TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTANTS

The knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) on Supporting Improved Health Outcomes in Asia and the Pacific will support efforts of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) developing member countries (DMCs) to address remaining poverty and inequality by improving health outcomes of DMCs through (i) identification and preparation of concept notes for health projects, (ii) health sector assessments and analyses to identify best practices and implementation bottlenecks, and (iii) development of health sector capacity in DMCs.

A.  Health Economics Specialist (international, 16 person months, intermittent)

1. The international consultant will help scaling up operations in the health sector by supporting efforts that will strengthen health systems for results that are compatible with appropriate incentives, and with attention to the complex, adaptive nature of those systems; and establish and improve health financing mechanisms that promote efficiency, equity and sustainability of investments. He/she will support interventions that will improve health outcomes, especially for the poor and most vulnerable, with attention to outcomes related to expanding Universal Health Coverage (UHC) including the increasingly important challenge of non-communicable diseases.

2. In particular, the consultant will support the achievement of the TA’s desired outcome and will closely coordinate with the technical assistance supervising unit (TASU) specialist, national consultants and the assigned DMC officials. The engagement will require 16 person months of consulting inputs over a period of three years. The deliverables are indicative, and the international consultant will be on call for specific needs of countries. The consultant is expected to do the following:

   (i) contribute to the generation of “cutting edge” knowledge in health financing and health systems development that will help DMCs address bottlenecks and barriers to UHC;
   (ii) contribute to drafting of health sector assessments, and other documents;
   (iii) support operational departments including participation in missions on health system, health financing and health economics issues;
   (iv) identifying and engaging in cross sectoral opportunities; and
   (v) assist in project identification, development, and processing of transactions in the health sector by conducting health economic analysis, supporting the conduct of health sector public finance management studies, providing international comparative perspectives, and recommending policy options and implementation strategies.

B.  Health System and E-Health Specialist (international, 16 person months, intermittent)

3. E-health (which includes all aspects of information and communication technologies applications in the health sector) is becoming an increasingly relevant business line for ADB’s health sector. With roughly five billion mobile phone subscriptions worldwide, e-health initiatives offer enormous potential for new, participatory ways to relay information to frontline health workers and engage with people in some of the most remote corners of the planet. At higher levels of the health system, e-health can be used to make hospitals and health systems more integrated and
more efficient, resulting in better health for less money. The Asian region is a driver of technological innovation and there is a huge opportunity for e-health expansion.

4. As this knowledge and support TA will support DMC build up expertise in e-health particularly on developing and strengthening e-health policies, health information management, health insurance information and hospital information system design, procurement and implementation, the international consultant will support ADB’s health sector to advance ADB’s role as a knowledge and lending partner in e-health and information system management. The focus of this consultant position is to provide technical support on health information system management and e-health development in DMCs, and enhance the link between e-health and broader health reform agenda.

5. In particular, the consultant will support the achievement of the TA’s desired outcome and will closely coordinate with the TASU specialist, national consultants, and the assigned DMC officials. The engagement will require 16 person months of consulting inputs over a period of three years. The deliverables are indicative, and the international consultant will be on call for specific needs of countries. The detailed tasks and expected outputs of the consultant are:

(i) provide guidance and support to countries to develop e-health policy, legislation, and e-health strategy;
(ii) engage with various stakeholders and partners to spur new innovations and integrate existing e-health technologies into health systems;
(iii) identify country needs and assist countries to develop the necessary pre-requisites for greater integration of health information between health facilities, health agencies, insurance agencies, private sector, and others to ensure effective deployment of e-health programs;
(iv) support health sector policy dialogue and project processing with technical inputs in health information management, e-health legislation, e-health enterprise architecture, e-health governance, procurement and project management;
(v) provide expertise for health sector assessments, specific to health information systems and e-health;
(vi) provide support for innovative work on e-health such as the application of new technologies such as blockchain; and
(vii) participate in and contribute to ADB’s regular knowledge exchange events.

C. Technical Writer (international, 4 person months, intermittent)

6. The technical writer will support the development of sovereign and nonsovereign health projects through assisting in the preparation of project concept papers incorporating innovative solutions and best practices in health, stocktaking reports, region-wide analytical report and technical guidance materials in support to the project needs. The consultant is expected to:

(i) support team and project leaders with operations research and process management to generate project-related information and reports;
(ii) development of case studies and publications related to the TA;
(iii) editorial services associated with activities related to the TA; and
(iv) other related work as requested by the supervisor.
D. Health System Experts (5 national positions, 18 person months per DMC, intermittent)

7. The national consultants will support achievement of the Strategy 2030 through facilitation of ADB’s expanded presence in the health sector in Asia and the Pacific, ultimately allowing ADB to be better positioned to help DMCs fill various investment gaps to achieve UHC in a manner that is both timely and responsive to their needs.

8. In particular, the national consultants will support the achievement of the TA’s desired outcome and will be closely coordinating with the TASU specialist, international consultants, and the assigned DMC officials. The engagement will require 18 person months of consulting inputs over a period of three years. The deliverables are indicative, and the national consultant will be on call for specific needs of countries. The major tasks are:

   (i) support the preparation of concept notes for health projects incorporating best practices and innovative technologies approved on the assigned DMCs;
   (ii) conduct analysis and synthesis of country-level stocktaking reports;
   (iii) assist and support the dissemination of landscaping and stocktaking reports;
   (iv) contribute to the drafting of technical guidance materials in coordination with the international consultant;
   (v) help design a series of capacity building events on UHC best practices and designate team to implement; and
   (vi) help convene a series of capacity building events on UHC best practices and lessons learned.