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**Terms of Reference**

This Agreement for Performance of Work (APW) is requested by:

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| Initiator: | Ms. Cornelia Panico | Reg.#: |  |
| Country: | Country Office in Moldova | Cluster / Dpt.: | N/A |

1. **\*Purpose of the APW**

To carry out procurement and installation of medical imaging and storage IT solutions for the country hospitals, to strengthen the capacities in addressing emergency health care services in case of acute management of patients with stroke in the context of the refugee emergency crisis in the Republic of Moldova.

1. **\*Background**

Acute cerebrovascular accident i.e., stroke is one of the leading causes of death and disability worldwide. According to the World Health Organization (WHO, 2023), over 15 million people suffer from stroke annually, of which some 1.1 million in Europe. The number is expected to increase by 2025 because of aging population, poor clinical management of stroke, limited access to health care services, and late detection of underlying risk factors. This scenario resembles Moldova. The mortality rate caused by a stroke in 2021 was 12% of the total deaths at national level, demonstrating a very high prevalence of acute stroke accidents. The key reasons include the increased risk factors amongst the population, coupled with the low capacities of the Moldovan health care system to ensure equitable access to quality continuum of care for stroke patients. Among others, there are concerns in ensuring initial stabilization of patients and the transfer to a higher level of care within adequate response time. This results in high rate of mortality and disabilities on survivors. Consequently, the mortality rate in Moldova is three to four times higher than in other European countries.

In addition, Moldovan Health Sector is challenged by a large number of refugees from Ukraine that are staying in Moldova, putting an additional strain on the resources of the hospitals to provide emergency health care services for all. It is also worth to note, that Ukraine is amongst the countries with highest prevalence of stroke accidents in Europe.

One of the key priorities of the Government of Moldova (GoM) and the Ministry of Health (MoH) is to strengthen the prevention of and treatment for acute stroke accidents and reduce mortality and long-term consequences in line with the commitments to the European Action Plan on Stroke Prevention 2018-2030. To address the abovementioned gaps, it is required to streamline the stroke care pathways, reorganize the existing infrastructure, and develop written protocols for all stroke patients for all levels of care, and train staff. Standardized stroke care protocols and clinical pathways will need to be developed for primary healthcare, ambulance and hospital levels, enabling maintenance of the required quality standards for stroke care.

In June 2022, MoH approved a decision and a concept regarding to the system of regionalization of the emergency care for stroke accidents, including referral mechanisms, diagnostic, and treatment of the stroke patients. The concept foresees a creation of 10 regional primary stroke centers, two multifunctional stroke centers and one comprehensive stroke center in Chisinau, addressing 11 geographic zones with a focus in establishing a rapid intervention system to acute stroke accidents, thus, reducing the mortality rate of stroke accidents by 10 per cent by 2030. The above mentioned concept has been finalized and the MoH order on establishment of the STROKE Centres has been issued in October 2023.

To ensure the main objective of the STROKE Management - provision of quality emergency care, including prevention and treatment for acute stroke accidents patients, for hosting population and refugees from Ukraine, procurement of medical IT solutions for the emergency departments 10 regional hospitals, two multifunctional stroke centers (Sfinta Treime and Emergency Medicine Institute Hospitals) and one comprehensive stroke center in Chisinau (Institute of Neurology and Neurosurgery “Diomid Gherman").

In this context, WHO is planning to procure 13 Telemedicine cart units to support the implementation of the STROKE management plan.

1. **\*Planned timelines** (subject to confirmation)

By 28th of August 2024

1. **\*Requirements - Work to be performed**

Objective: To carry out procurement Medical imaging and storage IT solutions, including Network Attached Storage (NAS), DICOM Viewers, and DICOM Workstations for the 13 STROKE Centres and for the Emergency Medicine Institute as specified in the Technical Specifications and transport, installation, and training.

1. **\*Requirements**

**Technical specifications**

*In the attached file, as Annex 1.*

1. **Inputs**

The overall activity shall be coordinated with inputs from the WHO the Requesting Officer from WHO CO and Ministry of Health.

1. **Funding Source**

***EUMDA2422874, award 75618, TT 8.1***

1. **\*Activity Coordination & Reporting**

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| **Technical Officer:** | Cornelia Panico, NPO EPR Officer | **Email:** | [**panicoc@who.int**](mailto:panicoc@who.int) |
| For the purpose of: | Technical supervision and instructions - Reporting | | |
| **Administrative Officer:** | **Project assistant, Marcela Stratan** | **Email:** | **stratanm@who.int** |
| For the purpose of: | Contractual and financial management of the contract | | |

1. **\*Characteristics of the Provider**

Supplier should ensure that all required quantity of items is made available from the local market in Moldova. Experience in developing and producing similar type of equipment with positive previous experience working with national authorities or other organizations will be an asset.

The supplier shall ensure that its procedures for awarding contracts and for the procurement of goods and services under this Agreement safeguard the principles of awards being made on an assessment of competitive quotations or bids. The supplier shall procure any such goods and services for the Project in accordance with internationally accepted standards, in compliance with the principles of transparency, proportionality, sound financial management, equal treatment and non-discrimination, with care being taken to avoid any conflict of interests, and taking account of the principles of quality, economy and efficiency. The supplier shall procure from entities that meet the standards established by WHO. The supplier shall retain all records relating to goods or services procured by it during the course of implementation of the Project for a period of at least five (5) years after the end date of the Project, and in accordance with the supplier’s procedures. Notwithstanding any contracts concluded by the supplier for the procurement of goods and services, the supplier shall be and remain fully responsible vis-à-vis WHO for the satisfactory and timely implementation of the Project, including any subcontracted work.

1. **\*Place of assignment**

The activity will include distribution and installation of the equipment to the final beneficiary (10 Regional Hospitals and 3 Hospitals in Chisinau (Sfinta Treime, Emergency Medicine Institute and Institute of Neurology and Neurosurgery “Diomid Gherman"), Republic of Moldova.