CONSULTANCY

Initial Terms of Reference

This consultancy is requested by:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Unit:</th>
<th>Service Organization and Clinical Interventions (SCI)</th>
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<td>Department:</td>
<td>Service Delivery and Safety (SDS)</td>
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1. Purpose of the Consultancy

Provide support and expertise to strengthening the surveillance, preparedness and response of the blood transfusion services to emerging infections and disease outbreak.

2. Background

During disease outbreak, national blood services are often under great pressure to implement measures to protect the safety of blood supply. Meanwhile, safety measures on blood donations during disease outbreak can have important negative public health impact by limiting the supply of blood products to health care facilities. Disease outbreak could also lead to increased/decreased demand of blood from hospitals. It could also have direct negative effect to the operation of blood services and lead to decreased collection of blood from blood donors and even to the loss of staff members working in the blood services. The emergence of infections such as West Nile, Chikungunya, dengue and Zika virus, and the recognition of their transmissibility through transfusion highlighted the need to strengthen the surveillance, vigilance in the blood transfusion service and its capacity of decision-making and the implementation of a range of measures during disease outbreak to ensure safe and sufficient blood supply. During disease outbreak, it is crucial for blood services to work closely with public health agencies, hospitals, communities as well as international agencies. The approach to emerging infections associated with transfusion of blood and blood products includes assessing the transmissibility of the agent by this route; developing effective prevention strategies, including screening tests and donor deferral policies; improving viral and bacterial inactivation procedures; and surveillance for known, as well as emerging and poorly characterized, transfusion-transmitted agents. Vigilance is needed to help ensure proper balance between safety and the availability of blood. Vigilance needs to be global and extend to the developing countries, where the basic elements to reduce transfusion-transmitted infections and systems of disease surveillance are often not available.

The consultant will provide support and expertise to strengthening the surveillance, preparedness and response of the blood transfusion services to emerging infections and disease outbreak. The consultancy work will build on WHO’s work in providing emergency guidance to maintain safe and sufficient blood supplies during outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Avian Influenza, Ebola and Zika infections.

3. Planned timelines (subject to confirmation)

Start date: 15/August/2017
End date: 15/December/2017

4. Work to be performed

Output 1: Support the development of guidance documents on maintaining safe and secure blood supplies during disease outbreak

Deliverable 1.1: Guidance documents developed on maintaining safe and secure blood supplies during disease outbreak.

Deliverable 1.2: Guidance documents disseminated and technical support provided to strengthen national blood transfusion services in preparedness and response to disease outbreak.

Output 2: Support the organization of global consultation on strengthening the surveillance, preparedness and response of the blood transfusion services to emerging infections and disease outbreak.

Deliverable 2.1: Agenda and programmes of the meeting developed in discussion with other related WHO programmes, departments, international agencies and experts.
Deliverable 2.2: Global consultation organized on strengthening the surveillance, preparedness and response of the blood transfusion services to emerging infections and disease outbreak; prepare a meeting report.

5. Technical Supervision
The selected Consultant will work on the supervision of:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responsible Officer</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Junping Yu, Technical officer, HQ/HIS/SDS/SCI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manager:</td>
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<td>Hernan Montenegro, Coordinator, HQ/HIS/SDS/SCI</td>
<td><a href="mailto:montenegroh@who.int">montenegroh@who.int</a></td>
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6. Specific requirements
- Qualifications required:
  Advanced degree in infectious disease, virology or microbiology. A degree of PhD is desirable.
- Experience required:
  At least 10 years experiences in transfusion microbiology, including experiences of implementing surveillance programmes of transfusion-transmissible infections and addressing the emerging threat to blood safety.
- Skills / Technical skills and knowledge:
  Technical knowledge of infectious diseases, transfusion-transmissible infections, emerging infections that threaten safe and sufficient blood supplies, disease surveillance, risk assessment and management of blood transfusion services .
- Language requirements:
  English Expert level (Read - Write – Speak))
  Other UN languages favourable

7. Place of assignment
WHO Headquarter, Geneva, Switzerland

8. Medical clearance
The selected Consultant will be expected to provide a medical certificate of fitness for work.

9. Travel
Travel to regional meetings or global consultation (if it is not held in WHO Headquarter (Geneva)) likely though locations and dates TBD.

All travel arrangements will be made by WHO – WHO will not be responsible for tickets purchased by the Consultant without the express, prior authorization of WHO. While on mission under the terms of this consultancy, the Consultant will receive subsistence allowance.

Visas requirements: it is the consultant’s responsibility to fulfil visa requirements and ask for visa support letter(s) if needed.