Expression of Interest to Hire Individual Consultant Services: Local Consultant - TO MANAGE THE NATIONAL EPISODE STUDY

Reference #: “Ref: MOH/IC/NMCP/REOI/001/16/17 Released: April 11, 2017

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Background:

The Ministry of Health through the National Malaria Control Program intends to support the services of an individual local consultant to manage the Malaria Operation Research Episode study. The study is in fulfillment of its National Strategy Plan and is a planned activity captured in its work plan. The study will be entirely financed by the Ministry of Health through the Global Fund SAP Grant.

Malaria is the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in children (“WHO | 10 Facts on Malaria” 2015). Globally, over 3 billion people are at risk of acquiring malaria, and an estimated 250 million people become clinically symptomatic each year. Most of the 1 million deaths caused by Plasmodium falciparum occur in patients with a severe disease syndrome, which may include severe anemia, cerebral malaria (CM), respiratory distress, renal impairment, hypoglycemia, or hyperlactemia. Long-term complications can also occur after recovery from severe disease.

In Liberia, malaria is among the top three diseases for out-patient attendance (42%) and the leading cause of inpatient deaths. Hospital records suggest that at least 39 percent of in-patient deaths are attributable to malaria (NMCP HFS-2013). Several efforts aimed at reducing the malaria burden on the population through the development and implementation of policies and strategic plans have been made, and these efforts are beginning to yield results. The National Malaria Control Program Strategic Plan is in line with the Global Malaria Strategy which calls for universal access to all Malaria Control services aimed at reducing Malaria morbidity and mortality by 50% by the year 2020 and the Sustainable Development Goal 3 which calls for ensuring healthy lives and promoting the well-being for all.

Over the past years, antimalarial commodities (ACTs and mRDTs) quantifications had been challenging due to the lack of quality and reliable consumption data coupled with the lack of population specific determination of malaria episodes. This challenge did not only subject the program to using proxy measures but also affected the Program with over and under projection of much-needed commodities. There has been persistent stock out for commodities under quantified on one hand and expiration of other commodities over quantified on the other hand. Given the robust expansion of various malaria control interventions and services coupled with the need to prevent persistent stock out and arbitrary expiration of much-needed commodities,
the National Malaria Control Program with support from the GFATM is commissioning an operational research
to determine the episodes of Malaria among different population. This study will be a cross sectional **facility-based** study and will document evidence to inform quantification, procurement and distribution of malaria commodities to the Counties.

Following the World Health Organization’s 2010 publication of the *Guidelines for the Treatment of Malaria, 2nd Ed.* mandating confirmatory diagnosis of malaria,¹ Liberia has taken active steps to incorporate this strategy into its national policies. In December 2016, Liberia’s NMCP revised the *Technical Guidelines on Malaria Case Management 4th Ed.* to align with the WHO guidelines, indicating “All persons suspected of malaria must be tested with mRDT or microscopy for confirmation before treatment, except in a situation where no diagnostic tool is available or accessible.”² These guidelines are also aligned with Liberia’s *National Malaria Strategic Plan (2016-2020)*, which aims to more actively expand mRDT use through the private and community sectors. All of these efforts required appropriate determination of resources required to deploy in each intervention area. Determining the episodes among the different age groups will save much needed scarce resources. Already, the program has over the years used WHO recommended drugs that are administered with age, weight and other factors. There are records in health facilities which show the number of persons treated with the different categories of first line anti malaria drugs and Epidemiological studies indicate that some children especially under 5s experience more episodes of clinical malaria than their age mates in other endemic regions. The World Health Organization (WHO) in 2004 proposed an estimation of the annual incidence of acute malaria episodes at country-level to be used as the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) indicator of malaria ‘prevalence, though Snow and colleagues claimed that their estimate of 515 million cases of malaria caused by *Plasmodium falciparum* globally is up to 50% higher than that reported by the World Health Organization (WHO), and 200% higher for areas outside Africa¹. However, this comparison refers to the WHO’s estimates from 1990 and 1998, and not to the range of 300 million to 500 million that the WHO has used since 2000 (ref. 2). (International weekly journal of science)

The National Malaria Control Program for the past eleven years has been using the WHO malaria episodes estimation of **present episode per age group** (under five 2 episode, pregnant woman. 2 episode, adolescent, 1 episode, adult, one episode) in informing the malaria situation in the country. Based on the many gains the country has made against the fight of this deadly disease, this estimation notwithstanding needs to be checked and updated with scientific evidence. Hence the need to conduct this study is very urgent and demanding as it will further inform and guide program management decision on commodities quantification and distribution.

**Objective:**

To determine the frequency distribution of malaria episodes among the population over a period of two years (2015and 2016)

**Specific objectives:**

- To determine the average number of malaria incidents per year in children under five
To determine the average number of malaria episodes per year in above five population
To determine the commonly prescribed malaria drug amongst both under five and above five population

Duration of the Assignment: Three Months: expected to Start Date: May 1, 2017 and expected to end Date: July 30, 2017

Title of the Study **Determining malaria episodes among all age groups over a period of two years (2015 and 2016) in the five regions of Liberia**

A retrospective quantitative Research using record review of patients over two years period

Overall Objective To determine the frequency distribution of malaria episodes among the study population over a period of one year

Study Sites Fifteen health facilities(Liberia Agriculture Company Hospital-Grand Bassa, Well Baby Health and Edina Clinic, Liberia Government Hospital-Bomi, Sinje Health Center-Grand Cape-Mount and Bonjeh Town Clinic-Bomi county Ganta United Methodist Hospital-Nimba, Bahn Health Center and Kpatuowo Clinic , Martha Tubman Memorial Hospital-Grand Gedeh, Gbeapo Health Center and GbarzonJarwodee Clinic-Grand Gedeh county and J. J. Dosseen Hospital, Beweh Health Center and Barraken Clinic-Maryland county) across the five regions of Liberia

The Consultant is expected to carry out the following roles and responsibilities

1. Finalized the Draft Protocol for the study
2. Present along with the NMCP team the Finalized Protocol to the Internal Review Board and defend protocol at said Board and ensures its approval
3. Conduct training of data collectors on survey methodology and the data collection process
4. Carry out data analysis of entered data and provide complete analysis of the data
5. Provide periodic briefings to the National Malaria Control Management Team on progress of study as the study progresses
6. Work closely with the Research Officer and M and E Manager of the NMCP in the managing of the study
7. Present draft report of the study to the National Malaria Control Steering Committee and other key partners for inputs
Finalized draft report and submit same to the Program Manager for approval.

Qualification and Requirements:

- Master Degree in Public Health, Social Sciences or its equivalent.
- Have at least three years in research management
- Demonstrated experience in managing a research of this nature
  - Proven efficiency in data management and analysis
  - Proven ability to work effectively in limited structure settings
- Strong project planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation skills
- Proficiency in MS Office Suite applications
- Fluent English speaker with excellent written and oral communications skills

Interested individual may obtain further information from the address below and deliver their Expression of Interest (EOI) written in English, enclosed in an envelope clearly marked: “Expression of Interest: Individual Consulting Services: Local Consultant-TO MANAGE THE NATIONAL EPISODE STUDY “Ref: MOH/IC/NMCP/REOI/001/16/17” and drop in the tender box situated on the ground floor or electronically transmitted by the deadline specified below to: proumohsw@gmail.com no later than Tuesday, 25th April 2017 @ 2:00 PM/14:00 GMT.

Expression of Interest must be clearly marked “Consulting Services: “Local Consultant-TO MANAGE THE NATIONAL EPISODE STUDY “Ref: MOH/IC/NMCP/REOI/001/16/17”.

Only Shortlisted Consultant will be interviewed.

The address is stated below:

Jacob L.N Wapoe
Director of Procurement
Ministry of Health
Congo Town, Room#140 or via email: proumohsw@gmail.com

This Expression of Interest can also be found on:

i. www.emansion.gov.lr

Signed by: ___________________________ Approved by: ___________________________
Director of Procurement Deputy Minister for Admin.