TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTANTS TO SUPPORT IN-COUNTRY VALIDATION ACTIVITIES

The African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) is a leading pan-African research institution headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, that conducts high quality policy-relevant research on population, health, education, urbanization and related development issues across Africa. APHRC actively engages policymakers and other key stakeholders to help ensure decision-making across the continent is informed by rigorous evidence-based research.

Organizational Unit
Policy Engagement and Communications Division

Background

Sub-Saharan Africa faces perennial challenges in the delivery of immunization services particularly to remote rural areas and densely populated urban informal settlements. These challenges have a retrograding impact on the health status of communities and impede economic growth of a country. National priorities including health priorities have also limited the amount of funds allocated for procurement and delivery of vaccines, introduction of new vaccines, human resources for health and overall strengthening of the health system.

Thirty countries in Africa with a GNI below $1,580 enjoy financial support through Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance’s co-financing model. These countries are expected to gradually increase their share of immunization funding as they prepare to transition away from Gavi support. Currently, 12 countries in sub-Saharan are at different stages of transitioning within the next five years, but are largely ill-prepared to do so.

These countries are faced with challenges that need to be addressed if progress is to be achieved. One way of addressing these challenges is by substantively and sustainably engaging governments to increase financing and prioritize immunization at all levels. African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC), in partnership with Niyel, is therefore implementing an immunization advocacy and communication intervention in 5 sub-Saharan African countries: Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya and Zambia.

Our theory of change suggests that stronger civil society with the appropriate communication and advocacy skills, armed with sound evidence can influence domestic spending on immunization. The investment, funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is aimed at providing technical assistance to support advocacy for policy change and increased domestic financing of immunization programs. The bedrock of this investment is the generation a robust body of evidence and facts, including views and opinions from a wide range of key stakeholders in health and immunization.

To this effect, the consortium would like to engage stakeholders from government, development partners, media, civil society actors, professional bodies, key populations and other actors within the health and immunization space in order to gain a deeper insight of each country on the following issues;

• Country systems: policy processes, budgeting cycles, donor landscape and health financing
• Immunization strategies: immunization roadmaps, progress on global and regional commitments (GVAP, SDGs, and ADI) as well as champions and obstacles
• Existing advocacy and communications efforts and the different players involved

Objectives of the Assignment
The scope of this assignment is to provide services necessary to facilitate, arrange for and document findings from high-level meetings with partners in the immunization space. This will involve organizing one-on-one meetings and a one and half day stakeholder workshop.

Specific tasks will include:
• Contacting and requesting for audience with stakeholders, including high-level officials in the allocated country – government, civil society actors, development partners, journalists and other key actors.
• In close collaboration with APHRC and Niyel, support the workshop outputs including sending out invitations, receiving confirmations and developing agenda.
• Drafting the activity report summarizing ideas highlighted during discussions, decisions taken and next steps, among others.
• Supplying additional information or clarifications concerning the report after submission as needed.
• Setting up of a field visit for a deeper understanding on immunization service delivery processes within the country.

Reporting and Accountability
The consultant will be directly accountable to the project leader and will work closely with the project managers at APHRC and Niyel. The consultant is expected to submit a country report three working days after completion of the task. The report will include high-level analysis of the findings gathered from one-on-one meetings and the main stakeholders’ meeting.

QUALIFICATIONS AND/OR EXPERIENCE
• Experience in events management, stakeholders engagement and report writing.
• Well networked individual(s) with links to key players and influencers in health development in countries of interest.
• Ability to assimilate, analyze, synthesize and disseminate perceptions and sentiments from a wide range of stakeholders.
• Fluency in English and the official language of the selected country is a must.

To apply, please send the following to procurement@aphrc.org and copy gagesa@aphrc.org by June 9, 2017:
• Curriculum Vitae or profile with evidence of similar work previously carried out. Links to previous works should be included.
• One-page cover letter outlining your qualifications, expected consultancy rate per day, experience and networks in each country.
• If translation will be required, please include that as a budget line in your bid.
• Please state the country of interest

All requests for clarification should be directed to Gaye Agesa, The Immunization Advocacy Project Manager by email at gagesa@aphrc.org copying procurement@aphrc.org.