

## Request For Expressions of Interest - COVID-19 Data and HMIS Consultant, Suriname 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 June 27, 2022, Suriname has reported 80,817 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 1,359 deaths, equivalent to 1,366 cases per 10,000 habitants and 229.6 deaths per 100,000 habitants. Like most countries, Suriname imposed movement and travel restrictions to mitigate the pandemic in the first half of 2020, but by mid-July 2020 re-opened its borders, leading to a peak in increased cases in October 2020 (PAHO). Suriname has administered a total of 554 thousand doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, with approximately 40.5% of the population has received the recommended two doses of the vaccine.

However, timely COVID-19 decision-making and the creation of targeted vaccination efforts have been difficult due to challenges in accessing quality data quickly and efficiently. There is a recognized need to improve health information systems by increasing the use of electronic systems, and relying less on manual procedures where data are recorded on paper and are transferred via Whatsapp, email, or hard copy. To support strengthened and integrated electronic systems, there is also a need for highly trained staff and resources.

The government of Suriname 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.

To address these challenges and opportunities, 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 Suriname 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 through the CHISU program will support the Ministry via the recruitment of a Suriname -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.

### **Specific Responsibilities**

#### **GEMNet-Health Membership**

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

- Assess the current state of the quality of data in COVID-19 systems (e.g., completeness, accuracy, consistency, timeliness, etc.), and make recommendations to MOH on how to strengthen any identified data quality issues.
- Conduct remediation activities to improve the quality of data in the COVID-19 information systems.
- Develop a data quality framework and data quality management plan to ensure that data is routinely reviewed for quality, and that standardized processes and procedures are implemented to improve and maintain the data quality.
- Integrate data from external sources (e.g., Bureau of Statistic, census data, other health data repositories) to support required analysis and reporting.
- Conduct ad hoc data analysis to develop reports required by MOH and other key stakeholders.
- Develop routine reports and dashboards using the DHIS2 platform, excel and other business intelligence tools to meet the information needs of MOH and other key stakeholders.
- Support the expansion and implementation of COVID-19 systems by participating in system planning, design and implementation activities to ensure that existing and new data elements will support analysis and reporting needs and making recommendations to the program and development teams that will optimize data quality and reporting.
- Participation in/organization of DHIS2 working group to inform information system design and deployment.
- Training of staff and development of capacity building resources for staff supporting country COVID-19 data systems to ensure sustainability of DHIS2.
- Facilitation of data quality assessment activities, using available tools that meet a global standard, culminating in the convening of 2 national learning events on data quality improvement. The desired outcome would be the resolution of apparent issues that impact the quality of data, 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; there may be adjustments to the job description after the first 6 months.

### Consultants' qualifications

- Demonstrable experience in health information systems in Suriname 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.
- Experience and training in DBMS and database programming languages. Knowledge and experience with DHIS2 and/or PostgreSQL a definite asset.
- Demonstrable knowledge and experience of data management practices.
- Experience with business intelligence and data visualization tools.
- Advance knowledge of MS Excel, including pivot tables and reports.
- Analytical mindset with good problem-solving skills.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Good interpersonal skills.

### To apply

Please email a CV and proposed daily rate (and/or any questions) to [jpgr70@gmail.com](mailto:jpgr70@gmail.com) and [sec.odvg@gov.sr](mailto:sec.odvg@gov.sr).

### 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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