

Vacancy notice:

Consultant on TSE tool development within the Initiative for Vaccine Research, Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals

1. Purpose of the Consultancy

The purpose of this consultancy is to develop prioritisation tools and models for use in the WHO Total Systems Effectiveness (TSE) project. The consultant is expected to plan the overarching architecture for the tools required for TSE, conceptualise how they interact, and to develop tools iteratively in consultation with end-users, incorporating appropriate methods and best practise.

The consultancy is proposed from 16 September 2019 to 30 June 2020.

2. Background

Vaccine product innovation offers the opportunity to bring significant benefits to immunisation programmes, in terms of improved health impact, coverage and equity, programmatic efficiency, or reduced cost to immunize. However, products appropriate for low and middle income countries often face slow development and limited uptake, in part due to misalignment between research priorities at the global level and the priorities of country immunisation programmes. WHO's Total Systems Effectiveness (TSE) work aims to contribute to the introduction and expansion of new and under-utilised vaccines by building capacity to identify priorities and evaluate interventions from the country and regional perspective; and use this as a platform for countries to inform the global vaccine innovation agenda.

WHO conducted a TSE pilot from January 2018 – April 2019 to iteratively develop a process and tool to support countries in evaluating interventions according to their priorities. The resulting Excel-based TSE decision-support tool has been piloted for HPV product selection in Mali and has received additional feedback during orientation workshops with Ministry of Health, NITAG and WHO country office representatives across Indonesia and eight countries in West and Central Africa. The tool supports a core team within the Ministry of Health to coordinate a structured and transparent recommendation process. It is based on multi-criteria decision analysis, with a specific focus on facilitating group discussions to come to an evidence-based, context-specific recommendation.

The TSE pilot has since been expanded to use the country-level work to establish a platform for country priorities to inform global vaccine research and development (TSE R&D framework). WHO/IVB is seeking a consultant to develop a plan for the different tools and methodologies needed across the TSE project, aligning with existing initiatives for health technology assessment (HTA) and primary healthcare (PHC), and to develop and iteratively update the package of tools through piloting.

3. Description of the position

The consultant is expected to conduct the following activities:

- to continue the development and expansion of tools for country use, including i) iterative development of the current TSE decision-support tool, ii) development and incorporation of a resource catalogue to facilitate evidence collection, and iii) inclusion of TSE barriers guidance to identify priorities according to equity and access considerations;
- to scope best practise for MCDA, health technology assessment (HTA), and prioritisation to ensure that TSE tools and processes follow best practice and are aligned with universal health coverage (UHC) and primary healthcare (PHC) initiatives; and
- to collaborate with the TSE project team and project manager to develop an overarching plan of specific tools required for the TSE R&D framework (for country priorities to inform the global agenda), and to iteratively develop these tools in consultation with end-users.

4. Specific requirements

- Qualifications required:

- Bachelors or Masters degree in Sciences, Economics, Technology or another related field.

- Experience required:

- At least 4 years experience including modelling, user-centred design, health sector prioritisation, or other related field
- Experience developing user-friendly models, tools, or programmes. Demonstrated experience in human-centred design advantageous.
- Familiarity with multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA), health technology assessment (HTA), discrete choice experiments (DCE), and/or priority-setting for decision-making is desirable.

- Skills / Technical skills and knowledge:

- Strong modelling skills in Excel is essential. Experience developing user-friendly tools with other software packages is an advantage.
- Ability to conduct background literature searches and understand analytical methods.
- Capability to interact with technical experts in public health organisations, governments, academia and industry, with respect to vaccination
- Results-oriented management style, self-starter and excellent consultative skills

- Language requirements:

- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English
- Written and spoken proficiency in French and/or Portuguese is desirable

5. Dates and Duty Station

The consultancy is from 16 September 2019 until 30 June 2020. The consultant is expected to either be based in Geneva, or to work remotely with travel to Geneva at least 6 times during the course of the contract, with each visit lasting 2-3 days.

6. How to apply

Please submit applications by e-mail to botwrights@who.int and giersingb@who.int indicating "Consultant: IVB TSE tool developer" in the subject line. Please include: (i) a cover letter and (ii) your current curriculum vitae. All applications will be acknowledged. The closing date for applications is 11th August 2019.

