

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH
GLOBAL FUND PROJECT
HIV GRANT**

POST OF 'COUNSELLOR'

Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria (Global Fund) has awarded 2 grants to Sri Lanka amounting to US\$ 9,427,299 for the period 01st January 2022 to 31st December 2024 of which the Ministry of Health is the Principal Recipient. This project supported components are involved in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis.

A fulltime service of a '**Counsellor**' position on contract basis is required for the HIV Component/Grant of the Global Fund Project, Ministry of Health (MoH). The Counsellor will provide counselling and assertive community-based treatment interventions. He/She will improve the standards of comprehensive prevention services to People Who Inject Drugs (PWID) and support Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) treatment adherence and viral suppression by providing counselling services in order to achieve treatment adherence and in the long run to minimize harmful use of drugs and promote harm reduction interventions.

The Counsellor reports to the Project Manager, HIV Component / Director, National STD/AIDS Control Programme (NSACP) and will be based at the HIV Grant Office, Medi House, Colombo 10.

MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Provide primary counselling for PWID.
2. Conduct screening and baseline assessment of the PWID and develop individualized management plans according to their needs.
3. Provide psycho-education to the clients and their families.
4. Work within a multidisciplinary team in the designated community center according to the case management, bio-psychosocial approach.
5. Provide motivational and psychological support and counselling services to PWID, groups and their families.
6. Carryout home visits, as and when required.
7. Referrals for STI and other relevant services and ensuring that the client/s is screened for STIs and general medical conditions.
8. Facilitate group therapy and support group sessions in coordination with the team.
9. Conduct home visits to provide further psycho-social support when needed.
10. Organize community, rehabilitation and awareness activities for PWID and their families in coordination with the other members in the team.
11. Attend and contribute to the progress meetings.
12. Maintain records and ensure the complete and updated filing of PWID clinical/psychosocial information, including follow-up visits and referrals.
13. Provide support to the National STD/AIDS Control Program in the implementation of activities under the work plan, advocacy and networking.
14. Provide capacity building activities, training and supervision to develop knowledge, skills and abilities of the PWID interventions team members.
15. Conduct regular field visits to PWID who default adherence and treatment.
16. Assist in performing other tasks as requested by the Supervisors.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE, SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES:

1. A Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, which is recognized by the University Grants Commission or a qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent



qualification to the degree in Psychology OR An Associate membership / A similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in Psychology OR Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Level 7, issued by a Technical/ Vocational Training Institute accepted by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Psychology; OR

Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the NVQ Level 6, issued by a Technical/ Vocational Training Institute accepted by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Psychology and At least 05 years' experience in Psychology; OR

Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the NVQ Level 5, issued by a Technical /Vocational Training Institute accepted by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Psychology and At least 10 years of experience in Psychology.

2. Master's degree in Psychology /Social Work is preferred.
3. Minimum of 2 years' post qualification progressive experience in Counselling or working with PWID is required.
4. At least 6 months experience working within a multidisciplinary team is required.
5. Preference will be given to those who have prior working experience in a similar capacity in foreign funded projects, especially in the public sector.
6. Formal training on case management and/or bio-psychosocial approach is an asset.
7. Formal certification in Counselling will be an asset.
8. Skills and characteristics in counselling and crisis management are a must.
9. Outstanding team player with the ability to adapt to organization's environment and has an interest to grow with the organization.
10. Working experience in the use of computers and office software packages (MS Word / Excel / PowerPoint / Internet / Email / Fax / Post / SMS / Viber / WhatsApp / Virtual or online communication tools such as Skype / Zoom / MS Teams etc.), and being adept at statistical software, spreadsheet, word processing, presentation, internet and email is a must, and required to produce certificates as proof.
11. Demonstrated communication skills (written and oral) – Fluency in Sinhala and Tamil with working knowledge in English is required and need to submit proof certificates.
12. Demonstrated negotiation /consultation skills is required.

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

1. The duty station will be PWID community-based interventions sites in Colombo.
2. Age should be below 64 years as at 31.12. 2023.
3. Recruitment will be on contract basis. The **initial contract will be up to 31.12.2023**, of which the first three months will be on probation.
4. The contract period **may be** renewable annually, through the satisfactory performance demonstrated at a formal performance appraisal by the Supervising Officers.
5. Salary is as per PS 06: Category A of the Management Services Circular No 01/2019 - 15.03.2019 (Initial Salary: Rs. 55,000.00 + Rs. 7,800.00 = Rs. 62,800.00).
6. The contribution of the employer for EPF is 12% and ETF is 3% of the salary. The EPF contribution of the employee is 8% of the salary.
7. Annual Holiday & Leave: As per the Shop and Office Employees Act.
8. Working hours: 8.30am – 4.15pm – Monday - Friday.
9. Dress code: Smart casual.
10. Selected applicant should be able to take up the assignment within reasonable time period preferably immediately or within one month.



11. No officer will be selected if he/she has been subjected to any disciplinary action during his/her career.
12. Candidates who are already in the public service should send their applications through the relevant Head of the Department / CEO of the Agency who should indicate that the candidate could be released in the event of being selected to the post.
13. Only short-listed candidates will be called for an interview.