|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **CONSULTANCY** |

**Terms of Reference**

This consultancy is requested by:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Unit: | Malaria, Vector Control and NTDs Unit in WCO Pakistan |
| Department: | Communicable Diseases |

1. **Purpose of the Consultancy**

The Overall Purpose of this consultancy is to test the efficacy and safety of Oral Artemether plus Lumefantrine in the treatment of uncomplicated falciparum malaria at 1 selected sentinel hospital in Balochistan, as per WHO protocol and as approved by Central Bioethics Committee (NBC) Pakistan

1. **Background**

Antimalarial Drug Efficacy and Safety Testing is a regular feature of exiting sentinel site surveillance and programme monitoring. In Pakistan every alternate year the test is conducted at selected sentinel sites as per WHO latest protocol which is cleared by Central Bioethics Committee of Pakistan. The survey is planned to be conducted by the team of an expert doctors, a facility microscopist, a female nurses or paramedic and 3-4 patient follow up supervisors from local Malaria Control Programme. The study also includes genomic sequencing of the prevalent parasites species with particular reference to the presence of resistant genes and to confirm the presence of deleted HRP2 and HRP3 genes if any. These results will help guide the programme in making any inevitable policy change in falciparum malaria case management guidelines and selection of new antigen detection tests.

District Headquarter Hospital Zhob in Balochistan has been selected as sentinel site hospital. Acting as Principal and Co-Investigator Investigator and Survey Coordinator the consultant will deal with all management and administrative issues encountered related to this survey extended over 4 months. He /She will also supervise the overall functions of the survey team at the selected sentinel facility and will ensure the quality of the survey in accordance with the approved protocol. Principle Investigator /Site Coordinator will also be responsible for the logistic arrangements of required lab equipment, reagents supplies and commodities. He will provide the technical guidance to the sentinel site team as per methodology explained in the protocol therein. As a Sentinel Site in-charge he will be responsible for the quality assurance of samples collected and will cross check every slide and recount the parasitaemia after the completion of the survey.

1. **Planned timelines** (subject to confirmation)

Start date: 21/10/2023

End date: 31/12/2023

1. **Work to be performed.**

**The consultant is expected to perform the following tasks during his consultancy period.**

1. Select his own sentinel site team in consultation with the WHO national focal point of TES and the Medical evaluator of the survey in WCO Pakistan,
2. Facilitate the sites team refresher training at the sentinel facility before the initiation of the survey as per advice of the WHO Global Malaria Programme and Regional Office MVC Unit
3. Will make an initial assessment of the available HR, reagents, equipment and required commodities and will develop a list of items for the WHO procurement unit in WCO for speedy procurement.
4. Will perform the role of chief microscopist and quality assurance expert during enrolment of the patients and follow up screening at stipulated dates of all enrolled patients.
5. Will assist the sites doctor in the enrolment of patients and availing the consent of the study subjects; screening microscopist and female nurse during the course of the survey and will ensure the enrolment of 100 patients sampling and follow up for 28 days as per protocol.
6. Will cross check and parasite counting of all slides taken during follow up of the patients and will prepare the report and enter the data in data sheet.
7. Will be responsible for all record maintenance for later sharing with WHO EMRO including the patient records.
8. Will ensure the completion of the survey within 3 months and will submit the report within one month of the completion of the report.

By the end of his consultancy, he should have delivered the following outputs.

**Output 1:** What does the Technical Unit expect the Consultant to produce /deliver? (Example: report on food safety in Country X)

Accomplishment sentinel site survey at one site testing the efficacy and safety of first line drug used in the treatment of uncomplicated falciparum malaria, complete the data entry and submit the final report on the survey findings.

**Deliverable 1.1:**

Sentinel Site teams constituted as per criteria in the protocol and refresher training organised.

**Deliverable 1.2:**

Required equipment, reagents and commodities made available at the relevant site.

**Deliverable 1.3**:

88 patients with uncomplicated falciparum malaria enrolled and followed up to 28 days (7, weekly health facility or home visits and sampling) as per set criteria in the protocol

**Deliverable 1.4**:

To double Cross check all the samples (slides) with parasite count , complete the double entry of data on the provided data base and based on the analysis will develop the report

**Deliverable 1.5**:

Report finalised, submitted for review and disseminated in a national consultation.

1. **Technical Supervision**

The selected Consultant will work on the supervision of:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Responsible Officer:  | Dr. Qutbuddin Kakar, NPO MCV,NTDs, WCO Pakistan | Email: | kakarqut@who.int |
| Manager: | Dr. Palitha Mahipala The WR Pakistan | Email: | mahipalap@who.int |

1. **Specific requirements**

Qualifications required:

Degrees / Certificates:

Specialised Diploma and training in Medical Lab technology from College of Laboratory Technology

Master Trainer in WHO QA assurance in malaria microscopy regional course of Quality Assurance

Experience required:

Minimum 25 years’ experience of laboratory work and 10 years of experience working as QA expert in Sentinel Site Surveys and at any national /regional reference QA reference lab,

Skills / Technical skills and knowledge:

Successful completion of 3 previous WHO monitored Sentinel Sites TES surveys and has in‐depth knowledge of Malaria microscopy techniques.

Language requirements:

Expert in reading, writing, and speaking English and Urdu

1. **Place of assignment**

Where is the Consultant expected to perform her/his work (please pay particular attention to the visa requirements if any) – Does this require travel?

The consultant will stay in Zhob city the Sentinel Site district and will complete the survey and will not travel outside the district he has been assigned. However he will travel to his assignment district from his home town to his assignment district.

1. **Medical clearance**

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

Medical Fitness Certificate provided confirming the fitness.

1. **Travel**

The Consultant is expected to travel according to the itinerary and estimated schedule below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Travel dates** | **Location** |
| From | Quetta | To | Zhob | 21/10/2023 |
| **Purpose:** | Will take his team onboard and initiate the survey at the sentinel site hospital in Zhob |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Travel dates** | **Location** |
| From | Zhob |  | Quetta | 31/12/2023 |
| **Purpose:** | After concluding the survey the consultant will leave for his home town at Quetta |

*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.*