REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Development of a peer reviewed methodology and dataset for WHO HPV vaccine coverage estimates

I. BACKGROUND

WHO has collected data on HPV vaccination since 2011 through the Joint reporting Form (JRF) with the aim to start reporting WHO estimates of HPV vaccine coverage based on country’s administrative data using a cohort methodology that estimates protection at 15 years of age. This methodology allows for standardization across countries at different age groups or ranges of ages vaccinated in different countries. Along with the advantage of comparison comes a disadvantage in that it introduces a systematic delay between the intervention (vaccination) and the WHO’s estimate especially if the target population are 9 or 10 years old – which is the case in the majority of low-income countries recently introducing the vaccine. To address this latter issue and to review the data generated with this WHO approach, IVB held a technical meeting in Barcelona (Nov 2018) with domain experts and country representatives to review this 15-year-old cohort methodology and assess the need for additional or alternative measures to overcome some of the shortcomings inherent to the cohort measure. As a result of this technical review WHO is requested to use two measures of HPV vaccine coverage: the first one to assess the programme performance in the previous calendar year and the second one to assess countries’ population protection level at 15 years of age through a standardized cohorts-based measure, independent of vaccination strategy. (A meeting report is available from the contact person)

II. OBJECTIVE OF THE WORK

Prepare a comprehensive methodological description of the measures and process to develop WHO estimates for HPV vaccine coverage and to develop a first set of WHO estimates based on the data from 2018 and before, as available from JRF and other accepted sources.

III. SCOPE OF WORK

Selected company /consultants are expected to deliver on the Terms of Reference for the following tasks:

TASK 1. Peer review of the measures to estimate HPV coverage
a) Develop a methodological description of the two measures based on available data.

b) Present the methodology at the IVIR-AC meeting (12-13 March 2019, Geneva) for expert review and incorporate comments in the methodology description.

c) Develop and submit an article to a peer reviewed journal to describe the methodology.

Task 2. WHO country estimates of HPV vaccine coverage

d) Using the reported data from 2011-2018 and other accepted sources (as per the methodology), carry out data cleaning and develop a comprehensive database and determine trends of the two HPV coverage estimates measures as per the country’s introduction status and starting year.

e) Organize a draft data review meeting to review the datapoints with relevant WHO staff and other partners as relevant (UNICEF) and develop a finalized dataset.

Task 3. Publish the result of the work

f) Prepare an article to present the methodology and country estimate data to a peer reviewed journal in collaboration with WHO as co-authors.

Task 4. Drop out and Interval between HPV doses

g) Based on the reported data (JRF and other available datasets) determine the extent of drop-out between the first and last (second) dose of HPV vaccination, late vaccination (i.e. first dose at second round of vaccination) for countries where this information is available.

IV. DELIVERABLES

1) Background paper on the HPV coverage estimate methodology (8 March 2019)
2) Presentation at IVIR-AC on the HPV coverage estimate methodology (11 March 2019)
3) Cleaned and reviewed (by WHO and partners) database with trend data on HPV coverage estimates (Excel) (31 July 2019)
4) Article in peer-reviewed journal describing the methodology and country estimates of HPV vaccine coverage submitted and accepted (submitted 15 September 2019)
5) Technical paper to present data on drop-out levels and intervals between doses (31 May 2019).

Selected company/consultants will report to the Technical Officer focal point for HPV in IVB/EPI in WHO/HQ.

V. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL

WHO/EPI is inviting proposals for the execution of the above work by companies or individual consultants.

a. Requirements:
- Experience in dealing with complex datasets on vaccination and tracking vaccination coverage specifically;
- Demonstrated familiarity with immunization programmes and HPV associated data, and with WHO’s role and functions in global data gathering and analysis;
- Demonstrated knowledge of HPV vaccine programmes in low-resource or, as well as, developed country settings;
- Background in epidemiology is a strong asset;
- Experience in public health programme evaluation;
- Proven capacity to generate highly professional English language reports and develop debriefing presentations;
- Skills in French and Spanish language skills desirable;
- High proficiency with Excel.

b. **Essential proposal content:**
- Cover letter/statement of interest justifying candidacy and how the above requirements are met;
- CVs of proposed project personnel;
- Annotated Budget - separating proposed fees from travel/reimbursable costs - for the various deliverables.

c. **Submission deadline:**
This request for Proposals (RFP) was issued on Thursday 17 January 2019. All proposals, with a length of 3-7 pages - including budget, must be sent by Thursday 7 February 2019 in electronic format to:

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Paul Bloem  IVB/EPI  HPV focal point
World Health Organization
20, Avenue Appia
CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland
E-mail: Bloemp@who.int
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d. **Award of contract:**
The award shall be made to the bidders whose proposal best meet the requirements of the request for proposals in terms of demonstrated expertise, quality and cost. If multiple persons will be involved, all team members will be required to demonstrate the absence of any conflict of interest.

WHO reserves the right to contact bidders subsequent to submission of proposals and prior to award for clarifications. Revisions may be permitted after submission of a proposal, and prior to award.

WHO reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted.

WHO shall not be responsible for any costs incurred by the agency in preparing, submitting or presenting its proposal.

The contract will be awarded on: Monday 11 February 2019.