Call for Proposals: systematic review of evidence on meningococcal vaccines - Consultancy

BACKGROUND

The mission of the Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals (IVB) is to work towards a world in which all people are vaccinated against vaccine preventable diseases.

The Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) meets at least twice a year and SAGE working groups are established as resources intended to increase the effectiveness of SAGE deliberations. Members of the working groups provide evidence-based information and options for recommendations for discussion by the whole SAGE in an open forum. The WHO position paper on meningococcal vaccines was published in November 2011, followed by a specific update in February 2015. Since then, a large body of information has emerged in terms of incidence of disease and carriage, use of vaccines and impact of vaccination, and research and development of vaccines. A working group has been established to prepare a SAGE review of new evidence and advice to WHO on the use of meningococcal vaccines to reduce the public health impact of the disease. This will include updating the recommendations for the optimal use of meningococcal conjugate vaccines in the meningitis belt and around the world, and the development of recommendations for the use of meningococcal B vaccines.

The research and development (R&D) Blueprint is a global strategy and preparedness plan to fight highly infectious diseases and strengthen the emergency response by bringing medical technologies to patients during epidemics. For each of these priority diseases, WHO coordinates the development of R&D roadmaps, which serve as collaborative frameworks underpinning strategic goals and priority research areas to accelerate the development of diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines to prevent and control serious emerging diseases. Each roadmap is informed by a baseline situation analysis (or landscape analysis), a systematic approach that maps and assesses where critical gaps and progress are in ongoing product research and development initiatives, and presents the state of the science (e.g. epidemiology, immunity, in vitro tests, animal models).

PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTANCY

A qualified and experienced consultant is sought to support WHO’s work on Meningococcal Vaccines and Vaccination, as well as on the R&D Blueprint roadmaps for priority diseases.

Working closely with staff in WHO's Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals, as well as in the WHO Health Emergencies Programme (WHE) and in WHO Regional Offices; and with input from technical partners, the consultant will be responsible for:

1. Contributing scientific expertise to WHO’s work to conduct a comprehensive systematic review of the evidence on the safety, efficacy and effectiveness of meningococcal vaccines, in accordance with SAGE processes, and in particular i) ensuring liaison with other experts and institutions who may conduct similar reviews on specific areas of interest, and ii) preparing technical briefings for the consultations of the dedicated SAGE working group and the updating of the WHO position paper;
2. Contributing scientific expertise to WHO’s work in updating the baseline situation analysis for some of the R&D Blueprint roadmaps for priority diseases.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Qualifications and experience

1. Doctoral qualifications in a health-related field;
2. At least 5 years of experience in a public health organisation or academic institution including experience working in the systematic review of evidence;
3. Experience working with different stakeholders, including from academia and policy making bodies.

Skills and knowledge

1. Capacity to interact with technical experts in public health organisations, governments, academia, and industry; with respect to the systematic reviews;
2. Knowledge in the conduct of systematic reviews and related analytical skills;
3. Excellent oral and written communication skills in English (expert knowledge). Basic knowledge in French.

DATES AND DUTY STATION

The consultancy will start by February 2020 and will run through August 2020 (subject to confirmation). The consultant will not be expected to work at any given location, but to travel at least monthly to WHO Headquarters in Geneva for technical meetings. Other travels will depend on timing and venues for the technical consultations with WHO partners.

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit applications by e-mail to embayer@who.int, indicating “Consultant: WHO meningococcal vaccines: systematic review of evidence” in the subject line.

Please include:
(1) a letter of motivation and
(2) a current curriculum vitae.

All applications will be acknowledged. The closing date for applications is 27 January 2020.