

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES– INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

**CONSULTANCY SERVICES-STRENGTHEN INFECTION, PREVENTION AND
CONTROL (IPC) ACTIVITIES-**

**INFECTIOUS DISEASE EXPERT-
INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL INFECTION, PREVENTION AND
CONTROL (IPC).**

GRANT NUMBER: 21-SB0886

Date: July 14, 2022

REFERENCE No.: AUC/SDI/C/031

The African Union has received financing from the Expertise France.

Development Objective of the Project: The Project Development Objective is to provide funding of Technical Assistance to support the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), in the framework of the project supporting the African Union and the Africa CDC in combatting COVID-19.

1. Background

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) is a specialized technical institution of the African Union that support Member States in their efforts to strengthen their health systems. Africa CDC was officially launched in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on January 31, 2017 as the Africa's first continent-wide public health agency and envisions a safer, healthier, integrated and stronger Africa, where Member States are capable of effectively responding to outbreaks of infectious diseases and other public health threats. The agency mission is to strengthen Africa's public health institutions' capabilities and capacity to detect and respond quickly and effectively to disease outbreaks and other health burdens through an integrated network of continent-wide preparedness and response, surveillance, laboratory, and research programs.

A continental strategy for COVID-19 response was developed and an African Task Force on Coronavirus (AFTCOR) was launched to coordinate the preparedness and response efforts on the continent. The continental strategy and the Taskforce were adopted by Member State Health Ministers during the 22 February 2020 Emergency ministerial meeting on COVID-19 held at the AU headquarters.

Africa CDC has been working closely with African Member States to strengthen their preparedness and response capabilities to limit transmission and minimize the resulting morbidity and mortality from the COVID-19 outbreak, by improving infection, prevention and control (IPC) in Member states.

2. Objective of the Assignment

The lack of appropriate, effective IPC measures has been devastating during recent outbreaks and has resulted in lives lost among healthcare workers and patients. Africa CDC has developed the IPC Legal Framework and IPC minimum standards with a key strategy of limiting healthcare transmission of infections through the implementation and strengthening of IPC and WASH in healthcare facilities and will help foster political commitment among the Member States.

Hence, Africa CDC invites applicants who are citizens of Member States to apply for the consultant position of **Infectious Disease Expert: Infection prevention and control Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC)**.

The overall objective of this call for consultancy is to support the coordination and facilitation of all IPC activities; COVID-19 prevention and response. The Infection Preventionist will provide expertise regarding infection prevention practices, outbreak management, preparation, and response for infections, outbreaks and surveillance of HAIs in healthcare settings. The consultant will develop training resources (IPC curriculum) that will be used to facilitate trainings and to support countries in improving IPC capacity during outbreaks and surveillance of HAIs. The IPC consultant will report on the progression of the work accomplished to its manager within Africa CDC.

3. Scope of Work

The individual consultant is expected to undertake the following:

Output 1: Development of a standardised IPC curriculum, didactic element for knowledge acquisition, and related skill competencies.

- Activity 1.1: Conduct a scoping exercise on what internationally recognized IPC training programmes exist, in which institutions at what academic level and type of accreditations.
- Activity 1.2: Conduct a needs assessment of the capacity building needs of IPC professionals in all 55 member states, define the most suitable training approach to meet these needs.
- Activity 1.3: Identify/map all possible continental and international partners that can support the Africa CDC in the roll out of the trainings.
- Activity 1.4: Develop institutionally accepted curricula for IPC post-graduate courses/certificates or diplomas, that can be used in combination with education and training curricula and evaluation tools that may be already in place locally.

- Activity 1.5: Develop a top to bottom training strategy and approach that prioritizes the step-down trainings at country level.

- Activity 1.6: Map national IPC focal persons for all member states, develop a database of national IPC focal persons, IPC experts and partners working on IPC

Activity 1.7: Coach national IPC coordinators on leadership role in driving reliable practices, inform strategic, technical and operational decisions related to IPC best practices and implementation.

Output 2: Development and implementation of IPC national policies and IPC.

- Activity 1.1: Conduct a mapping exercise of existing national IPC Programs in Africa.
- Activity 1.2: Support the development and strengthening of national IPC programs/ Committees, policies & procedures to address the Infection Prevention needs of member states.
- Activity 1.3: Provides expert consultation to Member States to inform strategic, technical and operational decisions related to AMR-IPC best practices, COVID-19 and other outbreaks, and implementation.
- Activity 1.4: Support the implementation of the Africa CDC IPC Legal Framework in Member states.

4. Deliverables

The above tasks are summarized into main deliverables shown below:

- a) Detailed needs assessment report highlighting the capacity building needs of IPC professionals in all 55 member states, define the most suitable training approach to meet these needs.
- b) A database of national IPC focal persons for all member states, develop a database of national IPC focal persons, IPC experts and partners working on IPC on the continent
- c) A detailed institutionally accepted curricula for IPC post-graduate courses/certificates or diploma for training IPC focal points and HCWs
- d) A detailed guide on providing IPC supervisory or mentorship activities for to IPC best practices and implementation.
- e) A Technical report that reflects expert support provided to Member States to implement the Africa CDC Legal Framework.

5. Required Qualification and Experience

The consultant should be well qualified with experience in public health or humanitarian emergencies in Africa, preferably internationally. Specifically, the Consultant will be expected to have the following minimum educational and work experience criteria:

a) Education

Essential: An advanced level university degree (masters level or above) in Medicine, Medical Sciences or Nursing, epidemiology, or public health with specialization in IPC or infectious diseases and documented expertise in implementation science, and/or quality improvement.

Desirable: Post-graduate degree/training in public health, management, adult based learning, curriculum development and/or related areas relevant to the functions of the position.

b) Experience in:

Essential: A minimum seven years of experience in implementing IPC, ideally at facility, national and international levels. Experience of IPC health facility assessments and subsequent development and implementation of appropriate IPC intervention plans. Experience of IPC programme data collection and interpretation as part of quality improvement of IPC programs. Demonstrated experience in delivering trainings and building capacity. Experience working with multiple partners in implementing IPC measures in low resource settings.

Desirable: Experience with evaluation of national IPC programmes in developing countries. Previous experience in NPHIs/MOHs, international institutions or nongovernmental organizations, particularly in developing countries. Experience working in COVID-19 or Ebola IPC will be added value.

6. Language Requirement:

Applicants must be proficient in both English and French languages. Knowledge of more or several other African Union working languages (English, French, Arabic or Portuguese) would be an added advantage.

7. Duration of the Assignment

The duration of the assignment will be for **six (06) months** from the date of contract signature.

8. Consultancy Fee

Remuneration is payable strictly linked to deliverables and as per the schedule provided under 'Key deliverables and schedule 'shown above. It is negotiable but based on qualifications and experience and the applicable AU rates for the level of the consultancy. The cost includes all consultant's fees and profit. Fees payable do not include costs associated with project related travels, coordination/organization of project related activities and events, stakeholder dialogues, consultations and workshops. These costs will be met by the AU.

Payment will be made as per the following manner:

#	Deliverables	% of Payment
1	Inception report for desk review including methodology for data collection and sources for literature review for the outputs highlighted in the scope of work	15%
2	Detailed needs assessment report highlighting the capacity building needs of IPC professionals in all 55 member states, define the most suitable training approach to meet these needs.	15%
3	A database of national IPC focal persons for all member states, develop a database of national IPC focal persons, IPC experts and partners working on IPC on the continent	10%
4	A detailed institutionally accepted curricula for IPC post-graduate courses/certificates or diploma	40%
5	A Technical report that reflects expert support provided to Member States implement the Africa CDC Legal Framework. Highlight technical support to inform strategic, technical and operational decisions related to COVID-19, AMR-IPC best practices, other outbreaks, and implementation.)	10%
6	A detailed guide on providing IPC supervisory or mentorship activities for to IPC best practices and implementation.	10%

9. Required Documentations

- a) Cover letter – Please also include statement why the candidate desires to work with Africa CDC and the specific role
- b) A detailed and updated curriculum vitae (CV), and indicating nationality, age and gender.
- c) Three (3) referees with good knowledge of the candidate's work, furnishing full contact details, telephone, fax and e-mail addresses.

10. Evaluation and Qualification Criteria

1. General experience - 10 Points
2. Specific Experience relevant to the assignment – 50 Points
3. Qualifications – 30 Points
4. Language – 10 Points

11. 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 the study understandable to non-technical readers with annexes with all the technical details of achieved deliverables.

Language: The reporting language for consultative meetings and reports will be in English.

Number of report(s) copies: All reports will be submitted in electronic version to the Head of Disease Control & Prevention, Africa CDC

12. Services and Facilities to be provided by Africa CDC

The individual consultant will be supervised by the Head of Disease Control & Prevention, 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 consultant the following document and facility:

- a) The Africa CDC will identify and assign technical staff in implementation process.
- b) Africa CDC will provide the necessary documentation and information required for the assignment.
- c) Maintain regular follow-up of the activities done by the consultants, review and comment on the submitted deliverables and work done.
- d) Assist in organizing consultative meetings with Member States and other stakeholders
- e) Provision of office room and internet facility during visit to Africa CDC facilities.

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.

The Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Individual Selection method set out in the AU Procurement Manual V.2.0.

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

Interested consultants must respond to the call by sending their comprehensive CVs in a written form following **the above criteria** to the emails below before 17:00 Hours Addis Ababa Time on **29th July 2022**.

**Africa Centres for Diseases Control and Prevention,
Attn: Head of Management and Administration**

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