

AFRICAN UNION

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CALL FOR PROPOSAL – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT

**CONTINENTAL ASSESSMENT OF COVID-19 MORTALITY AND ASSOCIATED
CO- MORBIDITIES IN AFRICA**

App Reference #: AUC/ACDC/C/018

1. BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic has had cross-sectoral impact across many countries in the world with over 20,812,596 cases. As at 17 August 2020, 1,118,765 cases and 25,615 deaths had been reported across the African continent. Considering the continent's fragile health systems, the pandemic has negatively affected not only the health indices but the wider socioeconomic indicators.

Africa CDC being the continental health expert, strengthens the capacity and capability of Africa's public health institutions as well as partnerships to detect and respond quickly and effectively to disease threats and outbreaks, based on data-driven interventions and programmes.

The African Union and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) launched a new initiative, the Partnership to Accelerate COVID-19 Testing (PACT): Test (to diagnose cases), Trace (Identify cases and their contacts) and Treat (Provide supportive care for cases). The initiative facilitates implementation of the Africa Joint Continental Strategy for COVID-19, endorsed by African Ministers of Health on 22 February 2020 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and approved by the Bureau of the Assembly of the African Union Heads of State and Government on 26 March 2020 with an aim to prevent severe illness and death from COVID-19 infection in African Union Member States and minimize social disruption and the economic consequences of COVID-19.

The majority (~70%) of those infected with SARS-CoV-2 are known to be asymptomatic or to have moderate illness (~25%). The remaining 5% who develop severe COVID-19 and are at high risk of death are usually older than 65 or have underlying comorbidities, the most common of which are hypertension, obesity, and diabetes. While such data has been reported worldwide, there are currently limited data from most African countries on underlying co-morbidities that could contribute or exacerbate mortality in patients with COVID-19. Some preliminary data from South Africa indicated that 65% of those who died from COVID-19 had more than one underlying co-morbidity but data is lacking elsewhere on the continent, and in particular, from countries where the COVID-19 mortality rate is higher than the global average of 4.8%, namely Liberia (8.7%), Chad (8.3%), Algeria (7.0%), Niger (6.7%), Burkina Faso (6.0%), Sudan (6.0%) and Mali (5.9%).

The collection of data on the underlying co-morbidities of COVID-19 will ensure that we obtain a better understanding of the characteristics of this disease in the African population to provide evidence-based case management guidelines to help identify and better stratify patients at higher risk of COVID-19-related mortality in our setting. The study will conduct a systematic review of all cases of COVID-19 in an African country reporting the highest proportions of deaths and to retrieve data on their demographics, disease progression (whether they were hospitalized, intubated, the outcomes of hospitalization, etc.), and risk factors (the presence of underlying comorbidities and/or co-infections).

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE CONSULTANCY

To work closely with the targeted Member States to assess COVID-19 mortality and associated Co- Morbidities in Africa

Specific objectives:

- a) To conduct a systematic review and primary data collection of all cases of COVID-19 in an African country reporting the highest proportions of death
- b) To retrieve data on their demographics, disease progression (whether they were hospitalized, intubated, the outcomes of hospitalization, etc.)
- c) Assess risk factors (the presence of underlying comorbidities and/or co-infections).

3. SCOPE OF WORK

Below are specific tasks the consultant must complete

- a) Reviewing data and produce inception report outlining details of activities indicating delivery dates and a range of methodologies to be used in accomplishing the task.
- b) Developing data collection tools for cases of COVID19 in ----- most affected countries
- c) Retrieve data on cases demographics, disease progression
- d) Develop a comprehensive report COVID-19 mortality and associated Co-Morbidities in Africa

4. KEY DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE

	Milestone/Deliverable/Task	Due Date
i.	inception report	December 2020
ii.	Draft Report Submitted to Africa CDC and CDC Foundation	February 2021

iii.	Final Report Submitted to Africa CDC and CDC Foundation	March 31, 2021
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5. DURATION OF CONSULTANCY

The duration of the consultancy service will cover the planning, deliberation, and proceedings writing time, not later than six (6) months after the starting date of the project. Accomplishment of the consultancy service will be successful completion of the data collection and submission of post assessment reports to Africa CDC.

6. APPLICATION SPECIFICATIONS

Interested consultants should include in their application the following:

- a) Curriculum vitae of the consultant stating his/her relevant experience and capacity to undertake the work
- b) Proof of extensive experience in Public Health, health sciences research, health systems management, infectious diseases and other related technical disciplines.
- c) Contacts of at least 3 organizations previously worked for and contact persons
- d) Understanding of the Assignment -Technical approach and methodology and Work Plan

7. CONSULTANCY FEE

Africa Union shall pay the Consultant a fixed sum of US 19,000. If there is any travel related to the assignment, AUC will cover the cost of Travel and DSA.

8. QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE OF THE CONSULTANT

- A University Masters degree or equivalent in a relevant health science such as Medicine, Epidemiology, Public Health or any appropriate related discipline;
- A minimum of at least 5 years relevant post qualifying experience in conducting Public Health Research
- At least not less than 1 years of research experience in Non-Communicable Diseases at a national or regional organisation/regional economic community in Africa;

9. GOVERNANCE AND SUPPORT BY AUC

- Office accommodation;
- Support from the AUC;
- Data, previous studies and reports;

- Photocopying, stationery;
- Facilitation of Visa; and
- Internet Access

10. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Technical Proposal Evaluation points		
1.	General Education, Qualification and Relevant Training	20
Experience Related to the Assignment		
1.	Experience relevant to the assignment	50
2.	Understanding of the assignment – Methodology and technical approach to undertake the assignment	30
3.	Total	100

11. REQUIRED DOCUMENTATIONS

Interested Consultants are required to submit the following

- a) Statement about understanding about the assignment – Methodology
- b) Curriculum Vitae

Invitation

The African Union Commission now invites eligible **Individual Consultants** to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested candidate must provide information demonstrating that he/she has the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 8:00-13:00hrs and 14:00-17:00 hours Local Time.

Proposal must be delivered in a written form to the address below not later than 11:00 hours local time, on 3rd December 2020.

**African Union Commission,
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