



# World Health Organization

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## CONSULTANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

WHO Rwanda in Collaboration with Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC) is inviting suitable qualified consultancy firm to apply for the following consultancy:

**Title:** Assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on immunization delivery system

**Date issue:** 25/05/2021

**Deadline:** 07/06/2021

### **1. Background**

The COVID-19 pandemic has drawn worldwide attention and a global response. All the countries and areas have initiated measures to contain, mitigate transmission and reduce the impact of the outbreak on health-care systems, including shifting health-care resources to the COVID-19 response. Implementing prevention measures such as physical distancing at all levels of society, travel restrictions and closures of international borders, and community quarantines at subnational or national levels resulted in the slow of COVID-19 spread in many countries. However, the COVID-19 disease and its prevention measures have impacted negatively the socio-economic development and health services delivery system.

The immunization is a core health service that could be affected by measures put in place to control the pandemic. The COVID-19 is putting pressure on global manufacturer production capacities, supply availability and logistics, with the risk to affect the continuation of immunization services in countries. Instituting of lockdowns, travel and mass gathering restrictions to contain the spread of the virus have also impacted the logistic, the demand for immunization and vaccination service delivery by limiting the visits of the community to the health facilities for seeking health

services including immunization and causing the suspension of immunization outreach services. This may result in the low uptake of the vaccination leading to the decline of immunization coverage.

The risk of disruption to routine immunization activities due to both COVID-19 related burden on the health system and decreased demand for vaccination because of social distancing requirements or community reluctance is also high. Disruption of immunization services, even for brief periods, would result in increased numbers of susceptible individuals and raise the likelihood of outbreak-prone vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs) such as measles.

## **2. Justification**

In Rwanda, the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed on 14 March 2020. As of 28 April 2021, 24,888 people were affected, and 332 people died of the disease. Immediately after the confirmation of the first case, lockdowns, travel restrictions measures and closure of the schools were established to control the spread of the outbreak in the country. These measures may have affected vaccination services in one way or another. Supply chain and immunization services delivery may have been affected by the interruption/ slowing of international movements and trade; lockdowns and travel restriction. Compared to 2019, the average of coverage for DPT3 decreased by 9.9% in 2020, while the Measle rubella coverage reduced by 3.8%. About 44,797 children missed their DPT and Polio3 vaccines and 44,086 were not vaccinated against Measles and Rubella. In view of these challenges, the Ministry of Health expressed the need of assessing the impact of COVID-19 on immunization delivery system. This assessing is critical for a deep analysis of factors that may have contributed to the low immunization coverage. It will also help to document best practices, challenges and mitigation measures that can be implemented in the future to achieve and maintain high performant immunization system. The WHO will provide necessary support for the design, implementation of the assessment, as well as dissemination of the findings.

## **3. Objectives**

The main objective of this consultancy is to design and implement the assessment, to identify COVID-19 related factors that may have affected the immunization service delivery during the pandemic as well documenting best practices and innovations to overcome the challenging situations. All the key components of immunization system will be assessed

### **Specific objectives:**

1. Evaluate program operations, financing and human resources management during COVID-19 pandemic at national and subnational level
2. Review the vaccine and ancillary supply management system and logistic and identify their level of adaptation to respond to vaccines demand during COVID-19

3. Identify internal and external barriers to immunization service delivery, VPDs and AEFIs surveillance at all level of the immunization and VPDs surveillance system during COVID-19 outbreak
4. Appraise the immunization data management system and utilization for monitoring the progress of coverage
5. Examine the communication strategies and flow, and identify any changes caused by COVID-19 which may have affected the demand generation for vaccination
6. Document best practices and innovations that were implemented to overcome challenges caused by COVID-19 pandemic

#### **4. Work assignment**

The consultant or firm will be requested to conduct the following activities:

1. Design the protocol for the assessment and assessment questionnaire
2. Submit the assessment protocol for ethic approval
3. Conduct a deep desk review to evaluate immunization program operations, monitoring and evaluation at all level of the immunization system during COVID-19 pandemic
4. Organize and facilitate the orientation workshop for data collection and supervision
5. Organize and supervise the field activities for data collection
6. Perform data entry, cleaning and analysis and draft the preliminary assessment findings
7. Organize and facilitate meeting to present the preliminary findings
8. Elaborate assessment report and facilitate the dissemination workshop

#### **5. Deliverables**

1. Submission of inception report which include the situation analysis, methodology for the implementation and timelines for the completion of the assessment
2. Finalizing the assessment design, data collection tools, and organizing the orientation workshop
3. Preliminary report drafted and findings review meeting organized
4. Final report submitted

#### **6. Scope of work**

The work will be performed in collaboration with the Maternal Child and Community Health (MCCH)/Vaccine Program Unit and the Public Health Surveillance Emergency Preparedness and Response (PHS&EPR) division within the Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC). RBC will provide necessary support to the consultant firm such as facilitating communication with relevant stakeholders for a smooth implementation of the activities.

#### **7. Qualification**

The consultancy firm should:

- be registered in RDB. This registration is proven by the provision of a certificate from RGB.

- have public health experts with extensive working experience in public health research including design and implementation of nationwide surveys
- prove capacity to carry out the scope of work with a professional team able to undertake the research activities evidenced by detailed CVs of key staff
- have good understanding of the Rwanda health and immunization system
- have capacity to elaborate and present documents in English

#### **8. Proposal documents and submission**

The consultancy firm will submit proposal which comprises the technical and financial details. The technical proposal should be a narrative which includes the proposed approach, methodology and timeframe for each deliverable. Staffing structure, including staff CVs with completion certificates of research activities undertaken in the past, details of days per team member articulated against a workplan of activities should be also included. The financial proposal includes activities and budget details. Interested firms shall submit their proposals with their full address to [afwcorw@who.int](mailto:afwcorw@who.int)

#### **9. Selection and contract signing**

After analysis of proposals and interviews, WHO Rwanda will notify the winner in writing and call for discussion followed by contract signing if fully agree. The work is expected to start immediately after contract signing.

WHO Rwanda reserves the right to cancel any or all the proposal without assigning any reason thereof.

Done at Kigali, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021

  
**Dr Kasimira MWINGA**  
**WHO Representative/Rwanda**

