

Consultancy service to provide Advanced Virtual Training sessions on Vaccine Lot Release Testing

CONSULTING SERVICES-INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT

AFRICA CENTRES FOR DISEASE CONTROL SUPPORT PROGRAM TO COMBAT CURRENT AND FUTURE PUBLIC HEALTH THREATS PROJECT (P178633) – I DA-E1110

Reference Number: ET-AUC-503527-CS-INDV

The African Union has received financing from the World Bank for the "Africa Centres for Disease Control Support Program to Combat Current and Future Public Health Threats Project".

Development Objective of the Project: Enhance the capacity of Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) to support AU Member States in preventing, detecting, and responding to current and future public health threats.

1. BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed Africa's heavy reliance on external vaccine supply, which significantly impacted public health outcomes and socioeconomic stability across the continent. In response, the African Union (AU) and Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) launched the Partnerships for African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM) in 2021. This initiative seeks to harness pan-African and global collaboration to enable the production of locally manufactured vaccines to meet at least 60% of Africa's routine immunization needs by 2040. Currently, less than 1% of vaccines administered on the continent are produced locally.

To build a sustainable and resilient vaccine manufacturing ecosystem, PAVM is anchored in the Framework for Action (FFA), which outlines eight bold programmes. Among them is a regulatory programme focused on strengthening National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) and Regional Centres of Regulatory Excellence (RCOREs) to ensure high-quality oversight of vaccine development and production.

Aligned with the vision of a New Public Health Order, Africa CDC is spearheading efforts to secure the continent's health and economic security, as outlined in the AU's Agenda

2063. A central pillar of this vision is the expansion of local manufacturing capacities for vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics, which is being advanced through the Platform for Harmonized African Health Products Manufacturing (PHAHM).

A critical enabler of this effort is the strengthening of regulatory oversight—particularly in vaccine lot release testing. Lot release is an independent regulatory function performed by NRAs to verify that each vaccine batch meets defined quality, safety, and efficacy standards before reaching the public. While eight AU Member States (Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, and Zimbabwe) have achieved WHO GBT Maturity Level 3, significant gaps remain, especially in the area of lot release testing. Bridging these gaps is essential to ensuring the safety and quality of vaccines produced and distributed within Africa.

This advanced training programme aims to build the technical competencies of laboratory professionals and technicians from African NRAs and National Quality Control Laboratories (NQCLs). Participants will gain practical knowledge in advanced analytical techniques, SOP and documentation practices, biosafety, and risk management—equipping them to meet the complex demands of vaccine lot release testing in a rapidly evolving

regulatory environment.

With funding from the World Bank, Africa CDC seeks to engage a consultant to moderate a 5-day advanced virtual training programme in June 2025.

This Terms of Reference (ToR) outlines the objectives, core activities, and deliverables of this consultancy.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE CONSULTANCY

The objective of this training is to strengthen the capacity of NRAs or NQCLs by enhancing understanding of international lot release frameworks, equipping staff with advanced analytical and biosafety skills, and promoting regulatory convergence. Expected outcomes include the application of best practices in lot release testing, improved validation and interpretation of analytical methods, and strengthened laboratory quality management and biosafety practices.

To achieve this, Africa CDC will engage five lecturers as consultants to deliver lectures and one expert to moderate the sessions. Propose a robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework to track the progress, impact, and sustainability of WES initiatives in Africa.

3. SCOPE OF WORK

Lecturer consultants (Five Lecturers)

- Prepare detailed training presentations and related training materials for assigned sessions.
- Deliver assigned training sessions virtually, ensuring clarity, depth, and practical relevance.
- Develop pre- and post-session assessment questions.
- Deliver interactive lectures on:
 - Advanced analytical methods including ELISA, qPCR, and cell-based assays
 - Validation principles and case studies on alternative in vitro potency assays aligned with the 3Rs approach.

- Advanced potency assays and immunological testing
- Validation of alternative assays with international case studies
- Actively engage participants during interactive Q&A and group discussions.
- Provide follow-up support for participant queries during and shortly after the training sessions.

Moderator (One Facilitator)

- Coordinate pre-event preparation, including the development and finalization of training presentations, event flyer, and training materials.
- Consolidate pre- and post-testing questions received from lecturers and manage participant evaluations.
- Manage schedules and deliverables from lecturers.
- Facilitate and moderate all virtual training sessions (5 days).
- Liaise with the Africa CDC team, lecturers, and translator.
- Ensure interactive Q&A sessions and group discussions run smoothly.
- Address any technical or logistical challenges during the training.
- Compile training feedback and prepare the final report with recommendations.
- Draft policy recommendations to enhance WES integration into national and regional public health systems.

4. KEY DELIVERABLES, CONSULTANCY FEES, TIME FRAME AND DUTY STATION

4.1 Consultancy fees

Payment will be fixed at a total amount of USD 5,000 for each lecturer or consultant. Payment will be done upon successful completion of training and submission of the below deliverables.

Payment will be fixed at a total amount of USD 6,000 for the moderator. Payment will be done upon successful completion of deliverables. This is a lump sum contract, and payment will be made against the following deliverables:

4.2. Deliverables

Below is the list of deliverables expected for each

lecturer or consultant under this assignment.

- 1 Final presentation slides and pre or post-test questions
- 2 Lecturer delivery and participation in discussions
- 3 Answer Sheet responding to participants' questions

Below is the list of deliverables expected for the moderator under this assignment

- 1 Final training schedule, flyer, and tools
- 2 Daily facilitation of all sessions
- 3 Submission of final report including feedback summary

5. DURATION OF CONSULTANCY

The assignment for the lecturers will span approximately 12 working days, including preparation, virtual training delivery, and follow-up engagement.

All work will be performed remotely and the number of working days may be adjusted based on the scope and scheduling of the assigned sessions.

For the moderator, the consultant will work remotely, and the duration of the assignment will be 12 working days (including preparation, delivery, 5-day virtual training and report finalization) from the date of contract signature.

6. EVALUATION AND QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

6.1. Lecturers or consultants

Education: Advanced degree (Master's degree and, or PhD) in public health, pharmaceutical sciences, biochemistry, biology, microbiology, laboratory, regulatory sciences or related fields.

Work Experience: Minimum 5 years' experience in laboratory documentation, SOP development, and biosafety oversight in a regulatory or QC laboratory setting.

10 years' experience in a QC laboratory in a pharmaceutical company and or National Quality Control Laboratory.

Proven experience in virtual training or

workshops.

Familiarity with WHO PQ, AMRH, and African regulatory systems is preferred.

Competencies: Full proficiency in English; Knowledge of another AU language (French, Portuguese, Kiswahili, or Spanish) is advantageous.

Excellent communication, technical writing, and virtual facilitation skills.

6.2. Moderator

Education: Advanced degree (Master's degree and or or PhD) in public health, pharmaceutical sciences, biochemistry, biology, microbiology, regulatory sciences or related fields.

Work Experience: At least 5 years of proven experience in moderating technical (virtual) training. Preferably, experience and knowledge of vaccine regulatory frameworks and quality control.

Competencies: Full proficiency in English; Knowledge of another AU language (French, Portuguese, Kiswahili, or Spanish) is advantageous. Excellent organizational, communication, and moderation skills

7. Governance and Support

- The consultant will work under the supervision of the Africa CDC PHAHM regulatory lead to engage in assigned activities related to the deliverables described above.
- The following shall be made available by the Africa CDC
- Africa CDC will identify, agree and assign the relevant focal points within the PHAHM.
- Africa CDC will provide the necessary documents and other information materials required for the assignment.
- Maintain regular follow-up of the activities done by the consultants, review and comment on the submitted deliverables and work done.

8. QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE OF THE CONSULTANT

Applicants should demonstrate the capacity to deliver the assignment deliverables and provide the CVs of the proposed staff for this assignment, demonstrating compliance with the following qualification and experience requirements:

Education and Technical skills

- Advanced degree in public health, environmental science, Microbiology, epidemiology, or a related field.
- At least 7–10 years of experience in environmental monitoring, or wastewater surveillance for public health purpose
- Proven experience in conducting situational analyses, strategy development, and stakeholder engagement in Africa.
- Strong understanding of Africa CDC's role in public health and AU Member States' health systems.
- Experience working with African Union institutions and AU Member States is an advantage.
- Excellent research, analytical, and report-writing skills.

9. EVALUATION AND QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

The consultant will be evaluated based on a cumulative analysis that considers the combination of qualifications and expertise,

The award of the contract should be made to the consultant whose offer has been evaluated and determined as:

- **Responsive or compliant or acceptable, and**
- **Having received the highest score out of a pre-determined set of weighted technical criteria and requirements specific to the solicitation.**
- **Education, Qualifications, relevant training and experience: 100 marks**
- Education, Qualification, and Relevant Training – 20
- Relevant Experience in relation to the assignment, – 80

10. REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

- Cover letter with statement of understanding
- A detailed and updated curriculum vitae (CV), and indicating nationality, age and gender.
- Two written references

11. INVITATION

The African CDC now invites eligible Individual Consultants ("Consultants") to submit their CVs in providing the Services and required documents as listed in the ToR. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016, revised March 2025 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Individual Selection method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

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.

CVs must be delivered in a written form following the above shortlisting criteria to the emails below before 15:00 Hours Local Time on **5 September 2025**.

Africa CDC,

Africa Centres for Diseases Control and Prevention,

Supply Chain Division

Administration Directorate

Lafto Square, Haile Garment, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Africa CDC Office, Dr. John Nkengasong Building,

4th floor, Room No. 408

E-mails: tender@afriacdc.org and Selamg@afriacdc.org (CV and application shall be submitted to both emails)



Africa CDC is a continental autonomous health agency of the African Union established to support public health initiatives of Member States and strengthen the capacity of their public health institutions to detect, prevent, control and respond quickly and effectively to disease threats.

Safeguarding Africa's Health

www.afriacdc.org

    @afriacdc