REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

RFP No. ASLM/MAAP/CONS/02/27/24

RFP FOR CONSULTANCY FOR MANAGEMENT & ANALYSIS OF AMR, AMC & AMU SURVEILLANCE DATA ACROSS 14 AFRICAN COUNTRIES

CLOSING DATE: 4 MARCH 2024

When replying to the RFP, please mention the RFP No in the subject line

1.0 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. For more information, please visit our website at https://aslm.org.

2.0 OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT | SCOPE OF WORK | EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

Mapping Antimicrobial Resistance and Antimicrobial Use Partnership (MAAP) is a multi-organization and multi-national consortium led by ASLM and funded by the UK Government’s Fleming Fund. MAAP focuses on improving the quality and quantity of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) data, analysis, and dissemination. In Phase I, MAAP collected AMR/AMC data from 2016 to 2019 across 14 African countries. The results, including analysis, gaps, and opportunities, along with policy recommendations, are summarized in a policy brief available on ASLM’s website. The project Phase II aims to address data gaps and enhance quality for future initiatives, strengthening surveillance capacity to inform regional and national efforts in improving AMR surveillance, antimicrobial stewardship, and evidence-based policy and planning.
Purpose of Consultancy

The consultancy in Data analysis will provide technical support and assistance in collection and analysis of AMR, AMC and AMC surveillance data. This pivotal role involves providing technical expertise for the analysis of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and Antimicrobial Use (AMU), utilizing advanced technologies to manage, analyze, and interpret scientific data effectively.

The consultant shall:

- **Data Collection and Cleaning:** Provide technical assistance to the project team and countries to gather, curate, and clean various datasets related to AMR and AMU, including laboratory and pharmacy data, clinical records, and epidemiological data.
- **Data Analysis:** Perform exploratory data analysis, using statistical methods to identify patterns, trends, and insights related to AMR and AMU data.
- **AMU Data Analysis:** Perform AMU data analysis to reveal antimicrobial consumption patterns across countries.
- **Data Visualization:** Use mapping tools to create informative and visually appealing visualizations of AMR and AMU datasets, communicating findings to both technical and non-technical stakeholders.
- **Collaboration:** Work closely with cross-functional teams, integrating data-driven insights into AMR mitigation strategies, and collaborating with other advisors to align lab informatics strategies.
- **Reporting:** Assist countries in generating clear reports and presentations summarizing findings, methodologies, and recommendations for internal and external audiences, contributing to policy implications resulting from the data.
- **Data Security and Ethics:** Ensure data privacy and security compliance, adhering to ethical guidelines when handling sensitive healthcare data.

Optional Work: Subject to availability of funding and performance of the Consultant, ASLM may require Consultant to:

- Provide technical assistance in smooth linkages of data from facility to national level data warehouse.
- Provide training to Country experts on AMR data management and functionalize in country knowledge hubs

Required Qualification & Experience:

- Bachelor's or advanced degree in Epidemiology, Public Health, Information Systems, Data Science, Computer Science, Statistics, or a related field.
• Master’s level or above is an advantage.
• Proven experience in data analysis and predictive modelling, with a focus on healthcare or biology-related datasets.
• Practical experience in driving digital transformation and modernizing lab informatics.
• Proficiency in programming languages such as Python and R, along with experience in data analysis libraries and frameworks.
• Knowledge of AMR, microbiology, and healthcare data is a strong plus.
• Excellent communication and collaboration skills to work effectively with a multidisciplinary team.
• Strong problem-solving skills and a proactive, innovative mindset.
• Knowledge of data security and ethical considerations in data science.
• Stay updated on emerging technologies, such as AI-driven somatic search and intelligent instruments.

Language requirement:

• Successful Consultant 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 highly desirable.

Deliverables:
• Deliverable 1: Country and regional reports
• Deliverable 2: Support Training of Country experts on data management
• Deliverable 3: Support setting up in country AMR data dashboards
• Deliverable 4: Support data visualization of AMR data sets

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE AND OPTIONAL PERIODS:

The initial term (or period of performance) of the service shall be from the 1st April 2024 to 31st December 2025

ASLM may exercise its right to extend the contract subject to the performance of the consultant and availability of funding.

3.0 MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

• Company profile with Certificate of Incorporation, Tax Clearance and all other applicable licenses, permit, authorizations, affiliations and certifications required

Physical Office Address: Joseph Tito Street, Nega City Mall, Suite 800, P.O.Box 5487 Kirkos Subcity, Kebele 08, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (+251) 11-557-1021
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per applicable laws and regulations. The company profile should provide additional information such as Registration name and trading name if applicable, physical address, telephone, contact person, period in business, key personnel/management and line of business.

- Individual consultants can also participate, and the above requirements may not be applicable but should conform to in-country tax requirements.

### 4.0 EVALUATION CRITERIA AND SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

ASLM will accept proposals from bidders that provide Best Value and satisfy the requirements stipulated in the solicitation. All submissions/proposals will be evaluated against the set Evaluation Criteria provided below. Each proposal should contain the items listed in the Submission Requirements column in the following table.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Evaluation Criteria</th>
<th>Submission Requirements</th>
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| 1. Qualifications, Experience, Competencies & language requirements | • Bachelor's or advanced degree in Epidemiology, Public Health, Information Systems, Data Science, Computer Science, Statistics, or a related field.  
• Experience in data analysis and predictive modelling, with a focus on healthcare or biology-related datasets.  
• Proficiency in programming languages such as Python and R, along with experience in data analysis libraries and frameworks.  
• Practical experience in driving digital transformation and modernizing lab informatics.  
• Knowledge of AMR, microbiology, and healthcare data is a strong plus.  
• Excellent communication and collaboration skills to work effectively with a multidisciplinary team. | 50% |
• Strong problem-solving skills and a proactive, innovative mindset.
• Knowledge of data security and ethical considerations in data science.
• Stay updated on emerging technologies, such as AI-driven somatic search and intelligent instruments.

Language requirement:
• Successful Consultant 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 highly desirable.

| 2. Technical Approach, Methodology and Timelines | A maximum 5-page written proposal explaining the technical approach, steps, processes and timelines. Note: 5-page limit is just for the technical approach, methodology and timelines | 30% |
| 2.Price | Provide the consultancy fees | 20% |
| **Total** | **100%** |   |

5.0 CONTRACT TYPE

For this procurement, ASLM will issue out a Firm Fixed Price Contract on its terms and conditions indicating the service provider’s quoted firm fixed price, scope of work, deliverables, timelines duration of contract and other instructions.

6.0 SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Completed proposals must be addressed to the Procurement Committee and send electronically on or before the closing date and time to rfpsubmission@aslm.org ONLY.  
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7.0 PROPOSED TIMELINES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>21 February 2024</td>
<td>Release of RFP and publicly posted on ASLM website:</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 February 2024</td>
<td>Deadline for submission of inquiries related to this RFP</td>
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<td>directed to Email to: <a href="mailto:JShonhe@aslm.org">JShonhe@aslm.org</a>; <a href="mailto:WKasambara@aslm.org">WKasambara@aslm.org</a>; <a href="mailto:AMataka@aslm.org">AMataka@aslm.org</a></td>
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<td>and all questions must clearly identified with the solicitation #</td>
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<td>Indicate the RFP number indicated at the top of this RFP (i.e. RFQ #)</td>
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<td>in your proposals.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 March 2024</td>
<td>Response to all inquiries released and posted publicly on ASLM website</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 March 2024</td>
<td>Deadline for Proposal submission.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 March 2024</td>
<td>Final decision announced and Bidders receive feedback</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Contract confirmed &amp; issued out.</td>
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While ASLM is desirous of maintaining the proposed timelines, delays necessitated by unforeseen circumstances.
8.0 ASLM TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The following are the terms and conditions of ASLM and any exceptions to these should be noted in writing at submission:

8.1. This RFP is not an offer to enter into agreement with any party, but rather a request to receive proposals from companies interested in providing the goods or services outlined in this RFP.

8.2. The specifications prescribed are not in any way limited to any specific tenderer as they are based on generally achievable requirements and thus, participation in this solicitation is open to all legal vendors that are registered and comply with the laws of doing business in the applicable country(ies) where services will be rendered. The necessary legal, commercial, technical and financial requirements should be satisfied.

8.3. ASLM does not bind itself to accept the lowest tender price and reserves the right to reject all submissions, in whole or in part, enter into negotiations with any party, and/or award multiple contracts.

8.4. ASLM reserves the right (but is not under obligation to do so) 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 quotation.

8.5. All quotations MUST be typed, on company official letterhead with full contact details including physical address, contact phone, email. Submissions MUST be received on or before the closing date and time and all bids received after the closing date and time may not be considered.

8.6. ASLM shall NOT be responsible for any costs involved in the preparation and submission of bids or proposals. All costs to be borne by the bidder and this is irrespective of the outcome.

8.7. Bid validity of quotation/proposals shall be 90 days.

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8.8. Unless otherwise specified in the final contract, full payment will be made by ASLM to the Vendor within 30 days of receipt of invoice from the Vendor and either delivery of goods or completion of required deliverable.

8.9 ASLM provides an equal opportunity for any vendor/supplier to participate irrespective of race, colour, religion, sex, or national origin and will receive equal treatment.

8.10. By participating, preparation and submitting this quotation or proposal, you represent that none from your organization has any conflict of interests.

8.11. To the maximum extent practical and possible, ASLM will strive to ensure that the finances provided in this procurement do not support organisations, companies and individuals associated with acts of terrorism, prostitution and drug trafficking.

8.12. ASLM reserves the right to delay, amend, reissue, or cancel all or part of this RFP at any time but feedback will be provided to the vendors who participated. Additionally, ASLM will be under no obligation to reveal, or discuss with any bidder how a quotation/proposal was assessed, or to provide any other information relative to the selection process. Respondents whose quotations are not selected will be notified in writing and shall have no claim whatsoever for any kind of compensation.

8.13. ASLM reserves the right to waive or permit cure of non-material variances in the bid proposal if, in the judgment of ASLM, it is in ASLM’s best interest to do so. Non-material variances include minor informalities that do not affect responsiveness; that are merely a matter of form or format; that do not change the relative standing or otherwise prejudice other vendors; that do not change the meaning or scope of the RFP; or that do not reflect a material change in the services. In the event ASLM waives or permits cure of nonmaterial variances, such waiver or cure will not modify the RFP requirements or excuse the vendor from full compliance with RFP specifications or other contract requirements if the vendor is awarded the contract. The determination of materiality is in the sole discretion of ASLM.

8.14. Failure to provide any of the above specifications and requirements may be considered non-responsive and disqualify the bidder from final selection.

8.15. As part of its commitment to engrain a culture of honesty and integrity in all its business processes, unethical conduct such as undisclosed conflict of interests, bribes and kick-backs and other corrupt activities are strictly prohibited and denounced. No employees at ASLM are allowed to use their position to pursue personal and unethical gain. In the same vein, bidders or potential suppliers and contractors are proscribed from offering bribes aimed at influencing the process and the outcome(s). ASLM implore vendors to embrace this culture in their interactions with us. Violation of this ethical principle and requirement will result in the supplier or service provider disqualified and ASLM will not solicit or accept bids in the future from the same. Should you experience or suspect unethical behaviour by an ASLM employee, please reach out to via email: ASLM@tips-offs.com or through the website: http://www.tip-offs.com/

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