

Agreement for Performance of Work

Terms of Reference (Development of National Strategy for Dengue Prevention and Control)

This technical support is requested by:

Unit:	WHO Health Emergencies
Country Office:	Pakistan

1. Purpose

The purpose of the technical support is to provide assistance to develop a National Strategy for Dengue prevention and control in Pakistan

2. Background

Dengue is a major public-health concern throughout tropical and sub-tropical regions of the world. It is the most rapidly spreading mosquito-borne viral disease, with a 30-fold increase in global incidence over the past 50 years. In 2012, dengue ranked as the most important mosquito borne viral disease in the world. Outbreaks exert a huge burden on populations, health systems and economies in most tropical countries of the world.

The first confirmed outbreak of dengue fever in Pakistan was in 1994, but a sudden rise in cases and the annual epidemic trend first occurred in Karachi in November 2005.

Since 2010, Pakistan has been experiencing an epidemic of dengue fever that has caused 16,580 confirmed cases and 257 deaths in Lahore and nearly 5000 cases and 60 deaths reported from the rest of the country. The three provinces facing the epidemic are Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh.

Dengue fever is endemic to Pakistan, which experiences year-round transmission with seasonal peaks. However, triggered by the worst flooding in the country's history that began in mid-June, the number of reported dengue cases were significantly higher in 2022 (between January and September) as compared to the same period during the four previous years. Between 1 January to 27 September 2022, according to the National Institute of Health-Islamabad, a cumulative total of 25, 932 confirmed dengue cases and 62 deaths have been reported nationally. In 2023, the confirmed cases of Dengue from January 2023 to September 2023 are 7,920 and 17 deaths have been reported from Punjab.

Dengue fever is endemic in Pakistan, with seasonal outbreaks and the circulation of the four serotypes in different areas of the country. *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* are widely adapted vectors for urban and peri-urban environments. As dengue is recurrent in the country, the population may be at risk of re-infection and therefore, serious complications may occur if not managed promptly and correctly.

Currently the response for Dengue outbreak in the country is mainly case management and the control measures are fragmented and not timely undertaken. There is a need to align with the Global and Regional strategies and roadmap and to contextualize the targets. WHO has developed a Global Strategy for Dengue Prevention and Control (2012-2020), however no strategic plan was developed for Pakistan. Therefore, there is a need to assess the country situation and develop a National Strategy which will focus on all prevention and control measures and provide a set of interventions

3. Planned timelines (two months)

Start date: 01-11-2023

End date: 31-12-2023

4. Work to be performed

The consultant will support the WHO country office to develop the National Strategy for Dengue Prevention and Control with provincial chapters.

The incumbent is expected to work closely with the NPO Mal Neglected Tropical Diseases and overall supervision of WR and perform the following tasks/deliverables:

1. Undertake the situation analysis of Dengue in the country through provincial missions or virtual Communications.
2. Historical data, reports, assessments and Literature review to solicit, collect, and review all global Regional and national Strategies and initiatives.
3. Review the 2007 National Action plan and existing provincial strategic plans for Dengue Control and country guidelines for case management and dengue vector control etc
4. To hold meetings at provincial and National level with health Ministry/departments, other line departments and disease control experts.
5. To develop a Draft of National Strategy for Dengue Control in line with Global Strategy for Dengue prevention and control and regional roadmap
6. Present the draft strategy in national consultative meeting to stakeholders and policy makers for their concurrence and feedback and to incorporate the inputs!
7. To present the final draft to WR
8. To present the Draft Strategy with all stakeholders

5. Technical Supervision

The selected Consultant will work in the supervision of:

Responsible Officer	Dr Qutbuddin Kakar	Email:	kakarqut@who.int
Manager:	Dr Palitha Gunarathna Mahipala WHO Representative in Pakistan	Email:	mahipalap@who.int

6. Specific requirements

Qualification:

Essential: A Master or a higher Degree in Medical/Biomedical/Biological Sciences from an accredited University

Desirable: Master's in Public Health / Master in Tropical Medicine/ Master or higher degree in vector biology and control, parasitology, virology public health, biological sciences, Vector Control

Expérience :

- 10 years' relevant experience in public health, Vector Borne Diseases Control, management of VBDs programmes, development of any VBDs Control Strategic plan, well versed with country's health system

Skills/technical skills and knowledge:

Advanced computer literacy (Word, Excel, Power point, etc.), strong writing skills, familiarity with existing disease surveillance tools /dashboard

Language requirements:

English & Urdu expert proficiency (Read - Write – Speak)