Call for Expression of Interest:
Scoping review of the evidence on how to create age-friendly communities in rural and remote areas

1. Background

Population ageing is a transformative trend that is changing the way we live, work, and experience our rural and urban environments throughout our lives and into older age. At the same time, the world has united around the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, pledging that no one will be left behind and that every human being will have the opportunity to fulfil their potential in dignity and equality.

The Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021-2030), which has been endorsed by the 73rd World Health Assembly in August 2020 and adopted as a UN wider initiative on 14 December provides the basis for collective action aligned to the last ten years of the SDG’s. The Decade of Healthy Ageing is an opportunity to bring together governments, civil society, international agencies, professionals, academia, the media, and the private sector for ten years of concerted, catalytic and collaborative action to improve the lives of older people, their families, and the communities in which they live.

Developing communities that foster the abilities of older people is one of the 4 action areas that will be prioritized during the Decade of Healthy Ageing. WHO advocates the age-friendly cities and communities approach as a means for achieving this action area. Over the period of the Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021-2030) the number of people 60 years and older globally will increase by 34% to 1.4 billion, with 80% living in low- and middle-income countries. Creating age-friendly cities and communities can go a long way in creating environments that both promote health and build and maintain physical and mental capacity across the life-course; and enable all older people, even when experiencing capacity loss, to continue to do the things they value.

While the evidence base for the development of age-friendly cities is growing, little is still known about interventions, their implementation barriers and enablers to create communities that foster the abilities of older people living in remote and rural areas. Yet, insights into what works and what does not in rural contexts are crucial in working towards a more age friendly world that meets the demands our changing demographics.

2. Objectives

The objective of this call for expression of interest is to identify a service provider to conduct a scoping review of the literature on the development of age-friendly communities in rural and remote areas.

This project aims at providing an evidence base on interventions, their implementation barriers and enablers to identify best practices and success factors in the design of rural age-friendly communities and contrast them with those identified for urban areas.
3. Deliverables

This project consists of two main pieces of work, which will both be developed under the guidance of the technical unit working on demographic change and healthy ageing at WHO’s Social Determinants of Health Department:

1. **Scoping review of the evidence on how to create age-friendly communities in rural and remote areas:**
   a. The scoping review will build on a comprehensive, three-pronged search approach including (i) grey literature search to identify project reports and evaluations published e.g. on government, university and international agencies websites, (ii) a keyword search in relevant electronic databases to identify scientific articles on interventions to develop age-friendly rural and remote communities and their implementation barriers and enablers, and (iii) snowball sampling to gather expert input to complement the literature search. The detailed search strategy will be reviewed and approved by WHO.
   b. The search will be conducted in multiple languages to avoid a bias towards English-speaking countries.
   c. The review will include information spanning a timeframe of 10 years, i.e. comprising material from 2010 onwards.
   d. The review will focus on the following PICO elements, which will be finalized and further defined in collaboration with the WHO technical team:
      i. **P:** people aged 60 years and older residing in rural and remote areas
      ii. **I:** interventions, projects and programmes including the involved actors and sectors to develop age-friendly communities in rural and remote areas as well as the implementation barriers and enablers of such interventions to identify what works, what does not and how older people in rural and remote areas can be best reached
      iii. **C:** contrasting with the evidence on age-friendly cities and communities in urban areas and/or cities or communities without programmes to make their environments more age-friendly
      iv. **O:** outcomes related to healthy ageing, defined as developing and maintaining the functional ability that enables well-being in older age. Functional ability is determined by the intrinsic capacity of an individual (i.e. an individual’s physical and mental capacities), the environment in which he or she lives (understood in the broadest sense and including physical, social and policy environments) and the interactions among them
   e. The evidence base identified through the scoping review will be made available in an Excel sheet and a table illustrating the main characteristics of included interventions, projects and programmes.

2. **Peer-reviewed article summarizing and analysing the findings of the scoping review:**
   a. The main results of the scoping review will be summarized and analysed in a scientific article, which will be submitted to a peer-reviewed article. Categories for analysis will be discussed with the technical unit at WHO.
   b. The publication will be developed under the guidance of the technical team at WHO and requires WHO-internal clearance and adherence to WHO’s publication processes.
Responsible officers from the Demographic Change and Healthy Ageing Unit at the Department of Social Determinants of Health will be available for guidance, input and consultation during the entire project duration.

WHO will own the intellectual property of work produced through this contract, and appropriate attribution will be given to individuals and organizations involved in the development of the work.

4. Timeline

ESTIMATED TIME NECESSARY: February to May 2021.

ESTIMATED DURATION/PERIOD: approximately 4 months

5. Specific requirements

Interested organizations and individuals should meet the following requirements:

- 7+ years of experience in public health including previous experience with leading multidisciplinary research projects is required. Particular expertise in active and healthy ageing is essential. Previous experience in working with age-friendly networks, the development and evaluation of age-friendly cities and communities is an asset.
- Demonstrated experience in conducting systematic and/or scoping reviews and grey literature searches is required.
- Background in public health, gerontology, urban health or related field.
- Language: expert knowledge of English required and working knowledge of at least one other UN language preferred.

6. Place of assignment

The project can be completed remotely.

7. Travel

No travel is anticipated.

8. Compensation

Payment will be aligned to the WHO consultancy pay band(s) on headquarters level and will be commensurate based on experience of the service provider/team.

9. Application procedure

Interested organizations and applicants should send an email to Ramona LUDOLPH (ludolphr@who.int) by 8 January 2021 18h CET. Applicants are kindly requested to include the following information in their application:
- A cover letter describing their motivation for application and highlighting any specific skill or experience relevant,
- CVs of all team members,
- A cost estimate and proposed work plan.

Please make sure to indicate the specific project for which you are applying in the subject line.

Interviews will be held in the week of 18 – 22 January 2021 with an expected start date to be confirmed for early February 2021.