



**RFP No. ASLM/ACDC/05/12/23 (*re-advertised*)**

**RFP for Selection of Consultants/Contractors**

**Consultant to Support the development of Continental Roadmap for the  
Implementation of Pathogen Genomic Use-cases and Database of Key  
Stakeholders**

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## **1. 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 COVID-19, 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 the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) to implement the establishment of the Institute for Pathogen Genomics.

## **2. Africa CDC background**

The 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 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. The Africa Pathogen Genomics Initiative (Africa PGI) was launched in 2020 to strengthen multi-pathogen sequencing and bioinformatics capacity of emerging and re-emerging diseases and genomic surveillance of pathogens of public health importance in the continent. As

the Africa PGI matures there is a need to integrate other use cases into its laboratory networks. To expand and integrate scalable use cases it is critical to identify priorities, develop roadmaps and implementation strategies. To this end, the Africa PGI is working with a Focus Group of experts in Foodborne Diseases (FBD), Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPD), Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases and Malaria genomic surveillance to develop roadmap and mapping of key stakeholders, funders, partners for the genomic surveillance of priority use cases.

### **3. Purpose of the Role**

The main purpose of the TOR is to support Africa CDC in the development of Africa PGI's continental roadmap for the implementation of pathogen genomic use-cases (VPD, FBD, AMR Emerging and re-emerging diseases and Malaria) database of key stakeholders, partners and funders. In this assignment, the consultant will be recruited to finalize and write the final roadmap document and a database of key stakeholders, partners and funders in close coordination with Africa CDC, ASLM and the Focus Groups.

### **4. Major Duties and Responsibilities of the consultant**

- The Consultant should closely liaise with AMR, Malaria, FBD and VPD focus groups and the Africa CDC and ASLM team.
- The consultant/contractor shall support the finalization of a continental roadmap for the implementation of pathogen genomic use-cases, resource mobilization strategy and policy documents for collaborative work in close coordination with the Africa CDC, ASLM and the focus groups.
- Develop accessible database of SMEs, key stakeholders, and potential funders for AMR, VPD, FBD, Malaria and emerging and re-emerging disease.
- Guide the multi-stakeholder discussion process through substantive and well-structured inputs, which contribute to the development of the road map.
- Edit and consolidate the Malaria, FBD, AMR, VPD draft roadmaps and Emerging and Re-emerging disease pathogen genomics into one document.

- Incorporate the Africa PGI data governance platform for use case implementation and public health disease surveillance
- Compile the draft road map document using inputs from members of the focus group, Africa CDC, ASLM and other key stakeholders.
- Conceptualize and organize, with the support of the Africa CDC and ASLM, 5 regional consultation and validation workshops with a broad stakeholder group on roadmap development.
- Gather and incorporate stakeholder comments and opinions into the roadmap document.

#### 4.1. Functions

The role of the consultant is to support the development of Pathogen Genomics surveillance final roadmap, database of key stakeholders, funders and partners, resource mobilization strategy and policy documents for collaborative work.

#### 5. Required skills and professional work experience:

**Consultant/contractor to support the development of Africa CDC's continental roadmap for the implementation of pathogen genomic use-cases and database of key stakeholders.**

The consultant/contractor should be a high-level scientific writer with an international appeal, exceptional writing skills, record of publications in high impact journals and knowledgeable on pathogen genomics. Ability to review, collate compile and document literature and data for a scientific as well as lay audience.

- Experience in conducting roadmap development, public policy analysis, develop complex policy research methodologies, manage qualitative and quantitative data, perform data and information analysis, write concise and clear analysis results.
- At least 10 years of professional experience in genomics epidemiology

- Post-graduate qualifications in any of the following fields: Public health, Genomics, Genetics, Molecular Epidemiology and Surveillance, Laboratory sciences, International and Global Health and any other health related fields.
- Sound understanding and application of policy concepts, methodologies and tools.
- Evidence of publications in high impact journals
- Strong expertise in stakeholder consultations
- Demonstrated leadership, facilitation and coordination skills, ability to work with technical teams and develop long term strategic partnerships.
- Excellent written communication skills, with analytic capacity and ability to synthesize relevant collected data and findings for the preparation of relevant documents.
- Excellent coordination skills and result-oriented collaboration with key stakeholders.
- Computer proficiency, especially related to professional office software packages (Microsoft Office).

## **6. Language requirement**

- 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.

## **7. Contract Value**

Consultant/contractor to finalize and write Africa PGI's continental roadmap for the implementation of pathogen genomic use-cases (VPD, FBD, AMR Emerging and re-emerging diseases and Malaria) and database of key stakeholders: A maximum value of USD 30,000.

## **8. Duration of the Contract:**

- For 12 weeks

## 9. Instructions for submitting proposals.

- Send your completed application by email to: [rfpsubmission@aslm.org](mailto:rfpsubmission@aslm.org), and copy [EShumba@aslm.org](mailto:EShumba@aslm.org) [AfricaPGI@africa-union.org](mailto:AfricaPGI@africa-union.org) by Friday 2 June 2023 (11:59 pm East African Time). **This is an extension and If you have submitted before, do not resubmit.**

### Point of contact:

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

Edwin Shumba | ASLM

Africa PGI Project Manager

Email: [EShumba@aslm.org](mailto:EShumba@aslm.org)

Phone Number: +263773052246

## 10. Evaluation and Award Process

A team of ASLM staff and outside experts will evaluate the applications based on pre-set 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 as presented in the table below. The following represents some, although not all, of the criteria that will be used to the assessed feasibility of each Respondent.

Item	Evaluation criteria	Weight
1.	Does the organization/individual have the right skillset and expertise to accomplish the required assignments	20%
2.	Does the organization/individual demonstrate adequate and verifiable past experience in similar projects?	20%
3.	Are the Respondent's proposed activities (strategy of implementation) current, feasible and cost-effective?	10%
4.	Are the proposed outcomes measurable and feasible?	20%

5.	Did the application include references that attest to the Respondents' personal and professional integrity and competency?	20%
6.	Did the Respondent demonstrate knowledge of ASLM's project needs and objectives?	10%
	Total assigned weight	100%

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.

Each Respondent submitting a proposal will be notified in writing or via e-mail of ASLM's decision concerning their proposal. Should you be recommended for acceptance, the contract shall be effective on the contract execution date and shall run until 30 SEPTEMBER 2023. 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.

### **11. 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.

## 12. Deliverables

	<b>Description of deliverable</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
1.	Accessible database of SMEs, partners, key stakeholders and potential funders	9 <sup>th</sup> week
2.	A document defining genomic surveillance roadmap and implementation plan including resource mobilization strategy	10 <sup>th</sup> week
3.	Policy documents for collaborative work and resource mobilization strategy (if applicable)	11 <sup>th</sup> week
4.	Activity report after completion of the assignment	12 <sup>th</sup> week