



**RFP No. 01/10/22**

**Epidemiologist for SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern (VOC) surveillance**

January 6, 2022

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## **I. Background information**

### **ASLM background**

The African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM) is a Pan-African professional body working to advocate for the critical role and needs of laboratory medicine and networks throughout Africa. Africa is rapidly growing but faces major health challenges including epidemics of HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria, and new priorities such as Ebola and other global health security threats. Strengthened laboratory capacity and surveillance in Africa are critical to overcoming the burden of disease and ensuring a healthy future for the continent. ASLM addresses these challenges by working collaboratively with governments, local and international organizations, implementing partners, and the private sector. ASLM collaborates with Africa CDC to implement the establishment of the Pathogen Genomic Institute.

### **Africa CDC background**

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) was officially launched in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on January 31, 2017. The Africa CDC is 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 infectious disease outbreaks and other public health threats. The agency's mission is to strengthen Africa's public health institutions' capabilities 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 programmes. Strengthening laboratory network systems and integrated disease surveillance are the core mandates of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC). As part of these mandates and owing to the benefits of genomic-based surveillance, Africa CDC launched the Institute of Pathogen Genomics (IPG) in November 2019. IPG was launched with a vision to integrate of pathogen genomics and bioinformatics into public health surveillance, outbreak investigations, and improved disease control and prevention in Africa. In seeking to achieve this vision, the IPG is intending to strengthen its capacity to deliver by, among others, the reinforcement of its organizational structure and expertise.

## **II. Purpose of the role**

The Epidemiologist consultant (SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern surveillance in Africa) will provide technical assistance in study design for setting up a pilot project on SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern surveillance in selected six (6) African Union Member States. In addition, the consultant will develop and implement methods and systems for acquiring, compiling, synthesizing, extracting, reporting information, design statistical analysis plans, then perform and guide analysis, provide critical analysis and thinking, advice and recommendations on issues based on accepted scientific understanding of infectious and emerging diseases in a global context, work with specialist statistical computer software when analyzing data.

## **III. Requirements list/ responsibilities**

The Epidemiologist will be expected to perform the following tasks:

- Provide technical support for the qPCR SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern surveillance in Africa pilot project
- Provide critical analysis, thinking, advice and recommendations on issues regarding the pilot project study design, data collection, results and supervises the interpretation of research findings
- Develop and implement methods and systems for acquiring, compiling, synthesizing, extracting, and reporting pilot project data
- Design statistical analysis, guide and perform statistical analysis as well as provide epidemiological insight in the interpretation and discussion of pilot project results
- Communicate analysis results through presentations and publications
- Use qualitative and quantitative methods when conducting research, planning, and programming information for use in developing a policy brief for African Union member states on SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern surveillance using qPCR
- Assist in the formulation of project progress reports and related documents to assess perform preliminary analysis
- Any other responsibilities to support the qPCR SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern surveillance as assigned by the Program Lead.

#### **IV. RFP required response format**

- The candidate should submit a detailed curriculum vitae and a brief description of the proposed methods and systems for acquiring, compiling, synthesizing, extracting, and reporting pilot project data.

#### **V. Qualifications**

- Master's degree in epidemiology, public health, medicine, or a related field from an accredited academic institution with at least 7 years of relevant professional work experience of which 2 years at managerial level. Doctoral degree is an added advantage.
- University degree in molecular epidemiology, genomics, bioinformatics, public health, health sciences or other related science-based discipline from an accredited academic institution with at least 7 years of relevant professional work experience of which 5 years in research settings.
- Successful candidate should have excellent oral and written communication skills in English, along with ample experience with scientific writing. Knowledge of other AU working languages would be an added advantage.

#### **VI. Contractual terms and conditions**

- The contract term is for 5 months
- All documents and reports submitted by the firms shall be the property of ASLM.
- The firm shall not re-assign the work to any other firm/entity with ASLM knowledge.

- All costs related to assignments preparation and submission will be borne by the firm.
- The firm may be required to sign a confidentiality (Non-disclosure) agreement before the contract is awarded.
- ASLM reserves the right to (a) reject or accept any proposal from any party, (b) not respond to a request made by any party.
- The vendor will be responsible for all regulatory approvals in case of any legal implication arising out of the implementation of the solution;

#### VII. **Payment**

- Competitive based on qualification and experience not to exceed a total USD20, 000 for the 5 months contract duration paid in equal monthly payments based on accomplishment of the deliverables agreed monthly with the project lead.

#### VIII. **Contacts and Timelines**

- Send your completed application by email to: [rfpsubmission@aslm.org](mailto:rfpsubmission@aslm.org) and copy [EShumba@aslm.org](mailto:EShumba@aslm.org)  
By: **February 5<sup>th</sup> 2022 (5:30 pm East African Time).**
- Direct any written questions or request for information about this RFP to not later than 7 seven days after issuance of this RFP:  
Edwin Shumba, Program Manager  
Email: [EShumba@aslm.org](mailto:EShumba@aslm.org)

## Appendix I

### PAYMENT

- Competitive based on qualification and experience not to exceed a total USD20, 000 for the 5 months contract duration paid monthly based on accomplishment of the deliverables agreed monthly with the project lead.

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