

Request For Expressions of Interest - COVID-19 Data and HMIS Consultant, Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis 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 21, 2022, the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis has reported 5,913 cases of COVID-19 and 43 deaths, equivalent to 1,091 cases per 10,000 habitants and 79.3 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants. Like most countries, the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis 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 49.11% of the population has received the recommended two vaccine doses.

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. The current data flow related to COVID-19 at the Ministry of Health of the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis relies on manual procedures to transfer data on testing and vaccination from laboratories, hospitals, and health centers to central offices where data are consolidated for reporting at the Health Information Unit. A recent assessment of COVID-19 data management by PAHO recommends the consolidation of a master COVID-19 database with automated procedures to reduce errors and to facilitate data use.

The government of the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis 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 the 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 in the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis 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 Saint Kitts and Nevis-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.

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 Kitts and Nevis to present a CV demonstrating experience and capacity to provide the services described below.

- Conduct a comprehensive analysis of current systems for COVID-19 vaccination data (infrastructure, human resources, capacity) in St. Kitts and Nevis.
 - Provide targeted support based on assessment findings and key PAHO recommendations for streamlining COVID-19 vaccine data collection and analysis; automating manual processes (using data collection app software, Google Sheets, etc).
 - Support development of an updated health information systems architecture with data flow visibility (highlighting case management and hospitalization data).
- Provide recommendations and support the development of an integrated COVID-19 and general vaccination database that facilitates data analysis and use and can disaggregate data.
- Facilitate data quality improvement activities, including bottom-up cleaning and staff training, using available tools that meet a global standard.
- Support the convening of 2 national learning events on data quality improvement. The desired outcome would be resolving apparent issues that impact the quality of data and stakeholders sharing and learning best practices on addressing common data quality challenges.
- Support 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 Saint Kitts and Nevis and/or the Caribbean region (*please describe participation in related work in CV*)
- Strong command of at least one programming language (JavaScript, SQL and Java)
- 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.



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*