

TERMS OF REFERENCE

APW with non-individual *Early warning, alert and response (EWAR) in Ukraine Conflict*

1. Background

On 24 February 2022, Ukraine saw an unprecedented deterioration of the security situation across the country, beyond the previous conflict-affected areas in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts. Since that time, the ongoing crisis has damaged vital infrastructure and disrupted water and sanitation systems, the availability and quantity of food, as well as health and social services. Health facilities have been damaged and health care staff are becoming overburdened. In addition, the security situation and conflict has resulted in mass displacement of Ukrainian residents to neighboring countries, with 7 824 440 refugees having left Ukraine as of 8 November 2022¹. The conflict is continuing and there is potential for further escalation, and as a result the burden of illness and death will be likely to worsen as the conflict continues and as the most vulnerable (elderly, injured, disabled and chronically ill) may be forced to leave their homes.

The crisis is marked with disruption to regular disease prevention measures including but not limited to water and sanitation, routine childhood immunization, in combination with deteriorating general living conditions. Considering all factors, this raises concerns about communicable disease outbreaks, especially cholera and other diarrheal diseases, respiratory diseases and vaccine-preventable diseases. These risks demand actions on strengthening early warning, alert, and response (EWAR) of priority epidemic-prone diseases in Ukraine, but also in neighboring countries dealing with a mass influx of refugees who may find themselves living in temporary, unstable or high-occupancy settings.

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared this a Grade 3 Regional Emergency on 24 February 2022 as per the WHO Emergency Response Framework² – the highest grade allowing for resource mobilization across all levels. This means that global, regional and country levels are closely coordinated to deliver health support to Ukraine and neighboring countries. At the regional level (WHO Regional Office for Europe), support to the Ukraine Ministry of Health/Centre for Public Health, as well as health authorities in refugee receiving countries, is needed to strengthen early warning, alert and response for priority public health events of epidemic-prone biological threats and other health threats (all-hazards).

The WHO Regional Office for Europe (WHO EURO) Health Emergency Information and Risk Assessment (HIM) team requires support from a qualified company/institution to tailor WHO EURO EWAR assessment tools for all-hazards early detection, alert and response monitoring for application in emergency settings.

2. Deliverables

The Company/ Institution is expected to fulfil the following tasks [by 31 May 2023]:

- Incorporate any changes to WHO EURO EWAR assessment tools identified through review by WHO technical experts [by 24 February 2023]
- Add, if necessary, subject-matter specific assessments modules (i.e. for human priority

¹ UNHCR Refugee Health portal, available [here](#).

² WHO Emergency Response Framework (ERF), available [here](#).

<p>pathogens, animal/zoonotic/ONE Health, environmental, or CBRN) and/or questions to the EWAR assessment tools, ensuring incorporation into component scoring system [by 17 March 2023]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adapt tool(s) for rapid assessments in emergency contexts ensuring all-hazard approach [by 7 April 2023] • Using data collection software, develop a digital version of the final assessment tools, including questionnaires, the associated algorithms to generate capacity scores for overarching components, and reporting outputs [by 28 April 2023] • Structure both paper and digital versions into modular form allowing for selective use of subject-matter areas in various settings [by 28 April 2023] • Submit developed materials and products to WHO EURO HIM focal points (Program Area Manager, Epidemiologist) for any final review [by 5 May 2023] • Incorporated requested modifications from WHO EURO HIM focal points and deliver all associated files and programs to WHO EURO Health Emergency Information and Risk Assessment program [by 31 May 2023]
<p>3. Contract duration</p>
<p>The Company/Institution is expected to start the package of work by 6 February 2023 and fulfil the requested deliverables by 31 May 2023.</p>
<p>4. Requirements</p>
<p>The company or institution must have previous and demonstrated experience in assessment and capacity building of national Early Warning, Alert and Response (EWAR) systems, and/or developing methods, tools or guidelines for EWAR and public health surveillance system evaluations. In addition, the company or institution should specialize in public health sciences and have knowledge and experience in field epidemiology and have proven experience in the development of electronic reporting forms for data collection, including data analysis and report generation. It is required that the company or institution be based in the WHO European Region and have experience working with WHO EURO Member States.</p> <p>The company or institution must appoint a project manager to oversee the technical content of the work and manage completion of the deliverables according to the proposed timeline. The project manager within the respective company/institution should have the following qualifications:</p> <p>Qualifications Required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical doctor, or master's or PhD in epidemiology, public health or related field; • Specialization in public health with a strong expertise in field epidemiology and public health surveillance <p>Experience Required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 5 years' of relevant experience in the following areas: (a) EWAR system development and implementation at the national level; (b) public health surveillance systems; (c) field epidemiology; and a strong track record in achieving results, analytical skills, writing and presenting technical

guidance documents;

- Expertise in the development of electronic reporting forms for data collection, including automated scoring algorithms and report generation;
- Expert with a proven track-record of advisory services in the area of EWAR and guideline development;
- Previous experience in developing surveillance system assessment materials;
- Work experience in WHO or another international public health organization;

Desirable:

- EWAR assessment and system development in humanitarian contexts;

Skills/Knowledge

- Excellent inter-cultural sensitivity and communication skills;
- Excellent writing and drafting skills of documents and reports in English language;
- Thorough knowledge of effective national-level EWAR systems;
- In-depth knowledge of key EWAR documents published by WHO and other relevant technical institutions, as well as familiarity with key emergencies policy documents for the WHO European Region, such as the Action Plan to improve public health preparedness and response in the WHO European Region 2018 – 2023 and 10 Proposals for Strengthening the Global Architecture for Health Emergency Preparedness, Response and Resilience (HEPR);

Languages

Required: English

Desirable: European languages

5. Technical coordination & reporting

Technical focal point: Ms. Lauren MacDonald, Epidemiologist, WHO EURO Health Emergency Information and Risk Assessment

6. Deliverables and planned payments

No.	Deliverable	Delivery date	Percentage/Amount*
1	Countersigned contract	6 February 2023	
2	Incorporate any changes to WHO EURO EWAR assessment tools identified through review by WHO technical experts	24 February 2023	
3	Add, if necessary, subject-matter specific assessments modules (i.e. for human priority pathogens, animal/zoonotic/ONE Health,	17 March 2023	

	environmental, or CBRN) and/or questions to the EWAR assessment tools, ensuring incorporation into component scoring system		
4	Adapt tool(s) for rapid assessments in emergency contexts ensuring all-hazard approach	7 April 2023	
5	Using data collection software, develop a digital version of the final assessment tools, including questionnaires, the associated algorithms to generate capacity scores for overarching components, and reporting outputs	28 April 2023	
6	Structure both paper and digital versions into modular form allowing for selective use of subject-matter areas in various settings	28 April 2023	
7	Submit developed materials and products to WHO EURO HIM focal points (Program Area Manager, Epidemiologist) for any final review	5 May 2023	
8	Incorporated requested modifications from WHO EURO HIM focal points and deliver all associated files and programs to WHO EURO Health Emergency Information and Risk Assessment program	31 May 2023	
9	Satisfactory completion of work and signed Financial statement	31 May 2023	100%

*WHO's standard payment term is within 30 days upon invoice after the satisfactory completion of work. Any advance payment is exceptional and, if applicable, justification must be provided in AR.