



AFENET
Secretariat Lugogo House, Ground
Floor (Wings B&C)
Plot 42, Lugogo By-Pass
P.O BOX 12874, Kampala, Uganda
Tel: +256 417 700 650
Fax: +256 312 265 595
www.afenet.net

November 10,2023

PROCUREMENT REFERENCE NUMBER: AFENET / RFQ/2023/11/002

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT

Project Name: OPERATIONAL RESEARCH CONSULTANT FOR ONE HEALTH

ASSIGNMENT TITLE: INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANCY SERVICE - CONSULTANT TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT OPERATIONAL RESEARCH ON ONE HEALTH

1. BACKGROUND

The African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET) is a non-profit organization established in 2005 with a mission to improve human health through the strengthening and expansion of applied epidemiology and laboratory capacity in partnership with Ministries of Health, Non-Governmental Organizations, international agencies, private sector, and other public health agencies. AFENET has its headquarters in Kampala, Uganda with operations in more than 40 African Countries.

The African Union, established as a unique Pan African continental body, is charged with spearheading Africa's rapid integration and sustainable development by promoting unity, solidarity, cohesion and cooperation among the peoples of Africa and African States as well as developing a new partnership worldwide. Its Headquarters is located in Addis Ababa, capital city of Ethiopia.

In 2020, Africa CDC officially launched its Framework for One Health Practice in National Public Health Institutes 2020 - 2025. This Frameworks describe strategies and tactics for Africa CDC to support Member States to improve surveillance and information sharing, laboratory capacity, emergency preparedness and response, workforce development and risk communication on zoonotic diseases.

Globalization, urban density, ease of travel and animal movement, environmental changes and habitat overlap between humans, animals and environment, all provide opportunities for the emergence and spread of disease that adversely impact both human and animal health, prosperity, food safety and security. A One Health approach is critical for the accelerated implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005), the OIE standards, to safeguard the socioeconomic and political integration of the continent and to achieve the aspirations of AU Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. The control of zoonotic diseases requires a collective, multisectoral and transdisciplinary, response to drive behaviour change, Africa CDC has been supporting member states in the implementation of the One Health across the continent.

Annually, the AU One Health Coordination Group on Zoonotic Diseases in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) work closely together at all levels to achieve this through continental advocacy on One Health.

The purpose of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is to outline the requirements and expectations for an Operational Research consultancy to support the One Health implementation activities including contributing to the development of the Africa Union One Health Strategy on zoonotic diseases. This is being supported by the Global Programme Pandemic Prevention and Response, One Health implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

It is in this light that AFENET on behalf of Africa CDC seeks to hire a consultant to coordinate and implement operational research on One Health formulated in the Framework for One Health in National Public Health Institutes.

2. OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of this call for consultancy is to lead the operational research for One Health implementation activities and support the development of the AU One Health Strategy on Zoonotic Diseases. The consultancy will develop assessment tools on One Health to support member states in their implementation of One Health approaches. Based on the findings, the operational research consultancy will provide strategic guidance and support to the Africa CDC in the development and implementation of the AU One Health Strategy for zoonotic diseases.

3. SCOPE OF WORK

The individual consultant is expected to provide the following outputs:

Output 1: A comprehensive operational research strategy on One Health for Africa CDC that includes tasks, activities, responsible persons, and timelines in line with the objective stated in the Framework for One Health Practice in National Public Health Institutes. A literature review portfolio for the operational research strategy and the AU One Health Strategy for zoonotic diseases. A structured literature review (targeted at policymakers, donors and private partners from the health care delivery and other sectors as may be required to highlight the progress made in One Health, zoonotic diseases mitigation efforts in Africa and the need for enhanced investment for One Health related work in Africa) implemented.

Output 2: Assessment tool to support future scoping visits on One Health coordination.

Output 3: Fact sheets and Blogspot on all zoonotic diseases

Output 4: Provide expert guidance on One Health-related activities including, but not limited to: Contributing to implementation of One Health related projects in coordination with other stakeholders.

Activities

Activity 1.1. Develop One Health operational research strategy and plan - including clear segmentation of target groups. Development of a comprehensive literature review to contribute to the objectives of the Framework for One Health Practice in National Public Health Institutes and to the development of the AU One Health Strategy on Zoonotic Diseases.

- Desk review studies and assessments on various topics related to One Health, including developing/reviewing One Health strategies and Frameworks.
- Support member states to develop their one health research? framework in the context of the Africa CDC One Health Framework
- Taking epidemiological analysis, risk assessment and forecasting of health threats requiring One Health interventions into account in the review exercise.
- Adapting existing information systems to improve collection of OH intelligence and information sharing within and across health sectors.
- Taking into account integrated and progressive One Health and biosecurity management approaches for evidence-based risk management along value chains.

Activity 1.2. Development of an assessment tool for assessments and scoping visits. The assessment tool will be used to determine baseline multisectoral mechanisms for one health implementation in member states:

- Support the identification of the One Health core competencies required for Veterinary Services and other relevant sectors at national and sub-national levels.
- Support activities to improve national capacity to apply an extended One Health approach for risk management at interfaces and along value chains.
- Support the implementation of an external evaluation mission, including consolidation of the final report.

Activity 1.3. Development of relevant fact sheets and communication materials to advance One Health work in Africa. This will include integrating existing advocacy messages and developing new compelling advocacy materials (press releases, oped articles, newsletters, factsheets, flyers, infographs etc.) and messages for the Africa CDC and the AU Taskforce on One Health. Development of specific messages for all segmented groups, development of campaign slogans and visuals, (graphic and visual content in AU working languages, detailed communication channels and communication products that contribute to campaign goals, and plan for mobilisation of target groups and the public.

- Develop communication strategy for the AU Task force on One Health to promote better visibility of the One Health programme on the continent.
- Facilitate the creation of a repository of key documents relevant to the One Health.

Activity 1.4. Provide expert guidance and support internal and external advocacy, networking, and partnership building. Contribute to extending the One Health approach to engage relevant sectors and disciplines including animal health, wildlife, environment, public, academia, research, and private sectors at global, regional, and national levels.

- Support the AU One Health Coordination Group on Zoonotic Diseases and support the coordination with internal and external partners on One Health- related activities
- Contributing to implementation of One Health related projects in coordination with other stakeholders
- Perform other related duties as required
- Support the coordinated implementation policies, and strategies for progressive risk management at national, regional, and global level, and the strengthening of institutional capacities for progress in international OH and sanitary standards.
- Support integrated One Health surveillance on health threats, including AMR and zoonotic diseases.
- Support the development of One Health technical guidelines/tools/products.

- Providing support to strengthen capacities/ tools, design and implementation of One Health monitoring and evaluation system in food and agriculture.

4. KEY DELIVERABLES

The above tasks are summarized into main deliverables shown below:

Deliverable 1.1.(under output 1):

- Contribute to data collection, monitoring and evaluation. Provide technical advice during the AU coordination group meetings, incorporate feedback, and produce the final report.
- Literature review portfolio for the operational research strategy and the AU One Strategy on zoonotic diseases to ensure that strategy is completed and is in line with project objectives.

Deliverable 1.2 (under output 2):

- Scoping visit assessment tool for all 55 states member states of key stakeholders, such as healthcare providers, veterinarians, CSOs, patient groups, and policymakers to amplify the One health program's impact.

Deliverable 1.3 (under Output 3):

- Communication plans, fact sheets, advocacy materials, press releases, Blogspot, social media products, multimedia content and multimedia zoonotic diseases communication materials for AUC and Africa CDC websites.
- Liaise with Africa CDC, editors, graphic designers, and technical staff to prepare the final documents for publication on the AU & Africa CDC website. Identify opportunities and synergies, and further develop concepts for implementing zoonotic disease control activities using a One Health approach.

Deliverable 1.4 (under Output 4):

- Provide expert technical input on program implementation: Provide technical expertise to regions and countries on country planning and accessing the One Health implementation.
- Provide technical advice to countries in topics such as mapping of One Health resources, implementation of One Health programs and funding opportunities and applications. Contribute to the AU one health coordination group meetings.
- To collate and review all comments received during meetings and prepare a synthesis of the material. To incorporate any changes recommended into the final documents.

Reporting Content

Workshop/Meeting reports: A template for these reports will be shared by Africa CDC to be completed after each workshop and key meetings

Final Report: The final report will include an executive summary of all deliverables understandable to non-technical readers with annexes with all the technical details of achieved deliverables.

Language: The reporting language for consultative meetings and reports as well as the deliverables will be in English.

5. DURATION OF CONSULTANCY

The consultancy service duration is **six (6) months** after the starting date of the project. The consultancy service's accomplishment will be the successful completion of the data collection and submission of all reports to Africa CDC.

6. APPLICATION SPECIFICATIONS

Interested consultants should include in their application the following:

- a) Statement about understanding of the assignment and why the desire to work with Africa CDC
- b) Curriculum vitae of the Consultant stating his/her relevant experience and capacity to undertake the work.
- c) Written reference and contacts of at least two organizations previously worked for and contact persons.
- d) Two (2) referees with good knowledge of the candidate's experience, including full contact details, telephone, and e-mail addresses.

7. DUTY STATIONS

The consultants will work remotely and in-person, if possible, with the team of the surveillance and disease intelligence at Africa CDC for the period of the contract.

8. QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE OF THE CONSULTANT

The INDIVIDUAL consultant should be well qualified with experience in public health research and communications in Africa, preferably with working experience at the international level. Specifically, the consultant will be expected to have the following minimum educational and work experience criteria:

- a) A Master's university degree in public health, veterinary public health or other fields related to the scope of work of this consultancy or a Bachelor's degree with proof of additional significant work experience in One Health related fields is also acceptable.
- b) At least 5- 10 years of experience in research, communication and advocacy, preferably in the healthcare sector.
- c) Proven experience in developing and implementing operational research strategies, preferably including on zoonotic disease guidelines or strategies and experience in developing a repository of key documents / establishing institutional memory platforms
- d) Working experience in Africa, preferably in the context of public health. Experience in multi-stakeholder and intersectoral dialogue, engagement, and management and in working with United Nations agencies as well as previous work with AU or international organization is an asset.
- e) Experience in developing partnerships with key stakeholders, such as healthcare providers, patient groups, and policymakers.
- f) Experience in strategic planning and capacity building.
- g) Excellent communication, interpersonal skills, problem-solving and organizational skills
- h) A good understanding of One Health, zoonotic diseases, and its impact on public health.

9. LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT:

Full professional working proficiency (written and spoken) in English. Knowledge of more or several other African Union working languages (Spanish , French, Arabic, Portuguese, or Swahili) would be an added advantage.

10. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Technical Proposal Evaluation points		
1.	General Education, Qualification, and Relevant Training	30
Experience Related to the Assignment		
1.	Experience in health information system strengthening	70
2.	Total	100

Interested candidates are requested to submit the following documents for AFENET's and Africa CDC 's consideration:

a) Technical Proposal not exceeding 10 pages on:

- understanding and interpretation of the TOR
- methodology to be used in undertaking the assignment
- time and activity schedule

b) financial proposal not exceeding 1 page

- Consultant's daily rate in US\$
- Other costs e.g., travel
- Total cost

c) Personal Capacity Statement

- Relevant experience related to the assignment (include samples of two most recent similar works and/or references for the same)
- Contacts of at least 3 organizations previously worked for

d) Curriculum Vitae of the Consultant (s)

11. SERVICES AND FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED BY AFENET AND AFRICA CDC

The individual consultant will be supervised by the Head of Surveillance and Disease Intelligence, Africa CDC for the purpose of delivering the above outputs within the agreed time frame. This consultancy will be based in Addis Ababa at the Africa CDC Headquarters with flexibility to work remotely.

This requirement is flexible with respect to AU physical distancing requirements for the pandemic (COVID-19) response effort. Africa CDC will cover the cost of travel including economy- class air tickets and other necessary expenses when travel is required according to the AU rules and regulations.

Africa CDC will provide to the individual the following document and facility:

- The Africa CDC will identify and assign technical staff to support implementation process.
- Africa CDC will provide the necessary documentation and information required for the assignment.
- Maintain regular follow-up of the activities done by the consultants, review and comment on the submitted deliverables and work done.
- Assist in organizing consultative meetings with Member States and other stakeholders

12. INVITATION

AFENET invites eligible and qualified individuals to indicate their interest in providing the Services. should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services.

Further information can be obtained by sending an inquiry to secprocurement@afenet.net.

13. RESPONSE TO THE CALL

Electronic submission of the applicant's resume, application letter, and relevant documentation should be submitted to: secprocurement@afenet.net.

And copy : skyambadde@afenet.net

Deadline for receipt of proposals is **Monday November 27, 2023- 17;00hrs GMT**

*ONLY successful candidates shall be contacted for an interview.