

## POST DESCRIPTION – May 2016

Title:	<b>Epidemiologist</b>
Grade level:	P-3-4, depending on experience
Contract type:	Short Term Consultant
Duration:	20 Jun - 30 Sep 2016
Duty Station:	Suva, Fiji
Organizational Unit:	Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WPRO) Division of Pacific Technical Support (DPS), Pacific Health Security, Communicable Diseases and Climate Change (PSC) Unit, Emerging Disease Surveillance and Response (ESR)

### **Objectives of the programme:**

The Emerging Disease Surveillance and Response team (ESR) of the Pacific Technical Support Division of the World Health Organization (<http://www.wpro.who.int/southpacific>) assists 21 island countries and territories in the Pacific with surveillance, outbreak detection, and response. Common communicable diseases in the region include typhoid fever, dengue fever, influenza, and leptospirosis. Many countries in the Pacific have limited resources and rely in great part on outside assistance for their field epidemiology. This position requires significant travel in the Pacific.

### **Description of duties:**

1. Expand, strengthen and consolidate influenza surveillance, syndromic surveillance, and lab-based surveillance
2. Help monitor and support implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR) and the Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases
3. Provide technical advice concerning influenza and other communicable disease control and prevention; timely responses to outbreaks/epidemics in collaboration with WHO staff, staff of other organizations, and national health officials, through field visits, outbreak investigation, data collection, surveys, and surveillance reports
4. Develop and implement training programs to reinforce influenza and other communicable diseases surveillance and response programs
5. Coordinate routine surveillance and outbreak investigation data collection and analysis in collaboration with field staff and national health officials
6. Work with international, regional and national organizations and institutions including UN and Regional agencies, bilateral development agencies, universities and NGOs to enhance WHO collaboration on communicable diseases and other health issues in those countries
7. Participate in design and implementation of research activities supportive to communicable disease control
8. As required, be a member of the DPS Incident Management System (IMS) during graded outbreaks and disasters
9. Undertake other duties as required by the Coordinator, PSC.

### **Organizational Context:**

The staff member is based in Suva, Fiji, and works under the supervision and technical oversight of the Coordinator, Pacific Health Security, Communicable Diseases and Climate Change (PSC), South Pacific

Office, with oversight from the Director, Pacific Technical Support (DPS). ESR collaborates closely with the Division of Health Security and Emergencies (DSE) at WPRO in Manila, with WHO HQ in Geneva, and with international agencies such as the Pacific Community (SPC), US-CDC, Pacific Islands Health Officers' Association (PIHOA), regional laboratories and academic institutions.

### **Required qualifications**

Has a broad knowledge of principles, practices, methodology and techniques in public health and field epidemiology. Has significant knowledge and skills in communicable diseases control, including teaching and advisory techniques at the international level.

Has very good interpersonal skills with the ability to work well with, and positively relate to, people at all levels and from diverse cultural and educational backgrounds and orientations.

Has or can quickly acquire, a thorough working knowledge of essential WHO procedures, policies, rules and regulations that support WHO's presence in countries. Able to establish and maintain harmonious relations with national and international colleagues.

Experience in resource limited situations/ developing countries, preferably with experience in the Pacific.

### **Education:**

Medical, nursing or related undergraduate degree, and master or higher level degree in public health and/or epidemiology is essential. Formal training in field epidemiology highly desirable.

### **Experience:**

Minimum of five years' progressive experience in communicable disease prevention and control and epidemiology is essential (P3) or a minimum of seven years' of relevant experience for a P4. Experience working in international environments, extensive clinical experience and experience with teaching of basic epidemiology is an advantage. Experience with response to emergencies is desirable.

**Language:** Written and spoken fluency in English is essential. Working knowledge of French is desirable.

**Other Skills:** Excellent skills in using Microsoft Office software including Excel. Experience with statistical software for epidemiology such as Epi-Info or SAS and data management software such as Microsoft Access is desirable.

### **To apply and for more information, contact:**

Dr Angela Merianos

Coordinator, DPS/PSC

Email: [merianosa@who.int](mailto:merianosa@who.int)

A covering letter documenting expertise against the position description is required in addition to a CV.

**Applications that do not address the job description and selection criteria will not be considered.**

Suitable applicants will be contacted to provide a quotation for their consultant fees (daily rate).