

**Request For Expressions of Interest - COVID-19 Data Quality and Use Consultant,
Antigua and Barbuda Ministry of Health**

Background:

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared a pandemic of the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) on March 11, 2020. The earliest cases in the Caribbean region were reported on March 1, 2020, and by mid-March the region had experienced a substantial surge. As of April 19, 2022, Antigua and Barbuda has reported 7,567 cases of COVID-19 and 135 deaths, equivalent to 772 cases per 10,000 habitants. Like most countries, Antigua and Barbuda imposed movement and travel restrictions to mitigate the pandemic in the first half of 2020, but by mid-July 2020 re-opened their borders, leading to a peak in increased cases in October 2020 (PAHO). Approximately 63% of the population has received the recommended two doses of the vaccine, with only 10.5% also receiving a booster dose.

However, timely COVID-19 decision making and creation of targeted vaccination efforts has been difficult due to challenges in accessing quality data quickly and efficiently. Health information systems in Antigua and Barbuda for the collection and analysis of COVID-19 data are under-resourced and understaffed. Recent reports by the Chief Medical Officer have highlighted the need to improve data availability in order to better capture health conditions. Electronic systems are in place for collection of COVID-19 case and vaccine data, but training and additional human resources are needed to make these systems effective and aligned.

The government of Antigua and Barbuda recognizes the relevance of health data in order to inform health policy decision-making and has started to expand its strategy for health information systems development under a PAHO-supported project aiming to enhance collection, management, analysis, reporting, dissemination and use of data. The Health Information Division of the Ministry of Health has identified a need to increase its capacity to maintain accurate data in an integrated system and to produce timely and useful reports. For COVID-19 and across health areas, there is a need to generate an integrated health information system in a centralized repository that facilitates the flow of data for analysis and decision making.

To address these challenges, with funding from the USAID Eastern and Southern Caribbean Mission, the Global Evaluation Network for Health (GEMNet-Health) as part the USAID-funded Country Health Information Systems and Data Use (CHISU) program consortium is assisting the Ministry of Health in Antigua and Barbuda to support comprehensive country readiness to administer COVID-19 vaccines, including efforts to ensure uptake and access among all eligible populations and expand equitable access and timely delivery of vaccines.

GEMNet and CHISU will support the Ministry via recruitment of an Antigua and Barbuda - based consultant to identify and apply appropriate solutions to address issues in the collection, storage, and utilization of COVID-19 vaccination data. This consultant will be seconded to the

GEMNet-Health Membership

- Addis Ababa University (AAU), Ethiopia
- Addis Continental Institute of Public Health (ACIPH), Ethiopia
- Centre Africain d'Etudes Supérieures en Gestion (CESAG), Senegal

- Data for Impact (D4I) University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Institut National De Sante Publique De Cote D'Ivoire
- Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública (INSP), Mexico
- Kenyatta University, School of Public Health

- Mahidol University's Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR), Thailand
- Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), India
- University of Ghana (UGSPH), Ghana
- University of Pretoria (UP), South Africa

Ministry of Health and will work under the technical supervision of the Chief Medical Officer, with the contract managed by GEMNet-Health.

Specific Responsibilities

GEMNet-Health invites individual consultants based in Antigua and Barbuda to present a CV demonstrating experience and capacity to provide the services described below.

- Support Ministry of Health with collection of COVID-19 data from public and private sector entities, development of simplified practitioner reporting system.
- Rapid assessment of national COVID-19 testing data sources outlining the data management processes, bottlenecks, and concrete recommendations for rationalizing processes based on data needs to respond to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- Guide the implementation of recommendations for an integrated health information system that meets the data needs of the Ministry of Health.
- Enhancement of the data analysis through the use of tools such as Power.BI and improve visualisation and public access to COVID-19 data.
- Support for additional COVID-19 data related tasks as requested by the Ministry.

Timelines:

The activities are anticipated to be implemented over 12 months at full time effort.

Consultants' qualifications

- Demonstrable experience in health information systems in Antigua and Barbuda and/or the Caribbean region (*please describe participation in related work in CV*)
- Bachelor's degree (Master's degree preferred) in health-related areas or health information systems.

To apply

Please email a CV and proposed daily rate (and/or any questions) to jpgr70@gmail.com

About GEMNet-Health

With a wealth of technical expertise and experience, Global Evaluation and Monitoring Network for Health (GEMNet-Health), established in 2012, fosters organisational growth, collaboration, and peer-to-peer support for Monitoring and Evaluation of health programs globally through ongoing institutional linkages among members. As a network with a diverse set of skills and experiences and with members located across continents, GEMNet-Health is a global resource for technical assistance, consultancy services and capacity building in the field of Monitoring and Evaluation, including work with health information systems, data dissemination and use, health informatics, and specialized M&E topics.