

Call for Expression of Interest in a Consultancy on Disease Mapping and Modeling for Neglected and Other Poverty-Related Diseases in Latin America and the Caribbean

HSD/CD/546

This Call is an initiative of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), in the context of its Program for the Elimination of Neglected and Other Poverty-Related Diseases.

The PAHO/WHO Health Surveillance and Disease Prevention and Control Area, Communicable Diseases Project, invites academic institutions, specialized centers and public-health-related consulting firms in PAHO Members States to express their interest in providing the requested consultancy services described below:

The **purpose** of the consultancy is to conduct or improve **disease mapping** of the selected neglected infectious diseases (NIDs) that can be targeted through mass drug administration (MDA), i.e. onchocerciasis, lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis, soil-transmitted helminthiasis, and trachoma, as well as other diseases that could be part of an integrated plan, including Chagas disease, rabies transmitted by dogs, plague, leprosy, leishmaniasis, and congenital syphilis, among others. This will require deciding on the level of disaggregation (in consultation with PAHO/HSD/CD), according to the population size that will provide the best information for NID strategy and that will be the most feasible, given the time constraints and technical and financial resources dedicated to this exercise (details described later in this document).

The consultant's **objectives** are:

1. Disaggregate the existing disease maps and baseline data down to the established disaggregation level based on the optimal **population size** vis-à-vis data for the NID strategy, when possible for approximately 60–100 administrative units at the first sub-national level¹, to include social, economic and environmental variables.
2. Develop a model according to disaggregation level that will identify the variables and social determinants of health most associated with the presence of the respective disease(s).
3. Develop an epidemiological extrapolation model to identify hidden/unknown/blind areas possibly existing in the countries that did not provide information on the selected diseases identified for mapping.
4. Install the system (models) to be developed and provide training to PAHO staff at Headquarters and in selected countries, as needed.

The overall duration of the assignment must not exceed ten (10) months, during which deliverables should be provided according to an established timeline. The expected overall

¹ In the countries where “hot spots” have been identified; see [PAHO/HSD/CD. Epidemiological Profiles on NIDs and Other Infections Related to Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean](#), Washington, DC, April 2009.

budget to complete the required tasks should not exceed US\$ 115,000. Expenses will include an honorarium, travel and per diems, software, hardware, and training for PAHO staff.

Qualifications

A team of consultants will be needed with the following professional backgrounds:

1. A team of experts with experience in the use or application of geographical information systems for disease mapping, including environmental, social, and economic variables associated with disease presence.
2. Knowledge and experience on developing models for predicting spatial distribution of diseases, based upon the variables associated with their presence.

Additionally, knowledge and experience in developing models of diseases behavior according to a variety of possible interventions will be desirable.

Submission of Applications

Requirements include:

- Expressions of interest (3 copies) in either English or Spanish, consisting of a capability statement of no more than 5 pages, abridged *curricula vitae* (CVs) of key staff and supporting references (academics, professionals, scientific publications, etc.).
- Additionally, the interested parties must provide a brief description of the proposed methodological approach of no more than 5 pages.
- Prices and budget are not needed at this stage (the expression of interest stage); however, when required later, all prices must be in US dollars (US\$).
- Documentation from the academic institutions, specialized centers, or consulting firms interested in participating, indicating the name of the contact person and/or legal representative, their position in the respective institution, and address, telephone and fax numbers, postal and e-mail addresses, website, and any other contact data.

The Expression of Interest and corresponding documentation should be submitted in electronic format (MS Word) as well as printed format (hard copy) and should be received by no later than **10 July 2009**. It should be sent to the following address:

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