



Position: Consultant for Hepatitis Research- Country

Location: Iran- Country Office

Duration: 30 working days

Reports to: Iran Health Advisor

About RI:

Relief International (RI) is a leading non-profit organization working in 16 countries to relieve poverty, ensure the well-being, and advance dignity. We specialize in fragile settings, responding to natural disasters, humanitarian crises, and chronic poverty.

Relief International combines humanitarian and development approaches to provide immediate services while laying the groundwork for long-term impact. Our signature approach — which we call the RI Way—emphasizes local participation, an integration of services, strategic partnerships, and a focus on civic skills. In this way, we empower communities to find, design, and implement the solutions that work best for them.

Viral hepatitis is a global threat for public health and one of the leading causes of mortality and disabilities worldwide. With the approval of the Sustainable Development Resolution 2030, more attention has been paid to Hepatitis diseases. In 2016, the world health assembly approved the first "Global Health Sector Strategy (GHSS) on Viral Hepatitis, 2016-2021, with a particular focus on Hepatitis B (HBV) and Hepatitis C (HCV). The main goals of this strategy are to reduce the new cases of infections by 90% and reduce mortality rate by 65% by 2030. Estimating the burden of a disease can be useful for planning, controlling, and monitoring that disease. It helps to observe and judge the success of a country's health system in controlling and managing hepatitis over time. In line with this and in order to depict a comprehensive picture of the disease over the time, RI aimed at estimating the burden of HBV and HCV at national and provincial levels to provide evidence-based strategies for the management of hepatitis.

Position Summary:

Relief International, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health is conducting a study to determine the prevalence and risk factors of hepatitis B and C in above 27 years old population in residing in settlements. The hepatitis project currently being implemented by Relief International, in collaboration with the Iran Ministry of Health is part of the viral hepatitis elimination strategy among immigrants and in line with the goals of controlling and eliminating hepatitis B and C in Iran.

RI is seeking a consultant to undertake complementary research to collect data on the screening and treatment of patients with hepatitis B and C in foreign nationals and immigrants in Iran and to determine the health seeking behavior of migrants in order to inform longer-term programming on awareness creation and implementation of Hepatitis projects. S/he will also provide analysis of previous and existing and Hepatitis prevention and treatment programs in Iran through a desk review. The complementary research will and include lessons learnt in the research paper from implementing Hepatitis project.

The consultant will submit the findings of the complementary research in both a full and condensed research report and a summary presentations slide deck.

The Consultant will be based in Tehran and will be supervised by RI's Iran Health Advisor. The Consultant will be responsible for the writing.

The Consultant will develop the Methodology of the Baseline Assessment; collect and analyse Data. The purpose of the baseline assessment to inform health-seeking behaviour of the vulnerable population in Iran.

Tasks:

- Literature review: Conduct a literature review of Hepatitis care and treatment implementation programs amongst adults aged 27 years and above in Iran, identify gaps in existing literature and analyze assessments results of needs
- Identify problems/gaps and propose/prioritize timely practical actions to respond to Hepatitis health care and treatment amongst adults aged 27 and above.
- Qualitative research: Conduct In depth Focus Group Discussions (FGD) with health providers and Key Informant Interviews (KII) with health providers and community volunteers to collect information on health seeking behavior of patients and on the prevalence of Hepatitis in their health facilities.. The qualitative research questionnaires will be reviewed by the RI Health Advisor and the MEAL manager.
- Data analysis: Review and analyze the primary data in relation to the secondary data and context. Present the analysis internally for feedback
- Report writing: Write a report summarizing the findings on the health seeking behaviors and the screening and treatment of patients with hepatitis B and C in foreign nationals and immigrants in Iran.

DELIVERABLES

1. Full report (20 pages) with the following sections: Literature review, methodology, data analysis, limitations, findings, recommendations and possible ways forward, and bibliography
2. Presentation (digital slide deck) of findings and recommendations (summarising the full report)
3. External summary report (5 pages)

KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE:

- Advanced degree in Health with experience in Statistics or Quantitative field (Math, Computer Science, Physics/Chemistry, Econometrics, Bioinformatics, etc.), or, alternatively, an equivalent combination of related education with relevant 3-4 years of professional experience.
- Excellent experience in writing research papers and good knowledge of statistics, survey and assessment methodologies and database management.
- Excellent report writing and communication skills, efficiency and flexibility.
- Attention to detail and quality and capacity to meet deadlines.
- Strong analytical skills and creative thinking.
- Experience of working in Iran context and ability to maintain confidentiality at all times
- Understanding of the existing medical health system in Iran, in relation to services available at different types of facility and the referral system.
- Fluency in English and Farsi languages, both writing and speaking is desirable.

Remuneration and terms of payment

The Consultant will receive a consultancy fee, which will be paid to the bank account indicated by the Consultant in the following instalments:

- The first instalment in the amount of 30% of the consultancy fee shall be paid after RI approval of the study plan and methodology of research.
- The second instalment in the amount of 30% of the consultancy fee shall be paid upon submission and approval by RI of the final report of the Online services study.
- And the third and final instalment in the amount of 40% of the consultancy fee shall be paid upon submission and approval by RI of the assessment report.

RI Values:

We uphold the Humanitarian Principles: humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and operational independence. We affirmatively engage the most vulnerable communities.

We value:

- *Inclusiveness*
- *Transparency and accountability*
- *Agility and innovation*
- *Collaboration*
- *Sustainability*

Safeguarding commitment

- Uphold and promote RI's commitment to ensuring the safeguarding and safety of the vulnerable communities we serve.
- Consistent with RI's safeguarding and protection policies, ensure all people who come into contact with Relief International are as safe as possible.

Equity and Diversity commitment

- Demonstrate sensitivity and understanding of systemic diversity and cultural differences.
- Ensure that gender equity is addressed in our staffing and programming.

How to apply.

If you are interested in this job, please email your cover letter and CV in English to tehran@ri.org and mention the <Job Title_FULL NAME> in the subject line. **Applications close on 16 June 2021.**

Due to limited resources, only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Note to external agencies, we will not be accepting CVs from third parties.

Relief International is committed to protecting our staff and the communities we work with from abuse and harm including sexual exploitation, sexual abuse and sexual harassment.

All RI contracted individuals/staff are expected to abide by our Code of Conduct.

Recruitment to all roles in Relief International include a criminal records self-declaration, references and other pre-employment checks, which may include police and qualifications checks.

Relief International is committed to diversity and gender equality; we strongly encourage female candidates to apply.