# This technical support is requested by:

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| Unit: | WHE |
| Country Office: | Pakistan |

1. **Background**

In Pakistan where malaria transmission is unstable, malaria outbreaks represent a major public health problem. Malaria is a complex disease and its distribution in Pakistan varies largely from place to place, and it is dependent upon a variety of factors related to parasites, vectors and human populations under different geographical, environmental, ecological and socio-economic conditions. Transmission of malaria in most parts of the country is highly seasonal and unstable with peaks of transmission in the summer (June-Sept) for *P.vivax* and late-summer and winter months (August-November) for falciparum malaria. Because of *P.vivax* relapses, there is a peak of relapse episodes seen in the early summer (April-June) resulting from transmission in the previous year.

Climate change in Pakistan has affected the epidemiology of vector-borne diseases including Malaria in many ways in the country, resulting in epidemics and outbreaks of endemic VBDs and the emergence of new infections and their transmitting vectors in regions where they were not previously known to exist. In 2022 Pakistan experienced an unprecedented heavy monsoon resulting in devastating floods that affected more than 116 districts and 88 out of them were declared calamity hit by the government. The heavy monsoon starting in June and ending in September coincided with the main transmission season of Malaria, cutaneous leishmaniasis and dengue fever.

Soon after the floods, the transmission of malaria increased exponentially to outbreak proportions in high-endemic districts. Thirty-Four districts were declared under malaria outbreak in mid-September. Majority of these districts were intervention districts under Global Fund grant.

WHO Pakistan has led the malaria outbreak response in all epidemic hit districts, through enhanced coordination with national and provincial governments, UN agencies and development partners by strengthening disease surveillance, planning for effective vector control, resource mobilization and provision of diagnostics, medicines and Long-Lasting Nets to meet the unmet needs of populations in camps and those stranded in the floods, particularly in Sindh and Balochistan provinces. Access and availability of health services through mobile outreach, medical camps, logistical and technical support to the functional HCFs and Mass Drug Administration were major part of the response.

This is probably the heaviest outbreak ever reported outbreak in the history of the country since 1973 extended over the period of 2 years now. In 2023 the situation was even worst then 2022 as the reported incidence in 2022 was 1.8 million cases while the number of 2 million is reached by end October 2023.

The WHO teams across the country continued weekly monitoring of disease trend, conducted IRS and MDA operations in selected districts and organised training workshops in Balochistan and Sindh. The response is expected to continue till end December 2023.

WHO Pakistan has engaged a group of 3 expert malariologists /epidemiologists/public health professionals to help assist the provincial malaria and vector borne diseases control programmes in Sindh, Balochistan and at national level in strengthening disease surveillance, capacity building of care providers in cases management, assessment of situation, planning interventions and implementation of planned outputs of outbreak response plans. The experts have been engaged in supervising the implementation of malaria outbreak response plan in districts where outbreak has been declared, provide guidance to field staff, ensure the availability of medicines and RDTs stock at all levels of health care delivery, conduct within district situation analyses , facilitate the assessment missions and coordinate with partners for resource mobilization and project implementation.

The hired national experts had been located at Quetta and in Islamabad moving between the provinces where their services are needed. They have been working in close coordination with the provincial Malaria and Vector Borne Diseases Control Programmes and partners engaged in Malaria and other VBDs Outbreaks control under the supervision of WHO National Focal Point for Malaria and NTDs at Islamabad.

The overall objective of the assignment has been to achieve effective control of malaria, dengue and leishmaniasis outbreak situation in identified outbreak hit districts of the country.

The purpose of this consultancy is to ensure the availability of the services for additional 2 months (Nov-dec 2023) to fully accomplish their current assignments.

By the end of completion of the assignment in the outbreak affected districts included in his assignment 17.1 million people could have benefited from the outbreak control interventions and the services provided for diagnosis, treatment, and provision prevention services.

Overall beneficiaries are the around 17.1 million population at risk in 50 districts of Sindh and Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces.

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

Start date: 01st December 2023

End date: 31st December 2023

1. **Work to be performed**

In collaboration with the Government and overall guidance and supervision of the WHO Country Office, the incumbent will be responsible to perform the following activities:

**Output 1:** **Ensure the availability of diagnostic and treatment services to all at risk in outbreak hit districts and monitor and supervise the implementation of outbreak response plan and intervention campaigns as MDA, IRS and social mobilization in outbreak hit districts.**

**Deliverable 1.1:** Help assist in the developmentof district specific outbreak response plan in coordination with WCO and the provincial counterpart programmes. VBDs programmes

**Deliverable 1.2:** Develop and implement district specific MDA, IRS or larviciding, or LLIN distribution plan and campaigns in collaboration with WHO technical team, national and provincial health departments.

**Deliverable 1.3:** Prepare and implement standard case management and vector control guidelines / protocols and IEC material for health facilities and the communities in flood affected districts.

**Deliverable 1.4** Organise district-based refresher sessions for district malaria control programme staff in malaria case management, disease, and entomological surveillance.

**Output 2:** **Strengthen entomological and disease surveillance at all levels, develop district capacities in emergency outbreak response, and** **ensure Community participation in outbreak response.**

**Deliverable 2.1:** Ensure daily/weekly reporting on malaria, leishmaniasis and dengue cases from provinces and on entomological surveillance reports from the field.

**Deliverable 2.2:** Develop systems and mechanisms for epidemiological and entomological surveillance and conduct field visits to health facilities and interact with communities and engage private sector health care in regular cases reporting.

**Deliverable 2.3:** Assist the national consultant in the development of National Strategic Plan for Dengue Prevention and Control 2024-2029

**Deliverable 2.4:** Facilitate regular monitoring and follow up on malaria care and other preventive interventions implemented in the concerned districts

1. **Technical Supervision**

The selected Consultant will work in the supervision of:

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| Responsible Officer | Dr. Qutbuddin Kakar  NPO Malaria, VBDs and NTDs | Email: | kakarqut@who.int |
| Manager: | Dr. Palitha Gunarathna Mahipala  WHO Representative in Pakistan | Email: | mahipalap@who.int |

1. **Specific requirements**

**Qualification**

**Essential:** MBBS/BDS Doctor or Entomologist, Post graduate degree in Public Health,

MS in Medical Entomology and Vector Control, MSc in Epidemiology from renowned University .

**Experience**

Strong background of at least 5 years of relevant experience of working with programmes and organizations engaged in vector borne diseases control. Experience in health emergencies will be an asset.

**Skills/technical skills and knowledge**

Experience in planning and management of malaria outbreak response in health emergencies, knowledge, and skills of using effective malaria and VBDs control tools in various epidemiological situations. Background experience of working in any VBDs control programme.

The incumbent must have excellent interpersonal and communication capacities. Strong writing skills with expertise in excel, drafting reports, technical briefs and making slides and presentations.

A practical, hands-on approach with sense of responsibility, strong organizational skills, and commitment for provision of safe and quality prevention services in emergencies.

Ability to work both independently and in a team setting with the government and WHO.

**Language requirements**:

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

1. **Place of assignment**

On the current places of assignment (WHO Country Office and Sub Office Quetta)

1. **Medical clearance**

Already onboard

1. **Travel**

The incumbent may be required to travel to the assigned provinces (Hubs, EOCs), visit camps and health facilities in affected districts. with prior approval from WR Pakistan.

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| **Travel dates** | | | | | **Location:** |
| From | 00-00-0000 | | To | 00-00-0000 | All over in Pakistan |
| **Purpose:** | | Ensuring essential malaria care in outbreak hit districts. | | | |

*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*