

## Terms of Reference

### 1. \*Purpose

To carry out procurement and installation of medical devices for the Institute of Oncology, to strengthen the capacities in addressing cancer care, including prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation services in the context of the refugee emergency crisis in the Republic of Moldova.

### 2. \*Background

Costly cancer diagnosis and treatment services represent one of the most vulnerable field of health services experiencing shortages though all the chain of services included in cancer control. It affects the accessibility to health services for both local population and refugees from Ukraine. According to the Order of the Ministry of Health #167 as of 26.03.2022, emergency assistance and diagnostic services are ensured for refugees. On March 1, 2024, the Government of Moldova has extended the Temporary Protection for Ukrainian refugees, according to which the beneficiaries of temporary protection would have access to a wide range of health services. Refugees with temporary protection status are entitled to full access to health services, including oncology care, further increasing the demand for medical resources.

In order to improve the emergency preparedness and response capacities in case of a new major influx of refugees from Ukraine, several activities were performed at the level of hospital care, starting with the needs in health services for refugees, identifying the list of essential needs (medicines, consumables, devices, etc.), design of evacuation pathways, prepare the designated hospitals to receive mass influx of casualty cases ensuring quality and safety of services, and rapid assessment of the National Cancer Control Program by WHO HQ and RO missions. Initial actions by the Government of Moldova were to support medical evaluation of patients with cancer, but at a later stage the local capacities need to be strengthened to bring the health services closer to the patient in need.

During the rapid assessment mission by WHO HQ and RO experts and MoH representatives, clear needs were identified to endow the Institute of Oncology with the necessary equipment to support the improvement of the National Cancer Control Program, starting from screening and early diagnosis of conditions and ending with treatment, follow up rehabilitation and palliative care. The Institute of Oncology is a tertiary level health facility of national level, where most of cancer diseases are diagnosed and managed. The pool of local patients in the Institute of Oncology is around 10,000 annually, with a total of 45,000 under treatment and follow up. The estimations for the refugee influx account for approximately 2,000 people with suspected of confirmed cancer would address to the Institute of Oncology, including children.

The proposed procurement of medical devices aims to address the dual challenge of ensuring uninterrupted cancer care for the local population while meeting the growing needs of Ukrainian refugees. This initiative supports the broader cancer control program of Moldova and aligns with international commitments to provide equitable access to healthcare for vulnerable populations.

The procurement request was coordinated by the Ministry of Health with the Institute of Oncology inputs, and is part of a WHO-supported project under the EU repurposed funds. This initiative ensures the equitable distribution of healthcare resources and builds resilience in Moldova's health system.

This procurement is a critical investment in Moldova's healthcare infrastructure, ensuring the delivery of high-quality, inclusive cancer care for both local populations and refugees. It directly supports the national cancer control program and contributes to the broader goal of health equity and system sustainability.

In this context, WHO is planning to procure the following equipment:

1. Ultrasonic Bone Scalpel and Ultrasonic Surgery Device (Harmonic),

2. System for Radiofrequency Ablation of Bone Tumors
3. Advanced Dental Unit
4. Interventional Pulmonology Workstation
5. Electrosurgical Unit with Argon-Plasma Coagulation
6. Ultrasonic Bath for Surgical Instruments
7. Skin Cancer Brachytherapy Applicator (BRAVOS)
8. Ultrasonic Scalpel

for the Institute of Oncology to support the improvement on the national cancer control program implementation to ensure cancer diagnostic, clinical management, follow up and rehabilitation services in local population and refugees.

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

Delivery by 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2025

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

Objective: To carry out procurement medical devices for the Institute of Oncology as specified in the Technical Specifications and transport, their installation, and training for users.

**5. \*Requirements**

**Technical specifications**

*In the attached file, as Annex 1.*

**6. Inputs**

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

**7. \*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.

**8. \*Place of assignment**

The activity will include distribution and installation of the equipment to the final beneficiary (Institute of Oncology), Republic of Moldova.