



Donor Funded Staffing Program

TOR No:	2022-042
Title:	Health Economist/Specialist (Mid-Career Professional)
Grade:	GF
Division/VPU:	East Asia and Pacific- Health Nutrition and Population team
Duty Location:	Dili, Timor Leste
Appointment Type and Duration:	Two-year Term Appointment

BACKGROUND

East Asia and the Pacific Region (EAP) has made the fastest progress in economic growth and poverty reduction of any region in the last quarter-century. A succession of East Asian economies has progressed from low-income to middle-income, with others preparing to join the small group of high-income countries soon. Despite this progress, the region still faces huge development challenges. Inequality within countries is growing, leaving some subnational regions and groups significantly behind. A large portion of the region's population remains vulnerable to income shocks, including from a global economic slowdown, changing global and regional value-chains, and climate-related risks. Furthermore, East Asia was the first region to be hit by the COVID-19 pandemic which has provoked both an unprecedented health crisis and a severe economic shock in the region. The economic shock has severely affected both supply and demand, with significant impacts on economic activity, livelihoods, and people's welfare. COVID-19 also presents some opportunities for countries in the region to build back better through recovery strategies that prioritize reforms, institutions as well as attention to climate and broader sustainability.

The central contribution of the Health, Nutrition and Population (HNP) Global Practice (GP) to the World Bank's twin goals is to enable the achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), in which all people are effectively covered by essential health services, and nobody suffers undue financial hardship because of illnesses. The HNP GP works with and across multiple sectors, in recognition of the fact that HNP outcomes often depend on actions that lie outside the HNP sector. The HNP GP supports country and regional efforts to: (i) improve health outcomes, especially for the poor and most vulnerable; (ii) expand access to high-quality HNP services, interventions and technologies that give the most value for money; (iii) strengthen health systems for results; (iv) establish and improve health financing mechanisms that promote efficiency, equity and sustainability of investments; (v) strengthen health-relevant institutions within and outside the health sector; (vi) harness multisectoral policies and investments for better health outcomes; and (vii) develop and learn from rigorous impact evaluations.

Timor-Leste is an FCV country which faces several challenges in its health and nutrition outcomes. The Timor-Leste Health, Nutrition, and Population (HNP) team is engaged in the preparation and implementation of multiple grant-funded operations, as well as a growing work program of advisory services and analytics (ASA). Key areas under this work program include a COVID response and preparedness project to be implemented by the Ministry of Health, a community resilience operation implemented with an NGO partner, and analytical work on nutrition, health financing, service delivery for health and nutrition, and strengthening institutional coordination and governance arrangements for

better health and nutrition. The work program requires close support to the Government of Timor-Leste on COVID-19, health systems and nutrition in the form of technical assistance, advisory work, design and implementation of operations and policy dialogue. The work program is undertaken in close coordination with key development partners in the country.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

We are looking to hire a Health Economist/ Health Specialist to work on the Timor Leste (TL) portfolio, which is expanding rapidly to support the HNP operations and analytical tasks in TL. The staff member will report to the HNP Practice manager for the region. Key responsibilities will include, inter alia:

- Provide strategic and operational support to the HNP agenda in TL, focusing on: i) COVID-19 response; ii) improving the quality, accountability, and equity of health and nutrition service delivery; iii) public health preparedness; and iv) engagement with other sectors to advance the human capital agenda, such as Water, Agriculture, Rural Development, Social Protection, Education, and Urban
- Contribute to analytical and advisory services tasks related to health systems strengthening including health financing, addressing public health challenges, linking health to broader human development topics, and/or related topics in the TL context
- Support HNP operations under preparation or implementation as required, as well as contribute to the preparation and implementation support of lending operations
- Participate in policy dialogue with government counterparts, including at the national and sub-national levels, and with other relevant partners and liaise with the task team
- Participate in technical assistance work to support relevant capacity-building activities including workshops, seminars, etc.
- Offer support to the Unit's briefs, blogs, strategy documents, and papers on critical HNP issues for both internal and external audiences
- Respond to ad hoc information requests from internal and external parties

The selected candidate will be based in Dili, Timor Leste, after spending an initial 2-3 months in HQ (Washington, DC).

Note:

The selected candidate will not be assigned to programs involving his/her own government such as donor coordination and trust fund management.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- At least a Master's degree in health economics, public health or related field, with a minimum of 5 years of relevant experience. A PhD would be considered an added advantage
- Consistent record of working on health, nutrition, and population issues
- Strong knowledge of and experience with the health sector in developing countries, including institutional set up, health policies and programs, challenges, and priorities
- Demonstrated expertise in policy dialogue and the ability to interact effectively with Government officials and a range of partners at various levels
- Prior experience of working with/on health systems in resource-constrained settings will be an advantage. Experience of working in Timor-Leste or in the EAP region is an added advantage
- Prior experience in an international development institution (public, NGO or private) or academia is preferred

- Familiarity with statistical analyses, econometric methods, and related software such as STATA, is desirable
- Demonstrated track record of synthesizing complex analytics and results into user-friendly outputs, including PowerPoint presentations, Policy Briefs and Working Papers
- Shown analytical skills linking strategic and quantitative analysis, and the ability to inform high-level policy dialogue through strong communications (including writing) skills, including data visualization skills
- Respectful and client-engagement skills, and shown success working as a team member
- Proactive and results-focused work style with strong problem-solving capabilities
- Ability to function well independently and handle multiple tasks, meet changing priorities and deliver high-quality analysis and work on-time
- Experience in successfully working as a member of a multi-professional and multi-cultural team; as well as possessing diplomatic and client-engagement skills
- Fluency in English (excellent oral and written communication skills) is required, with ability to prepare documents on complex subjects, speak and write persuasively, and present ideas clearly and concisely. Proficiency in Portuguese and/or in Tetum will be an added advantage