working day spread over 32 months

Working language: English

A. Expertise France

Expertise France is the public agency responsible for designing and implementing international technical cooperation projects. The agency works in four priority areas:

- Democratic, economic and financial governance
- Peace, stability and security
- Climate, agriculture and sustainable development
- Health and human development.

In these areas, Expertise France engineers and implements capacity-building projects, mobilises technical expertise and acts as a project coordinator, bringing together public expertise and private know-how.

B. **Context :**

1. Project general presentation

The present Project “Georgia Water and Health” aims at improving the water quality in Georgia while addressing relevant environmental health issues. Improved monitoring data will be achieved by extending the monitoring network, monitoring capacities and improved data management as well as by strengthening the health and environment sector capacities to approximate EU legislation. Activities regarding the EU Water Framework Directive, the Drinking Water Directive, Bathing Water Directive and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and others will help increase the extent and improve the quality of monitoring data and the accessibility to information to support water policy. At the same time, the actions in gender equality and social inclusion will provide better access to better quality water and public health. Development of environmental public health tracking capacities on the example of lead contamination will address vulnerable groups and national programmes for lead containing substances will ensure safety for human health and environment.

The action will be focussing on reinforcing the overall capacity to monitor, analyse and regulate water quality and quantity in Georgia. The action should also include a component aimed at reinforcing the capacity of the healthcare system to tackle environmental health issues, in particular lead pollution. The overall objective is to improve Georgia’s water quality and protect its water re-sources in order to better protect the health of citizens. Consequently, this breaks down into to specific objectives:

- SO1 – Better capacity to monitor, analyse and regulate water quality and quantity
- **SO2 – Efficiency of the healthcare system reinforced in tackling environmental health issues:**
 - Development of national programmes/plans for lead containing substances to ensure safety for human health and environment.

The present consultation takes place in order to support the realisation of the sub-objective 2 and its related activities.

2. Project organisation and team

UBA (Umweltbundesamt) and Expertise France (EF) are partnering up to implement the project Georgia Water and Health, while the International Office for Water (OiEau) will participate in the project as grant beneficiary. UBA acts as the lead organisation, in partnership with Expertise France which is delivering a grant to the International Office for water.

The project team is composed of a Project Team Leader located in UBA headquarters, projects officers located in Expertise France and OiEau headquarters and a project coordinator and a project assistant located in Tbilisi.

UBA and OiEau will conduct activities related to water with their in-house experts and external expertise, while Expertise France will be responsible mainly for health related activities.

The present Terms of Reference are published in this context.

C. Mission description :

We are seeking a dedicated individual to serve as a Consultant to support the National Lead Poisoning Action Plan in Georgia. The successful candidate will be responsible for providing expertise and guidance in coordinating the development and implementation of this national action plan aimed at addressing lead-containing substances nationwide and mobilizing relevant stakeholders at various levels.

This position seeks to identify a qualified environmental public health expert to support the process of developing national programs for the management of lead-containing substances in Georgia. The successful candidate will be responsible for coordinating the activities described in the terms of reference, ensuring that the expected deliverables are produced on time and in accordance with established quality standards.

The expert will work in coordination with Expertise France Project officer based in Paris, France and the local project coordinator based in Tbilissi, Georgia.

He/she will identify (i) the relevant stakeholders involved in tackling the lead containing substances in Georgia at their level (local, regional, national), (ii) their needs and support them in developing a plan (or plans/programmes, as per the identified needs), under the steering of the National Center for the Disease Control (NCDC), an emanation of the Ministry of Health (to be confirmed by the Ministry).

He/She will undertake the following tasks:

- **Conduct an analysis of the situation & collect of the interventions already implemented, support the leader (MoH/NCDC), mobilise the community of work and, collect and validate the expressions of needs**
- Conduct the initial Situation Assessment: conduct a comprehensive analysis of the current environmental public health lead poisoning actions in the country, taking into account territorial specificities (e.g. West of Georgia where several lead poisoning cases were investigated by NCDC) and identify the key stakeholders. More specifically, identify a possible existing strategy targeting lead issues and supported by the government. The stakeholders involved will include representatives from essential groups such as ministries, child care and education professionals, medical facility staff, local healthcare providers, laboratory personnel, and experts in housing, indoor air quality, renovation and organization of the civil society (OSCs). Identify gaps and challenges in the current approach to managing lead-containing substances.
- Support stakeholders in Engagement Workshops: support the organisation of a workshop and roundtable discussions led by the MoH/NCDC, involving the stakeholders to gather insights and feedback regarding the current actions implemented and the other actions needed.
- Produce a draft “Expression of needs” to be validated in Steering Committee by the leader (MoH/NCDC) accompanied by experts produce an Expressions of Needs. This report should include a detailed mapping of actors involved, a diagnosis of the initial situation, identified needs, and proposed interventions.

⇒ **Deliverable: Expression of needs report validated by NCDC including a mapping of the actors involved and a diagnosis of the initial situation**

- **Support the co-production of the Lead Poisoning National Action Plan:** support the design of a set of actions by the actors, under the steering of MoH/NCDC, facilitate the commitment of all stakeholders and other ministries (Education - Environmental Health Department who implement lead investigations on lead, Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure, Economy...)
- Support Expertise France in organising a study visit on the lead thematic in France or another European country with advanced public health interventions on Lead Poisoning: The beneficiaries of the study visit will be the NCDC and the ministries involved to European Union countries. The aimed content is to display examples of practices, strategies, and technologies. The study visit can be organised in France to visit different stakeholders: ministries (Health, Education, Environment, Construction & Dwelling...), Regional health agency (Environmental health department who implement lead investigations), Santé Publique France agency (Department who has designed the national guidelines on lead poisoning and Regional & National Departments who manage the Mandatory Lead poisoning Notifications National System in France), laboratories... Or another country of reference, in which the expert has relevant contacts. The expert will facilitate Expertise France in conducting initial contact with the identified institutions and will accompany EF in defining the content of the Study visit.
- Support the organisation of Stakeholder Workshops to co-produce the Lead National Plan: support the project team in organising workshops and roundtable discussions led by the MoH and NCDC, involving the

stakeholders to share the Georgian practices, support the discussions and the dissemination of information collected during the study visits and drafting the actions needed. Clearly define the objectives, goals, and expected outcomes of the Lead Poisoning National Action Plan. Develop a strategic framework outlining key components such as prevention, treatment, awareness, and regulation. Identify specific action items, timelines, resources needed for each component. Identify “quick wins” actions to be funded under project’s budget: it could fund specific studies, regional lead detection campaign and/or a national awareness campaign

- Support defining roles and responsibilities within the Plan (plans or programmes co-produced by the stakeholders) and contribute to establishing of a governance structure that involves all relevant stakeholders led by MoH/NCDC to drive and monitor the Plan implementation
- Define a matrix to monitor the Plan implementation using indicators and a dashboard to facilitate the ongoing evaluation, reinforcement, and valorisation of the plan, ensuring its routine implementation from 2027 to 2030.
- Coordinate with the Gender and social inclusion experts involved in the project to ensure gender and social inclusion sensitivity of the plan, including gender sensitive indicators and gender budgeting
- Support the leader into final approval of the National Action Plan by the steering committee of the project representing all decision makers to be identified

⇒ **Deliverables: Draft Lead national plan including a matrix to monitor its implementation and a list of quick wins validated by NCDC, Study visit draft plan**

- **Support routine implementation of the Lead Poisoning National Action Plan with governance oversight; Provide follow-up & monitoring during the implementation**

- Action Implementation: Provide remote support throughout the implementation phase of the Lead Poisoning National Action Plan lead by MoH/NCDC
- Support the procurement of “quick wins” actions by the project team as per the proposed plan on project’s budget: revise ToRs produced by the team to procure “quick wins” to ensure coherence and accordance with the beneficiaries’ needs and advise in sourcing the proper companies if needed
- Ongoing Monitoring: Regularly assess progress through online-meetings, identify bottlenecks in budget, technical performance, or administrative performance, and support the stakeholders in addressing these issues collaboratively.
- Sharing Practices in Georgia: conduct a mission in Georgia to reinforcement and routine implementation of advanced Public Health Lead Poisoning Actions.
- Capacity Building Training of the lead institutions (MoH/NCDC): Provide training programs in advanced Public Health Lead Poisoning Actions. These training sessions should focus on needs identified during the previous phases and will aim to provide local dissemination of good practices.
- Capacity Building Training in the community of work: Provide with MoH/NCDC trained staff training programs for local actors to the local dissemination of good practices to child care, education, and medical facilities, local health care, laboratories... to enhance their understanding of environmental public health issues and risks management on lead poisoning.
- Develop a Professional Networks: Facilitate the development of professional networks between the local actors and counterparts in European Union countries, starting with the connexion established during the study visit.
- Coordination of the Stakeholders during the first year of implementation: Conduct a series of meeting's involving MoH/NCDC, facilitate by the project team and/or experts, and stakeholders to drive the involvement of the stakeholders in line with the program and gather their feedbacks to adapt the Plan.

⇒ **Deliverable: Capacity building trainings programmes, Plan’s progress report, list of international professional partners to build on the Professional Networks**

- **Ongoing evaluation and support to reinforcement and valorisation of the plan and its routine implementation for the next 3 years (2027-2030).**

- Evaluation and Knowledge Sharing: Conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the first year of the action plan implementation, measuring its different components (actions, outputs, outcomes, and impacts) to be shared with the stakeholders.
- Propose Plan adjustments.
- Share the results and lessons learned with the local stakeholders, EU partners, and relevant international organizations to contribute to the global knowledge base on Public Health Lead Poisoning Actions.

⇒ **Deliverable: Evaluation report of the first year of plan implementation**

Tentative Expected Deliverables Timeline:

List of deliverables	Timeline
Expression of needs report validated by NCDC including a mapping of the actors involved and a diagnosis of the initial situation	After 6 months
Study visit draft plan	After 8 months
Draft Lead national plan including a matrix to monitor its implementation and a list of quick wins, validated by NCDC	After 12 months
List of international professional partners to build on the Professional Networks	After 18 months
Capacity building trainings programmes	After 22 months
Progress report on the plan implementation and recommendations following online session	After 22 months
Mission report including report on capacity building sessions and questionnaire following knowledge improvement before/after training	After 24 months
Evaluation report of the first year of plan implementation	After 33 months

A. Profile required

1. Skills

- University degree in the field of public health or environmental health.
- Knowledge of national and international regulations regarding lead and public health.
- Data analysis and report writing skills.
- Ability to work independently while being an effective member of a multidisciplinary team.
- Proficiency in English, with good writing skills. Proficiency in Georgian is an asset.
- Strong analytical and data collection skills, with the ability to assess interventions already implemented.
- Demonstrated ability to mobilize and effectively engage stakeholders, including ministries, healthcare facilities, laboratories, and local actors.
- Excellent communication and workshop facilitation skills, with the ability to facilitate discussions among diverse stakeholders.
- Ability to develop national action plans and define monitoring matrices to track their implementation.
- Knowledge of public health issues related to lead poisoning and sensitivity to gender and social inclusion issues.

2. Professional experiences

- Significant experience (at least 5 years) in the design and implementation of environmental public health programs.
- Participation in situation analysis processes and collection of interventions already implemented.
- Implementation of awareness campaigns on the risks linked to lead.
- Practical experience in stakeholder engagement and coordination of public health programs.

B. Conditions and application

1. Conditions

- Start : 4th quarter 2024

- Type of contract : individual expertise contract
- Expected level of effort : 110 working-days spread over 32 months

2. Application

- Resume highlighting the skills and experiences related to the above required profile, with relevant references
- The filled-out application form

Deadline for submission : 25/08/2024 23:59 (Paris time)

3. Selection

Expertise France will draw up a **shortlist** of among the received candidatures, according to the criteria set out in the section "profile required".

The shortlisted experts will be consulted through an online meeting.

At this occasion their rate-per day might be asked.

After the online meeting, the foreseen candidate(s) may be requested to produce a note displaying your understanding of the mission (5 pages max):

- A roadmap detailing how the above described activities could be implemented : added value-from the expert is expected through adaptation of the activities/deliverables/timeline by what the expert deems to be relevant.
- a basic tentative schedule for the implementation of the above described tasks, with the related deliverables and appropriate milestone completing the one displayed above including on-site missions