**Writing Consultancy – Terms of Reference**

**Support to the Ministry of Health, National Malaria Control Division**

**to develop the National Malaria Elimination and Eradication Strategy**

**Background**

Malaria remains one of the most important diseases in Uganda with respect to morbidity and mortality as well as economic losses. As result, H.E the President, the Parliament and MOH have directed the development of a comprehensive and ambitious malaria elimination strategy. The proposed National Malaria elimination Strategy is a demonstration of the Government’s commitment and determination to end the malaria problem in Uganda in a sustainable manner. The strategy is a complement to the broader five-year Health Sector Strategic and Investment Plan 2020/21 - 2024/25 which again is part of the the Human Capital Development Component of the National Development Plan III (NDPIII) 2020/21 – 2024/25 where elimination features as a high priority. The NDPIII also lays a foundation for movement towards Universal Health Coverage in line with vision 2040.

The Ministry of Health’s National Malaria Control Division (NMCD) together with partners have recently concluded a Mid-term Review (MTR) for the 2021-2025 National Malaria Reduction and Elimination Strategic Plan. Building on the findings of this review and the achievements and challenges of the previous five-year strategic planning period, this malaria elimination will present an overall objective, set strategic priorities, describe core intervention strategies and their specific objectives, and set targets. It will also serve as a tool to guide planners, administrators, and implementers at all levels of health care delivery in Uganda in the process of the implementation of the malaria component of the minimum health care package.

Implementation of the strategy will be through a broad RBM partnership which includes all sectors of society based on the three ones: one strategic plan under which all partners work and contribute to, one coordination mechanism to ensure maximum synergy and avoidance of duplications, and one M&E plan to measure progress and assess impact.

The Honorable Minister of health has requested Malaria Consortium to work with NMCD, IPs and developing partners to expeditiously develop an ambitious malaria elimination strategy within a record time of three weeks. Thus, Malaria Consortium seeks to engage a consultant to lead the development of the national malaria elimination strategy.

**Duties and Responsibilities**

The Writing Consultant will work with the MOH specifically the Ass commissioner NMCD, the Lead Consultant on the Malaria Elimination Strategy, and partners, to lead the writing of the Uganda Malaria Elimination Strategy, including the following:

1. Review relevant documents on the context and epidemiological of malaria in Uganda, including strategic and policy documents.
2. Work with key NMCD staff, consultants and technical partners to delve into the challenges, opportunities and assumptions related to progress towards malaria elimination in Uganda. Use the findings to develop a conceptual framework for malaria elimination in Uganda.
3. Work closely with the other consultants working on various aspects of the malaria elimination strategy to develop an overarching national malaria elimination strategy and a multi-year operational plan which should be costed.
4. Obtain feedback from the MOH and the NMCD, Lead Consultant and partners on the draft versions of the strategy, operational plan and incorporate feedback to create the final versions for formal MoH review and sign-off.
5. Attend the high-level meetings within MOH and other government institutions to present the strategy and operational plan and support the NMCD to clarify/answer any questions related to the strategy during and after the meetings.
6. Harmonize and incorporate partner’s contributions into the strategy.
7. Incorporate feedback from the meetings into the strategy for final submission to Malaria Consortium and MOH.
8. Participate in the dissemination of the final outputs at key fora.

**Expected Outputs and Timeline**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Output** | **Expected Due Date** | **Number of Days** |
| 1. Review relevant documents on the context and epidemiological of malaria in Uganda, including strategic and policy documents.
 |  | 5 |
| 1. Work with key NMCD staff, consultants and technical partners to delve into the challenges, opportunities and assumptions related to progress towards malaria elimination in Uganda. Use the findings to develop a conceptual framework for malaria elimination in Uganda.
 |  | 7 |
| 1. Work closely with the other consultants working on various aspects of the malaria elimination strategy to develop an overarching national malaria elimination strategy and a multi-year operational plan which should be costed.
 |  | 10 |
| 1. Obtain feedback from the MOH and the NMCD, Lead Consultant and partners on the draft versions of the strategy, operational plan and incorporate feedback to create the final versions for formal MoH review and sign-off.
 |  | 3 |
| 1. Attend the high-level meetings within MOH and other government institutions to present the strategy and operational plan and support the NMCD to clarify/answer any questions related to the strategy during and after the meetings.
 |  | 3 |
| 1. Harmonize and incorporate partner’s contributions into the strategy.
 |  | 2 |
| 1. Incorporate feedback from the meetings into the strategy for final submission to Malaria Consortium and MOH.
 |  | 3 |
| 1. Participate in the dissemination of the final outputs at key fora.
 |  | 2 |
| **Total number of Days** |  | **35** |

**Key deliverables:**

* National Malaria Elimination strategy document
* Multi-year malaria elimination operational plan, with costing estimates
* Presentation summarizing the strategy
* Supporting documents, such as literature reviews and stakeholder feedback summaries.

**Responsible to**

* Direct Line Management – NMCD, Uganda-MoH
* Technical Oversight – Malaria Consortium

**Duration of Consultancy**

* 35 days, distributed according to the timeline outlined above.

**Person Specification**

He/she will be a person with the following qualifications:

**Required:**

* A master’s degree in any of the following: Public Health, Epidemiology, Health Planning, or other relevant topics.
* Extensive experience in the health sector in LMICs
* Substantial experience developing strategic documents and operational plans at national or international levels.
* Excellent writing and verbal communication skills.
* A strong grasp of WHO Global Technical Strategy on malaria.
* Experience in working with Ministry of Health and partners.
* Ability to work effectively in a team of short-term consultants.

**Desired:**

* Experience in health service delivery at both national and lower levels of the health system
* Good understanding of costing of national operational plans