

Consultancy opportunity: Health systems researcher on sex, gender and COVID-19

Announcement date: 18 May 2020

Start date: immediate (subject to funding approval)

Duration: 1 year

Send letter of application and CV to: info@globalhealth5050.org

Deadline for application: 1 June 2020

Context

Global Health 50/50 is an independent research and advocacy initiative housed within the Centre for Gender and Global Health at University College London. The initiative is co-led by Professor Sarah Hawkes, Director of the Centre for Gender and Global Health and Professor of Global Public Health and has a small team of staff alongside a wider collective of members and a distinguished Advisory Council.

Founded in 2017, it is considered among the world's leading authorities on the study of gender equality and health equity. Through its flagship report and the Gender and Health Index, it provides the single-most comprehensive analysis of gender equality and diversity in the global health system today by monitoring the policies and practices of hundreds of organisations active in global health and health policy.

In the face of the fast-escalating COVID-19 pandemic, Global Health 50/50, in partnership with the International Center for Research on Women ([ICRW Asia, New Delhi](#)) and the [African Population and Health Research Centre \(APHRC, Nairobi\)](#), is leveraging its capacity and expertise to generate and disseminate knowledge and mobilise action in addressing the sex/gender impacts of the outbreak.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the role that both sex and gender play in driving the risk of and response to infection, disease and death. Sex-disaggregated [data](#) published by [Global Health 50/50](#) indicates that men are dying at higher rates than women, which also varies by age group, and may vary by occupation and broader social and structural inequalities within and across societies.

To date, Global Health 50/50 has played a central role in promoting and informing public and policy dialogue on the role of sex and gender in the COVID-19 pandemic. The Global Health 50/50 [sex-disaggregated COVID-19 data tracker](#) provides the world's most comprehensive tracker on COVID-19 sex-disaggregated data by country. Data collated by GH5050 is being used and disseminated by two United Nations bodies: [UN Women](#) and [UN OCHA](#), among other institutions. Results of the data tracker have been covered extensively by international and national media (including CNN, the BBC, The New York Times, Huffington Post, NPR (USA), France 24, The Guardian, The Times and many more).

Main purpose of the consultancy

Global Health 50/50 are undertaking a body of work to understand and address the relationship between sex, gender and COVID-19. Alongside the GH5050 sex-disaggregated COVID-19 data tracker, Global Health 50/50 will be undertaking a review of the existing evidence base to identify effective gender-responsive policies and programmes to address the health implications of COVID-19. We are seeking an experienced health systems or health policy researcher with PhD and work experience in low- and middle-income countries to lead this stream of work.

This work will primarily involve leading a review of existing literature to identify gender-responsive policies and programmes that respond to the evidence on the sex/gender distribution of risk and vulnerability in the COVID-19 pandemic.

Evidence will be collated on effective interventions across multiple levels, including those focused on:

- (1) the immediate care pathway (e.g. clinical guidelines taking sex and gender into account),
- (2) health promotion interventions (e.g. reviewing evidence that gender-responsive health promotion messaging has a positive impact on care-seeking and health behaviours in epi-/pandemics), and
- (3) population level health policy (e.g. interventions for epidemic control that are gender-responsive; such an analysis may draw upon lessons learnt from gender-responsive policies and programmes addressing other health problems).

In addition the consultant will be required to coordinate the production of policy briefs and recommendations based on collated evidence. The collated evidence will be reviewed by a panel of global policy and other experts to develop policy recommendations and protocols that are gender-responsive and applicable across a range of economic settings.

This consultancy opportunity is offered on a part-time basis (max = 0.6FTE, approximately 23 hours per week) for a period of 12 months starting June 2020, fees negotiable, remote working. Positions subject to funds being approved.

Main duties and responsibilities

- Lead on evidence synthesis on gender-responsive approaches across health systems and health policies
 - Synthesise the findings from this evidence review into multiple formats for varied audiences, including peer-reviewed publications, briefs for expert panels, etc.
 - Coordinate expert review panel, including preparation of sessions and materials, using Delphi method
 - Synthesising recommendations and findings arising from the evidence review and expert panel and, working with partners in India and Kenya, presenting these across multiple formats and templates (including national policy briefs and protocol recommendations)
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Consultant profile

- PhD degree in health systems research or equivalent
- Proven ability and commitment to carry out high quality original research using methods and approach of health policy analysis and systematic reviews
- Publications on health policy as first or last author in internationally refereed journals
- Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to develop good working relationships with colleagues, academics, senior officials and others, ensuring frequent and effective communication
- Experience synthesising and presenting evidence for diverse audiences and formats, in particular policy recommendations and policy briefs
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Ability to work both independently and within a multidisciplinary team
- Demonstrable flexibility in working
- Experience in applying Delphi methods
- Knowledge of sex and gender as determinants of health, health seeking behaviour and health system responses
- Fluency in English. Additional languages are desirable.

Expressions of interest

Please submit your CV and letter of application, detailing your suitability for the role, interest in the initiative and how you would approach this consultancy based on previous experiences (max 3 pages). Please also include your daily rate and send to info@globalhealth5050.org by 1 June 2020 at 17.00 GMT. Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed.