



**RFP No. ASLM/PEPFAR/TB/09/21/22**

**RFP for Selection of Contractor**

**Evaluation of new guidance and approaches to improving TB screening and diagnosis in pediatric patients**

## 1 Acronyms

ASLM	African Society for Laboratory Medicine
PEPFAR	Presidents Emergency Fund for Aids Relief
RFP	Request for Proposals
SME	Subject Matter Expert
SSA	sub-Saharan Africa
TB	Tuberculosis
US CDC	Unites States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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### 3 Introduction

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. Medical laboratories play a pivotal role in global disease diagnosis, surveillance, outbreak investigation, initiation and monitoring of therapy, as well as research and development. Unfortunately, medical laboratories in Africa are underdeveloped and cannot meet the testing demands of rapidly growing health delivery services in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Inadequate resources and diagnostic services compromise the quality of patient care due to misdiagnosis and consequently under or over treatment of disease, which presents significant economic and public health challenges.

Under the cooperative agreement award, ASLM is working in in close collaboration with the United States Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC) in leading the implementation of activities to assist PEPFAR-supported countries to accelerate progress towards the global End TB targets to reduce TB mortality by 95 percent and incidence by 90 percent by 2035. The grant programs will directly contribute to the achievement of the following short and long-term outcomes:

- Overview of new guidance and approaches to improving TB screening and diagnosis in paediatric patients in selected high burden TB countries
- Improved paediatric TB care

By the end of the program period, the program will have standardized methodological approaches for evaluation of new tuberculosis diagnostic tests in children, treatment and management of TB in paediatrics in all PEPFAR-supported sub-Saharan Africa countries.

#### **Objective of the Request for Proposal**

Through this RFP, ASLM is soliciting proposals from institutions with subject matter expertise for evaluation of new guidance and approaches to improving TB screening and diagnosis in paediatric patients to improve systems for the diagnosis, quality assurance, treatment and management Paediatrics population infected with TB. Successful bidder will sign an agreement with ASLM to complete the work within 6 months (April-September 2022)

### 4 Scope of Work

It is widely acknowledged that there is a critical need for improved accuracy of the diagnosis of tuberculosis in children. The recent surge in the development of new tuberculosis diagnostics for more rapid and accurate diagnosis highlights the lack of standardized case definitions for prospective clinical research in children with suspected tuberculosis. Clinical definitions used to date have been inconsistent and have performed variably when evaluated.

The contractor is expected to provide their knowledge and expertise to lead the implementation of the following activity to:

- Perform a systematic scoping review of paediatric TB testing policies from selected African high TB burden countries

- Assess specimen types and assay types used for paediatric TB testing in selected African high TB burden countries, disaggregated by priority populations (less than 5, PLWHA, household contacts) and evaluate alignment with current 2022 WHO recommendation for Management of tuberculosis in children and adolescents
- Identify areas of compliance and difference between national guidance and current WHO recommendations for Management of tuberculosis in children and adolescents

## 5 Prerequisite

- Contractor should have experience in evaluation of guidance and approaches for diagnosis of infectious diseases in PEPFAR countries.

## 6 Deliverables

- 6.1. Scoping review report of national TB testing policies in selected high burden TB countries in the sub-Saharan Africa region.
- Identification of sample and testing types for diagnostic of paediatric TB disaggregated by priority populations
  - Alignment with WHO 2022 guidance for Management of tuberculosis in children and adolescents (<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240046764> )
- 6.2. Identification of areas of compliance and difference between country documents and WHO guidance

**Period of performance: 1<sup>st</sup> October 22 – 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**Approximate total budget: \$145,000.00 (One Hundred Forty-Five Thousand US Dollars)**

*N.B. This consultancy shall be paid on a task basis and is NOT a monthly consultancy; as such it shall be paid as and when the assigned tasks are undertaken.*

## 7 Qualifications for the position

1. Strong preference for submitters that possesses Previous experience in the same area
2. Previous experience working on PEPFAR projects.
3. Strong experience technology evaluation.
4. Knowledge and experience in TB global action plans and WHO guidelines
5. Should be able to start immediately
6. Should have at least five years' experience working in low- and middle-income countries

## 8 Instructions for submitting proposals

- A. The format of the submission, in response to this RFP, must include, but is not limited, to the following:
- I. Background on the Respondent (organization) and staffing qualifications and experience. Indicate how these qualifications and experience relate to the proposed functional areas applied for. Where the organization is affiliated/has partnerships with other institutions, a description of how this will result in effective implementation of the proposed areas of work should be included.

- II. Capability Statement. The Capability Statement is a description of the Respondent's work history and/or experience with similar projects in the past five (5) years. This should include, but is not limited to, a narrative description of the principal results achieved, how they were achieved and how those results related to the problem statement being addressed.
  - III. How the Respondent proposes to achieve the deliverables. Include specific activities and strategic approach that will be conducted under each objective.
- B. Completed proposals shall consist of typewritten pages utilizing a minimum 12-point font. A maximum of 10 pages for the proposal is allowed.
- C. An authorized individual representing the Respondent will sign and date the proposal cover sheet. The signatory agent's printed name, title, name of the organization, address, phone and fax numbers and email address must be provided. Failure to provide a signed copy of the affirmation statement below will be cause for the proposal not to be considered.

*I affirm that the information within this proposal, to the best of my knowledge, is true and accurate. Further, I am duly authorized to sign and submit this proposal on behalf of this agency. I fully affirm and understand that failure to meet the requirements of this proposal at the submitted price may result in my organization's contract being terminated.*

- D. Include at least two (2) current references and their contact information from organizations that have used Respondent's services within the last twelve (12) months.
- E. Send your completed application by email to [rfpsubmission@aslm.org](mailto:rfpsubmission@aslm.org) and [BPuije@aslm.org](mailto:BPuije@aslm.org) as early as **September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (11:59 pm East African Time)**.

**Point of contact:**

Direct any written questions or request for information about this RFP to:

Beatrice van der Puije  
Program Manager  
Email: [BPuije@aslm.org](mailto:BPuije@aslm.org)  
Phone Number: +233 20 5180708

## 9 Evaluation and Award Process

A team of ASLM staff and outside experts will evaluate the applications based on preset standards relevant to the specific project and its correlation with the RFP objectives. An evaluation matrix with assigned weighted numerical values will be used to rate each applicant. The following represents some, although not all, of the criteria that will be used to the assessed feasibility of each Respondent.

1. Does the organization have the right skill set and expertise to accomplish the required assignments?
2. Does the organization demonstrate adequate and verifiable past experience in similar projects?
3. Are the Respondent's proposed activities (strategy of implementation) current, feasible and cost effective?
4. Are the proposed outcomes measurable and feasible?

5. Did the application include references that attest to the Respondents personal and professional integrity and competency?
6. Did the Respondent demonstrate knowledge of ASLM's project needs and objectives?

ASLM reserves the right, but is under no obligation, to enter into discussions with one or more Respondents in order to obtain clarifications or additional details, to suggest service delivery refinements in the proposal or other aspects of the proposal, or to negotiate the cost of the proposal. Formal notification to award the contract and the actual execution of the contract are subject to receipt of funds from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC).

Each Respondent submitting a proposal will be notified in writing or via e-mail of ASLM's decision concerning their proposal. Should your organization be recommended for acceptance, the contract shall be effective on the contract execution date and shall run until **March 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020**. All work must be scheduled and completed within the contract period timeframe. Any modifications or extensions must be negotiated in advance and submitted to ASLM for review and approval. The selected Respondent's proposal, and any subsequent material submitted in response to requests for additional information, will become the basis of contractual agreements with said Respondent.

## 10 Contractual Terms and Conditions

Responses must be in accordance with the guidelines as specified in this RFP. This RFP does not commit ASLM to accept any proposals submitted, nor is ASLM responsible for any costs incurred in the preparation of responses to this RFP. All materials submitted in response to this RFP or developed during the life of the contract will become the property ASLM. The detailed itemized budget must be submitted in US dollars and will be evaluated in terms of best value to ASLM.

ASLM reserves the right to delay, amend, reissue or cancel all or part of this RFP at any time without prior notice. ASLM discourages ex parte communication with any Board member, the public and/or staff member after the deadline for the receipt of proposals. ASLM will be under no obligation to reveal or discuss with any Respondent on how a proposal was assessed, or to provide any other information relative to the selection process. Respondents whose proposals are not selected will be notified in writing and shall have no claim whatsoever for any kind of compensation.