QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

RFP No. ASLM/ACDC/DEP/CAP/LIP/08/31/26

Integration, Deployment and Capacity Building of an Integrated Laboratory Intelligence Platform and Dashboards

The questions received from prospective bidders have been consolidated and classified below by subject to facilitate reference and ensure consistent interpretation of the assignment.

1. Scope, Countries and Deployment

1.1. Which Africa CDC Member States are confirmed for the initial deployment?

The assignment will cover five (5) Africa CDC Member States:

- Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
- Burundi
- Zambia
- Uganda
- South Sudan

Bidders should consider all five countries when developing their technical approach and estimating the required level of effort.

1.2. Is the replication framework/toolkit intended for live deployment in additional countries or as a documented playbook only?

Under the current assignment, the replication framework/toolkit is expected to be a documented and reusable implementation playbook. Live deployment beyond the five selected countries is not included in the current scope. The dashboard itself will be a live deployment for the five participating countries, based on indicators agreed with the respective national authorities, and is expected to support automated updates using data from the Ona platform.

Diagnostic Network Optimization (DNO) for the sample referral system will be limited to the DRC. However, relevant DNO results must be incorporated into, and interoperable with, the dashboard.

2. Delivery Approach and Country Engagement

2.1. Will implementation require an in-country presence, and how much travel is anticipated?

No in-country presence or travel is currently envisaged for this consultancy. The assignment is expected to be implemented remotely, with technical support, meetings, training and relevant working sessions conducted virtually. Should in-country engagement become necessary, it will be discussed, approved and coordinated separately by ASLM.

2.2. How should bidders interpret the French-language requirement?

French-language proficiency should be considered an added advantage rather than a mandatory pass/fail requirement and we can evaluated under ‘ Past Performance, Qualifications and Language Requirements’ criteria. Two participating countries, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi are French-speaking. The ability of proposed personnel to communicate effectively in French will therefore facilitate engagement during meetings, technical sessions, training and other project activities. The requirement relates primarily to effective interaction with participating country teams.

2.3. Has ASLM or Africa CDC already engaged national One Health stakeholders or government counterparts?

Country-level engagement and coordination are already underway. ASLM will formally introduce the selected consultant to the relevant national stakeholders and government counterparts in each

participating country and will facilitate the coordination required to implement the assignment. The consultant will not be expected to establish the initial country relationships independently.

3. Platform, Hosting and Interoperability

3.1. What are the current ownership and maintenance arrangements for LabMap and the central data repository?

ASLM maintains an Ona organization account that will be used to host the data associated with this assignment. The selected consultant will not be expected to independently provision or fund an Ona organization account for the project.

3.2. Is there a preferred platform for the dashboard?

Power BI is the preferred dashboard platform, with appropriate GIS capabilities and integration with the laboratory intelligence platform. Bidders may propose complementary technologies where these offer clear technical, security, sustainability or operational advantages.

3.3. Will the systems be hosted and managed by ASLM or by individual countries?

The proposed architecture should support centralized management by ASLM and Africa CDC while providing appropriate country-level access, ownership and control of national data. The final hosting and management arrangements will be agreed during the inception phase, taking account of security, sustainability, national requirements and applicable data-governance provisions. The live dashboard is expected to be accessible through the ASLM and Africa CDC websites, subject to the agreed deployment architecture.

3.4. Will the platform operate independently or integrate with existing in-country systems, and which data sources are expected to be interoperable?

The platform should be capable of operating independently while supporting integration with relevant national systems where these exist and access is authorized. The primary data source will be the LabMap database hosted on the Ona platform. Potential additional sources may include national laboratory information systems, DHIS2, disease-surveillance platforms and other relevant national health-information systems.

In the DRC, outputs from the DNO work on the sample referral system must also be interoperable with the dashboard. Country-specific systems, interfaces and APIs will be confirmed during the inception and country-engagement phase.

4. Data Access and Governance

4.1. What data-sharing agreements are already in place, and what must the consultant negotiate with Member State authorities?

ASLM and the designated national authorities will lead formal country engagement and facilitate authorized access to relevant data. The consultant will not be expected to negotiate data-sharing agreements independently. However, the consultant should support the identification and documentation of data-sharing requirements, technical specifications, access controls, data-governance safeguards and any other measures required to enable secure integration.

5. Budget and Allowable Costs

5.1. Is there a budget ceiling or indicative range that ASLM can share to guide competitive pricing?

ASLM is not providing a budget ceiling at this stage. Bidders are expected to submit a competitive and adequately justified comprehensive fixed-price financial proposal based on the scope, deliverables and required level of effort.

5.2. Should bidders include travel, accommodation and per diem costs in their financial proposals?

No in-country travel is currently envisaged. If travel becomes necessary, approved travel, accommodation and per diem costs associated with required country missions will be covered separately by ASLM. These costs should therefore not be included in the consultant's fixed professional fee.

5.3. Who will cover the costs of stakeholder workshops and training activities?

ASLM will cover the costs associated with organizing stakeholder workshops and training activities, including approved workshop-related expenses. These costs may therefore be excluded from the consultant's financial proposal.

6. Bidder Eligibility, Acceptance and Contractual Terms

6.1. Are consortium applications permitted, and what are the eligibility requirements?

Consortium applications are permitted, provided that a lead organization is clearly identified and assumes overall contractual responsibility for the assignment. Consortium members must collectively satisfy the eligibility and technical requirements specified in the RFP.

6.2. What are the acceptance, support and payment terms?

Deliverables will be reviewed and accepted by ASLM against the agreed scope, technical requirements, quality standards and implementation milestones. The applicable support arrangements will be defined in the contract with the successful bidder.

Payments will be linked to the satisfactory completion and formal acceptance of agreed deliverables and the submission of valid invoices. The detailed milestone-based payment schedule will be finalized in the contract with the successful bidder.