**Terms of Reference**

**Subject:** Consultancy to undertake Effective Vaccine Management Assessment (EVMA) for DPRK EPI programme

**Type of contract**: Consultant

**National / International:** International

**Proposed level**: Senior

**Expected start date**: 1st Week of February 2019

**Duration:** 30 days

**Supervisor**: Health Specialist (Immunization) under guidance of Chief Health

# 1. Background

The National Immunization programme in DPR Korea is executed through National immunization Programme in Ministry of Public Health under the overall guidance of ICC/HSCC. This high-level body comprises of membership from different stakeholders within the government of DPR Korea and partner agencies (WHO & UNICEF). ICC/HSCC is highly empowered and led by the Vice-Minister, Ministry of Public Health. The appears to be a high level of political commitment towards the immunization programme with near to gold standard performance. This has been further strengthened by the GAVI HSS1 2007-14 Grant of US$ 4.3m and HSS2 2015-2018 Grant of US$ 26m.

DPR Korea has achieved substantial gains in immunization coverage in the last decade, and now has a high-performing national immunization programme, with no districts reporting DTP3 coverage less than 80%. These gains have been associated with a halving of the U5MR since 2000. The sustainable gains are closely linked to Gavi support. Of the total immunization costs borne by the country, more than one-third is provided by Gavi. Areas of support include new vaccine (Pentavalent and IPV at present; MCV 2 in the recent past), injection supply and cold chain equipment.

Gavi HSS 1 and 2 grants have contributed to cold chain capacity expansion following the effective vaccine management (EVM) assessment in 2008 and 2015 and the cold chain replacement plan. The next EVM assessment has been planned for 2019, the last year of the current Gavi HSS2 grant. The central (national) and provincial cold rooms are equipped with Multilog-2 and fridge tag (FT-2) devices for continuous routine temperature monitoring. Through the Gavi HSS2 support, all the county medical warehouses were provided with solar direct drive (SDD) refrigerators matching their volume requirements and addressing issues of the reliability of electricity through the national grid. The subsequent need is to equip all Ri hospitals throughout the country with SDD refrigerators to ensure safe storage and delivery of potent vaccines at service delivery points throughout the country, and further enhance the access.

The last Effective Vaccine Management (EVM) assessment in the DPRK was conducted in August 2015. Key recommendations in response to findings served as take off point for developing the EVM improvement plan in improving the Ministry of Public Health’s National Immunization Programme (NIP) supply chain. Capacity and capability building activities has been undertaken through provisions of hard and software, and review of policies and strategies. Additionally, new vaccines (IPV) have been added to the national immunization schedule following the assessment. Hence there is a need for another round of assessment to check on areas and needing further improvement and to strengthen the supply chain system

**2. Purpose of the assignment:**

The purpose of this consultancy is to provide technical support to the DPRK Government in the Assessment phase and the Improvement Planning Phase of the EVM process. This work will be programmed in close collaboration and coordination with the Ministry of Public Health, UNICEF and WHO. The consultant will also conduct the temperature mapping of the cold rooms at the Central Medical Warehouse (CMW) in Pyongyang.

The total duration of the assignment in the DPRK is from 1st February to 16 March 2019 (i.e. 30 working days). The consultant is responsible to develop the EVM Assessment report, the EVM Improvement plan and temperature mapping studies that *will inform the programme support rationale (PSR) for the next cycle of HSS proposal development in 2019*.

# 3. Methodology and Level of Effort

Days in Country: 30.

# 4. Major Tasks / Deliverables:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Deliverable** | **Number of Working Days** |
| **Deliverable#1:**  Comprehensive EVM Assessment (cEVMA)   * Use latest versions of tools and guidance documents from the EVM website and select sites (EVM 2.0, if ready for use by the time of starting the process) * Definition and plan of preparatory measures necessary prior to the preparation of the Comprehensive EVM Improvement Plan (cEVM IP). * Develop questionnaire and train assessors and supervisors * Clean data and analyze results * Present recommendations to government and key partners * Finalize and share report and dataset * Brief report on lessons learned from EVM process: (i) the training experience, (ii) the data issues encountered, (iii) observations about comprehension and communication barriers of the assessment team, (iv) general feedback on the questionnaire, tool, methodology, etc. | 20 working days |
| **Deliverable#2:**  Comprehensive EVM Improvement Plan (cEVM IP)   * A retrospective situation analysis based upon the results and recommendations of the cEVM A, EPI reviews, the equipment inventory or equipment management tool, transport and maintenance statistics, the Management Information System (MIS), a selection of resource documents made available (incl. comprehensive Multi-Year Plan), and additional information provided by UNICEF. * A prospective situation analysis for 5 years based upon plans for new vaccine introductions and other information available, as directed by UNICEF country programme and WHO. * A collaborative workshop with EPI management to solicit and formulate strategic and programmatic decisions and to review and adopt policies based on cEVM A findings, retrospective and prospective situation analyses. * In coordination with national EPI partners, a comprehensive EVM Improvement Plan that is costed over multi-years and prioritized and details interventions in the following areas: * Cold chain capacity, rehabilitation and management * Physical infrastructure * Maintenance (buildings, vehicles, cold chain equipment) * Transportation and network design * Human resource capacity and professionalization of the supply chain manager position * Logistics Management Information Systems * Innovations and operations research * Waste management system * The EVM IP also needs to include the following elements:   + A detailed and prioritized workplan that is fully budgeted, showing which intervention will be implemented by whom and where.   + Overview of the technical assistance and outsourcing needs   + An indicative chronology of activities for the implementation   + Description of how recommendations link to E1 to E9 of the cEVM assessment and strategic measures to achieve strategic objectives: (i) availability of vaccines, (ii) quality of vaccines and (iii) efficiency of the immunization supply chain logistics system.   + Detail of the management and accountability structure for the implementation phase   + A description of the identified implementation risks and mitigating factors * Endorse the EVM IP and its governance process by the EPI Program Manager. * Support the process of linking the EVM IP to cMYP. * final report including lessons learned from EVM IP process | 5 working days for in-country workshop(s) and consultations on the IP and report writing |
| **Deliverable # 3:**  Temperature Mapping Studies (TMS) of the cold rooms at CMW (cEVM IP)   * Conduct the temperature mapping of the walk in cold rooms (WICRs) at the CMW. * While conducting the studies, build the capacity of the national staff so as to enable them to replicate the activity at the provincial medical warehouses. * Write detailed report and map the cold rooms giving advice for the safe storage of vaccines in the cold rooms | 5 working days for in-country workshop(s) and consultations on the IP and report writing |
| **Total** | 30 working days |

**5**. **Schedule/Timeline for consultancy:**

February 1 to March 16th, 2019

# 6. Duty Station

The service provider will be based in UNICEF office, Pyongyang with frequent trips to the EPI programme sites.

# 7. Supervision

EPI specialist of UNICEF will provide day-to-day support and supervision with oversight of the Chief of Health.

# 8. Travel required.

Yes,

The consultant will visit the EPI programme sites on different administrative levels including warehouses (central and peripheral) and health facilities (primary, secondary and tertiary care levels).

**9. Qualification and requirements**

***Education:***

* Master/Bachelor’s Degree in Medicine/Public Health, Pharmacy, or another relevant discipline for health supply chain and service delivery monitoring.
* Additional qualification in Supply Chain Management will be an asset.

***Work Experience:***

* At least 5-7 years of international professional experience in development/humanitarian interventions
* Field oriented experience and ready to spend more than 70% of the time in the field
* Previous work experience with UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA or other international medical organization
* Familiarity with the DPR Korea health system and health partners will be an asset
* Experience in conducting/facilitating trainings
* Proven track record of high quality written analytical reports

***Competencies:*** The successful candidate is expected to demonstrate the following competencies that are necessary to this consultancy:

**Core Competencies**

* Excellent communicator of concepts both verbally and in writing to a developing country government and international audience.
* Able to quickly understand instructions, to proactively seek clarification when needed.
* Able to work well in a team environment.

**Functional Competencies**

* Works independently and is problem-solving oriented.
* Works in a multi-cultural environment and establishes harmonious and effective working relationships.
* Demonstrates communication and relationship-building skills.
* Proven capacity to work across different locations utilizing technical skills within supply chain management and data visualization, management and/or monitoring.

**Language:** Full professional proficiency in English (written and oral) is required.

***UNICEF core values:***

* Diversity and Inclusion

Treats all people with dignity and respect; shows respect and sensitivity towards gender, cultural and religious differences; challenges prejudice, biases and intolerance in the workplace; encourages diversity wherever possible.

* Integrity

Maintains high ethical standards; takes clear ethical stands; keeps promises; immediately addresses untrustworthy or dishonest behaviour; resists pressure in decision-making from internal and external sources; does not abuse power or authority.

* Commitment

Demonstrates commitment to UNICEF’s mission and to the wider UN system; demonstrates the values of UNICEF in daily activities and behaviours; seeks out new challenges, assignments and responsibilities; promotes UNICEF’s cause.

**10. Evaluation process**

***Qualified candidates are requested to submit:***

1. Cover letter/application.
2. Financial quote for the consultancy with a breakdown in daily rate, DSA and travel cost in US Dollars.
3. CV.
4. Examples of previous, relevant work.
5. References.

Travel within DPRK will be arranged and covered by UNICEF. No other remunerations apply. UNICEF considers best value for money as a criterion for evaluating potential candidates. As a general principle, the fees payable to a consultant or individual contractor follow the “best value for money” principle, i.e., achieving the desired outcome at the lowest possible fee.

**11. Other:**

UNICEF General Conditions of Contracts for the Services of Consultants / Individual Contractors apply.