Request For Expressions of Interest - COVID-19 HMIS Consultant, Saint Lucia 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, Saint Lucia has reported 23,161 cases of COVID-19 and 367 deaths, equivalent to 1,251 cases per 10,000 habitants. Like most countries, Saint Lucia 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 26% of the population has received the recommended two doses of the vaccine, with only 3.9% receiving also 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 Saint Lucia are under-resourced and understaffed. There are no country-wide COVID-19 vaccine reporting requirements, policies, or standard operating procedures for existing staff. Currently COVID-19 vaccination data is collected outside of and unlinked to case reporting in the Saint Lucia Health Information System (SLUHIS). Public and private case and vaccination are difficult to track. The Health Management Information Unit (HMUI) has identified as a potential solution the development of an integrated environment to collect and share health data across facilities and agencies, with data storage at a central location and utilizing a "one patient one record" system with unique patient identifiers.

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

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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*

Specific Responsibilities

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

- Lead development of central data repository capable of aggregating vaccine and laboratory data. Support interoperability of systems to consolidate COVID-19 data; develop standard operating procedures for system use.
- Enhance the data analysis and consolidation process for all COVID-19 data and development of associated guidelines. The desired result is a national COVID-19 dashboard on the agreed platform, accessible to all relevant stakeholders, showing up-to-date status on COVID-19 vaccination and testing, with transferable instructions to any party responsible for performing this consolidation task.
- Facilitate data quality assessment activities, using available tools that meet a global standard, and convene two national learning events on data quality improvement. The desired outcome would be resolution of apparent issues that impact the quality of data and use of data for decision making, and stakeholders sharing and learning best practices on addressing common data quality challenges.
- 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.

Experience
- Minimum four (4) years' experience as a Software Developer

Education
- University degree or diploma in Computer Sciences or related technical field; or
- International Professional Certificate in software developing language (Java, Javascript, SQL)

Key Competencies and Skills
- Good knowledge of data structure and algorithms
- Strong command of at least one programming language (JavaScript, SQL and Java)
- Good knowledge in working with databases
- Strong background in systems design and implementation
- Knowledge of Linux and Windows operating systems
- Experience of work in health sector is an asset
- Experience of work in DHIS2 is an asset

To apply
Please email a CV and proposed daily rate (and/or any questions) to jpgr70@gmail.com and to gisele.jnbaptiste@govt.lc.

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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.

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