

Sri Lanka Mental Health Programme Evaluation

Consultancy Terms of Reference

Deadline for Applications: 28 Mar 2022

Project: Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka

Site of work: Virtual (remote), supporting Sri Lanka

Background

Vital Strategies is an international public health organization. Our programs strengthen public health systems and address the world's leading causes of illness, injury and death. We currently work in 73 countries, supporting data-driven decision-making in government, advancing evidence-based public health policies, and mounting strategic communication campaigns. Vital Strategies' priorities are driven by the greatest potential to improve and save lives. They include non-communicable disease prevention, cardiovascular health promotion, tobacco control, road safety, obesity prevention, epidemic prevention, environmental health, vital statistics systems building, and multi-drug resistant tuberculosis treatment research. Please visit our website at www.vitalstrategies.org to find out more about our work.

Background on the Data Impact Program of the Data for Health Initiative

The Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative (D4H) aims to enhance public health data collection and use in low- and middle-income countries. Under this Initiative, Vital Strategies, in partnership with other global public health organizations, is implementing a multiyear program to provide support to numerous countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the Pacific in improving public health data systems, such as civil registration and vital statistics and cancer registries and enhancing the use of data for decision making.

As part of the Data for Health Initiative, the [Data Impact Program \(DIP\)](#) provides technical assistance to government public health agencies and national statistics institutes to support capacity development in the domain of data use, i.e., analysis, presentation, dissemination, and translation of data into policy. The Program's objective is to help governments systematically strengthen the use of data in policy development and other key decision areas – to prevent data that has been collected from being “left on the shelf” (or on a computer). In each country, a specific activity plan is determined collaboratively with government partners, reflecting government priorities and requested areas of support.

Background on the Mental Health Programme in Sri Lanka

Mental health in Sri Lanka has become a public health concern. The Mental Health Programme in Sri Lanka envisions comprehensive mental health promotion, illness prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, psychosocial care, protection and promotion of human rights available to all Sri Lankans to optimize the mental health of the people. A main objective of the programme is to strengthen the delivery of comprehensive mental health services and support to reduce the burden of mental disorders and promote mental health.

The first Mental Health Policy of Sri Lanka was adopted in 2005 and aimed to develop a comprehensive network of services at the community level. The Mental Health Directorate within the Ministry of

Health, the NIMH, and the Sri Lankan College of Psychiatrists developed an action plan in 2005, which was revised in 2010, to implement the Mental Health Policy. The national policy made provisions for the establishment of the National Mental Health Advisory Council as the national authority charged with directing and overseeing implementation of the policy. The policy for 2005 – 2015 was revised and the policy for 2020 – 2030 was adopted in 2021.

The Mental Health Directorate in the Ministry of Health was established in year 1998 as the national focal point to execute the National Mental Health Programme which is the implementation of the policy, throughout the country. With the adoption of the Mental Health Policy, the Directorate is responsible for carrying through the decisions of the National Mental Health Advisory Council, particularly for managing and monitoring the implementation of the national mental health policy.

Although mental health programmes in Sri Lanka have evolved over the years, the exact burden of the mental health issues is not estimated in Sri Lanka. Also, a proper evaluation of the existing data sources and use of data for the implementation and evaluation of the ongoing activities related to mental health and decision making including to inform the policies related to mental health has not been conducted.

Project Overview and Objectives

The DIP and Ministry of Health in Sri Lanka is looking for a suitable Consultant who will be responsible for: (1) providing technical assistance in the form of analyzing, interpreting, and reporting on mental-health related data in Sri Lanka and (2) providing recommendations to inform successful implementation of the Mental Health Programme.

General Responsibilities

Working closely with the Data Impact Program country lead and in-country team, the Consultant will assist in optimizing resources, redefining present public health actions, and creating better intelligence for the Mental Health Unit and Deputy Director General (NCD) of the Ministry of Health of Sri Lanka.

Specific Responsibilities

Working closely with the in-country Data Impact team and other members of the Ministry of Health, the Consultant will:

- Plan and conduct analysis of multiple mental health-related data sources to:
 - o Describe and monitor the mental health status of the population
 - o Investigate changes in mental health disorder patterns since implementation of the Mental Health Programme
 - o Evaluate the programme
- Apply statistical methods to analyze, evaluate, interpret and report conclusions from data
- Prepare technical reports on findings and any other data-related materials for dissemination
- Provide recommendations on what data may be needed to evaluate the complete mental health programme

Expected outputs

- Complete and present a report on the status of mental health in Sri Lanka
- Presentation of findings and recommendations to Ministry of Health officials

- Draft procedures to replicate analysis of reports and provide statistical related code

Experience and Qualifications

- An advanced university degree (Masters level or above) in epidemiology, demography, statistics, public health or a closely related subject
- 8 or more years of relevant experience in public health practice, epidemiology and/or statistics
- Demonstrated experience and expertise in public health
- Strong analytical skills and experience with statistical software packages such as R, Stata, SAS, or SPSS
- Proficient in oral and written English
- Prior experience working in the region a plus
- Previous work with government agencies a plus
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to collaborate with the Data Impact team and colleagues at the Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Experience in mental health desirable

Other essential requirements

- Ability to work with various time zones
- Available to start the consultancy no later than April 2022

Place and timeline/duration of assignment

This is a consultant position and deliverables are expected to be completed by December 2022. Note that contracts are executed and paid in the currency of the country where the consultant is based and that payments are tied to deliverables.

Instructions for Respondents

1. **Contact Person.** Independent contractors shall submit a CV and cover letter to fmalik@vitalstrategies.org. Please use “**Sri Lanka Mental Health Programme Consultant**” as subject in your submission. Provide a quote for the total consultancy, including an estimate of the days needed per deliverable and the daily rate. Note any additional services you provide that you think may benefit this project.
2. **Due Date.** Interest must be submitted in PDF format by **March 28, 2022, 5:00 PM EST.**