

**Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals (IVB)  
Essential Programme on Immunization (EPI)**

**Terms of Reference for consultant to support countries to conduct cold chain and Effective Vaccine Management (EVM) assessments as part of COVID-19 vaccine deployment**

**Deadline for application: 2 December 2020**

**Purpose**

The consultant will provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Health (MOH) and national partners to conduct Effective Vaccine Management (EVM) assessments and cold chain assessment activities as part of COVID-19 vaccine deployment preparations.

**Background**

EVM is a national Essential Programme on Immunization (EPI) planning process endorsed and supported by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to assess and prioritize improvements in the immunization supply chain. EVM is embedded within the immunization supply chain (ISC) and is a continuous improvement planning process.

EVM was launched in 2009 drawing on lessons learnt conducting EVM assessments in more than 80 countries. By leveraging developments in mobile and cloud-based computing, EVM2, released in 2019, builds upon the original EVM assessment tool to provide countries with a broader, more powerful, more agile and more sustainable solution for improving ISC systems. EVM provides a suite of sophisticated reporting tools to understand the performance of the national immunization supply chain.

As countries prepare for a COVID-19 vaccine deployment, many are now planning to conduct a national EVM assessment in 2021. Countries are also looking to strengthen their immunization cold chains by conducting cold chain equipment inventories and cold chain capacity exercises. WHO headquarters (HQ) require the assistance of specialist consultants to support countries with this.

**Work to be performed**

Under the supervision of the Technical Officer of the WHO HQ Vaccine Supply Chain and Logistics Team, Essential Programme on Immunization (EPI) Unit within the Department of Immunization Vaccines and Biologicals (IVB), the contractor is expected to provide support for the following activities. Note that training on the EVM2 tool will be provided.

Output 1: Support country in conducting an EVM assessment.

Activity 1.1: Deliver remote training on how to conduct an EVM assessment.

Activity 1.1.1: Deliver country orientation training.

Activity 1.1.2: Deliver EVM manager training.

Activity 1.1.3: Deliver EVM assessor training.

Activity 1.2: Assist in country set up.

Activity 1.2.1: Add administrative units (provinces, regions, districts, etc.) and supply chain locations (vaccines stores and health facilities).

Activity 1.2.2: Add all vaccines used in the national immunization programme.

Activity 1.2.3: Ensure all users have access to the tool.

Activity 1.3: Assist in assessment creation and delivery.

Activity 1.3.1: Validate selection of the sample of sites to be assessed.

Activity 1.3.2: Assign locations to assessors.

Activity 1.3.3: Supervise data collection, validation, cleaning, and approval, troubleshooting problems as necessary.

Activity 1.4: Assist in assessment results analysis.

Activity 1.4.1: Facilitate data analysis and circulate draft EVM Report.

Activity 1.4.2: Facilitate EVM report finalization workshop.

**Output 2:** Support EVM Secretariat in managing the EVM tool.

Activity 2.1: Provide feedback on all software bugs and areas for improvement.

**Output 3:** Support countries to conduct cold chain assessment activities, such as conducting cold chain inventories and cold chain capacity gap analysis to support COVID-19 vaccine deployment and vaccination operations.

### **Specific requirements**

#### **- Qualifications required:**

First university degree in logistics, medical or social sciences, statistics, or another related field.

An advanced university degree in public health or epidemiology would be an advantage.

#### **- Experience required:**

At least five years professional experience working in immunization supply chain and logistics and/or data management and analysis.

Experience of successfully delivering technical training to immunization professionals.

Participation in at least one EVM assessment.

#### **- Skills / Technical skills and knowledge:**

- Excellent knowledge of immunization supply chain and logistics.
- Good knowledge of conducting EVM assessments and ideally continuous improvement planning (CIP) exercises.
- Strong mathematical, data analysis and interpretation skills.
- Good knowledge of existing immunization data and monitoring tools in WHO/IVB.
- Skilled in Microsoft Office applications.
- Highly organized, proactive and pragmatic with good process management skills.
- Ability to work independently as well as coordinating and engaging with stakeholders.
- Previous experience in the UN system (desirable).

#### **- Language requirements:**

English – Read/Write/Speak at advanced level.

French/Spanish/Russian - Read/Write/Speak at advanced level (desirable).

### **Place of assignment**

The work is to be done remotely, in a location at the discretion of the contractor.

### **Timeline and Duration**

The contract assumes 120 days of 100% FTE. It is expected to start on 1 January 2021 and will end no later than 31 December 2021, with possibility for extension. The pay scale will be defined according to the level of expertise of the selected candidate.

### **Travel**

The Consultant is not expected to travel.

### **Application Process**

Qualified applicants should submit their CV along with a cover letter, in English, by 2 December 2020 to

Dan Brigden at email: brigdend@who.int. Applications received after this date will not be accepted.

In the email subject line, please put “Consultant to support countries to conduct cold chain and EVM assessments”.

Only successful candidates will be contacted. CVs received from this posting may be used to fill other current and future openings requiring a similar skill set.