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KFW



RECRUITMENT OF A FIRM FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ECOWAS REGIONAL
LABORATORY MAPPING

TERMS OF REFERENCE

I. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Sub-Saharan Africa is extremely affected by malaria, tuberculosis and other often fatal infectious diseases. Improving the health of populations is therefore an important human development issue. This requires the strengthening of health systems and in particular laboratory services. The quality of the biological diagnosis is indeed a crucial element in the identification of the disease and the choice of the therapeutic strategy to allow a cure.

In the West African region, weak laboratory capacity, infrastructure and data management hamper effective disease surveillance. The surveillance structure and the diagnostic and quality assurance capacities of laboratories are weak, and this weakness translates into difficulties both for the individual management of patients and for the implementation of public health programmes in their screening and epidemiological surveillance components. National data, when available, is not frequently shared with national and international stakeholders.

The technical platforms of existing biomedical analysis laboratories vary from one country to another and within the same country. Collaboration or cooperation between laboratories is also weak and this affects the performance of health systems in terms of resilience to recurrent diseases and epidemics and other public health events.

In this context, the West African Health Organization (WAHO), as the ECOWAS Specialized Health Institution, is setting up a mission to carry out a mapping of all laboratories in the ECOWAS region aimed at strengthening the laboratory sector by addressing its various problems such as the deficiency of information systems, the insufficient quality of laboratory services, the poor performance of the systems for purchasing, managing, maintaining and logistics equipment and consumables, the inadequacy of regulation and governance of biological activity and others.

WAHO therefore needs to be equipped to continuously measure the capacity of countries in terms of laboratories, biomedical equipment, health human resources in quantity and quality, in order to better orient its regional interventions in the perspective of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

Health mapping seems to be one of the most appropriate tools that allows to integrate the most relevant parameters that characterize the health systems of a country in general, and in terms of regional specificities and disparities.

The establishment of a Regional Health Card is therefore in line with a concern to improve the management of laboratories within the ECOWAS region. The Health Card will allow for a better channeling of the health interventions and resources mobilized by WAHO and its partners, with a view to equity in the appropriate support for each member country. The data provided will help

WAHO to harmonize, inter alia, the nomenclature of laboratories and the essential package of services offered by the different levels of existing laboratories. Finally, the information it will provide will not only allow for better planning of WAHO's interventions at the regional level, but will also constitute a good advocacy tool for the mobilization of additional resources and the coordination of the interventions of development partners.

I. OBJECTIVES

The overall objective is to provide WAHO with a regional database of biomedical laboratory maps to assess country needs, plan regional interventions, advocate and mobilize resources, with a view to supporting ECOWAS member countries in the continuous improvement of performance gaps between existing and norms and standards in terms of laboratory infrastructure and equipment. health human resources and organizing the supply and demand of laboratory services.

More specifically, it will involve:

- Count with geolocation parameters, the infrastructures and equipment of existing biomedical laboratories in the sectors of human health, animal health and agricultural and environmental health, whether public or private;
- Determine the package of services offered (technical platforms) by type of laboratory and according to the existing health pyramid;
- Develop a regional database of cartographic laboratories in the ECOWAS region;
- Produce a regional catalogue available online for ECOWAS member countries;

II. EXPECTED RESULTS

- The geolocation parameters, infrastructure and equipment of existing biomedical laboratories in the sectors of human health, animal health and agricultural and environmental health, whether public or private, are counted;
- The package of services offered (technical platforms) by type of laboratory and according to the existing health pyramid is determined;
- A regional cartographic database of biomedical laboratories in the ECOWAS region is being developed;
- A regional catalogue available online for ECOWAS member countries;

III. AVAILABLE

At the end of the assignments, the consultant (firm) must provide the following elements:

- A regional cartographic database of all existing laboratories in the four sectors of One Health with a computerized geographic information system (GIS);

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- A regional catalogue available online for ECOWAS member countries;
- A comprehensive consultation mission report

IV. METHODOLOGY

At the administrative level:

As a first step, WAHO will launch a call for expressions of interest in order to receive applications for the constitution of a shortlist for the recruitment of a firm subject to these terms of reference and in accordance with the rules of the KFW. Firms that will be selected on the shortlist will be required to have specialized expertise in mapping and have demonstrated successful experiences in the region or elsewhere.

The process will take place as follows:

1. Call for Expressions of Interest: WAHO will publish a call for applications and will constitute a shortlist of a minimum of six (06) firms that meet the specified criteria.
2. A Request for Proposal will then be issued using the Quality and Cost Based Selection Method (QCS) with the shortlisted firms submitting their proposals in two separate envelopes (Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal). The firm with the highest combined score will be invited to a negotiation session with a view to closing the contract.
3. Validation meetings: Meetings, whether virtual or face-to-face, will be organized at WAHO headquarters to validate the deliverables submitted by the firm.
4. Staff Orientation: WAHO will put in place internal arrangements to guide the firm on the use and updating of the database developed by the consultant.

On the technical level:

The Consultant (firm) must develop the regional health map on the basis of a solid technical requirement which can be broken down as follows:

- The Regional Map of Laboratories should be designed in such a way that it presents, at a given point in time, the situation of existing laboratories in the ECOWAS region as a whole, of individual member countries as well as of the health regions and districts of countries. It must be both a management tool, with the aim of supporting countries to ensure access and equity in the use of laboratory services. It is also an advocacy, guidance, planning and monitoring tool made available to the PROALAB Project and WAHO Technical Departments and also accessible to ECOWAS member countries. It determines the boundaries of geographical, administrative and health entities, the type of laboratory infrastructure, the equipment and the human resources necessary to meet the needs of human, animal, environmental and food biomedical laboratory analyses.

- The regional laboratory map must have the following characteristics:
 - It is descriptive (makes the situation at a given moment);
 - It is comparative (allows a comparison between the existing and predefined standards and gives an idea of the disparities between countries and between regions of a country and between health districts of a country);
 - It is analytical (establishes dynamic links between the different levels of a country's health system);
 - It is operational (allows regional planning as well as the definition of a regional strategy on the basis of a rapid diagnosis and a prospective vision);
 - It is multidisciplinary (embraces factors related to the One Health approach);
 - It is programmatic (facilitates the definition and planning of priority actions in terms of laboratories);
 - It is dynamic (facilitates projection on the basis of additional information and analysis according to the evolution of the health sector).

At the operational level:

The Consultant's (firm) work plan must show:

- That all 15 member countries must be visited (*in silico* and/or in person);
- The organization and duration of country visits;
- The data collection tools to be submitted for validation;
- Institutions to contact that may already have the information in certain countries (Mérieux Foundation, ASLM, Fleming Fund, etc.);
- Relevant private partners to contact who have relevant information in terms of equipment and reagents (Applied Biosystems, Cepheid, Illumina, Oxford Nanopore Technologies, Biomérieux (Vitek), etc.)
- The results analysis plan;
- Or any other table showing the coherence of the consulting engagement.

V. QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THE MISSION

The assignment must be conducted by a consultant (firm) with the following qualifications and skills:

- Have qualified personnel as indicated in point VI.
- Have carried out at least 04 similar missions at the level of African countries in general and in West Africa in particular over the last ten (10) years (from the year 2014);
- The firm's experience with technical and financial partners with similar activities in the region (WHO, WHO-Afro, African CDC, ASLM, Mérieux Foundation, Fleming Fund,) would be an advantage;

VI. STAFF

- **Head of mission: A university-level laboratory expert** (PhD thesis in a relevant field) with at least 10 years of experience in laboratory system organization and analysis in

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West Africa.

The Head of Mission will have the facilitation skills in a multidisciplinary team;
Be able to speak and write fluently in French and/or English and/or Portuguese. Being bilingual or trilingual in these languages would be an advantage;

- **An IT expert** with a Bac+5 level in computer science and at least 5 years' experience in the development of software or software application, the entry of geo-referential information.

Experience in the field of map database development would be a plus;
Mastery of GIS mapping software would be a plus;

- **An expert in cartography or geomatics** : with a Bac+5 level in cartography or geomatics and with at least 5 years' experience in setting up laboratory mapping at the regional and national level.

Experience in the field of map database development would be a plus;
Mastery of GIS mapping software would be a plus.

VII. DURATION OF THE MISSION

The mission will take place over a period of 6 months from January 2025.

VIII. CONDITIONS OF ENGAGEMENT

A consultant contract will be established in accordance with KFW's procurement procedures between WAHO and the selected consultant

X. TIMETABLE OF ACTIVITIES

	Activities	January	February	March	April	May	June
1	Finalization of the contract and signature						
2	Two internal (virtual) protocol validation meetings at WAHO headquarters						
3	Data collection missions in the 15 countries (5 days per country). Part of the collection will be done in silico and via questionnaires.						
4	Data analysis and proposal of a conceptual framework for the implementation of laboratory mapping for both regional and national levels						
5	Internal meetings to validate the conceptual framework for the implementation of laboratory mapping at regional and national level						
6	Development of the database of the regional laboratory mapping platform						
7	Installation of the IT tools of the database of the regional laboratory mapping platform						
8	Training of WAHO technical staff in the use and updating of the developed database						
9	Regional workshop to report on the consultation mission and planning of support to member countries						