**STANDARD TEMPLATE**

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| **TERMS OF REFERENCE** | |
| Title of the Consultancy: | Health Products Prioritization and Roadmap Development Consultant |
| Consultancy type:  *(Individual or firm)* | Individual |
| Directorate & Division | Human Capital |
| Procurement Number (from procurement plan) | 118/AUDA/HCID/HEALTH/ICS/2024 |
| **Background and Context**  In 2001, African leaders adopted several commitments during a special session on HIV/AIDS held in Abuja, Nigeria, known as the Abuja Commitments. One of these commitments mandated all African Union member states to allocate 15 percent of their national budget toward strengthening healthcare. Building on this commitment, another session in Abuja in 2005 saw member states pledge to enhance research and development in the pharmaceutical sector, leveraging flexibilities within trade and related intellectual property rights (TRIPS). This initiative aimed to reduce costs and improve access to crucial treatments for HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria, and other related infections prevalent on the continent. At that time, although anti-retroviral drugs were available, their cost rendered them inaccessible to many African nations. Despite the establishment of national AIDS commissions in nearly all countries following the 2001 Abuja commitments, these drugs were primarily procured through external support from organizations such as the Global Fund and PEPFAR, sourced from manufacturers outside Africa. Notably, there was a dearth of investment in local manufacturing, despite Africa bearing the highest burden of HIV/AIDS globally. Recognizing the need to bolster the continent's pharmaceutical capabilities, Decision 55 was adopted to develop the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa (PMPA) within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) which had been established in 2001(five years prior). Subsequently, in 2007, heads of state endorsed the PMPA as a framework to not only increase the production of essential HIV drugs but also to promote the manufacturing of other vital medicines to address Africa's disproportionately high disease burden. NEPAD initiated efforts in 2009 to cultivate a robust pharmaceutical sector by supporting regional economic communities in establishing mechanisms for harmonizing medicines regulation through the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation Initiative. This endeavour aimed to ensure the quality, efficacy, and affordability of both locally manufactured and imported products. In 2012, the PMPA business plan, endorsed alongside the decision to establish the African Medicines Agency, outlined strategies to address key challenges facing the African pharmaceutical industry. The subsequent years witnessed Africa grappling with emerging public health threats, such as the Ebola outbreak in 2015, prompting a renewed commitment to bolstering the continent's capacity to respond to emergencies thus accelerating the establishment of two major institutions the Africa CDC and AMA. Furthermore the adoption of the Model Law on Medical Products Regulation in 2016 provided a crucial legal framework to regulate medicines circulating in African markets, safeguarding public health against substandard and falsified products. Subsequently, in 2019, the treaty for the establishment of the African Medicines Agency came into force, further solidifying efforts to enhance pharmaceutical regulation and coordination on the continent.  The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021 underscored Africa's vulnerability to disruptions in pharmaceutical supply chains, reinforcing the imperative to invest in local manufacturing, as outlined in the PMPA. The Africa CDC's call for the establishment of the Partnership for African Vaccine Manufacturing aimed to address the continent's reliance on imports for vaccines and essential health products. Today, AUDA-NEPAD leads initiatives to strengthen regional manufacturing capabilities for essential health products, including therapeutics, vaccines, diagnostics, and medical devices. These efforts aim to improve public health outcomes, reduce dependence on imports, and stimulate job creation along the manufacturing value chain. | |
| **Objectives of Assignment:**  The overall objective of the consultancy is to provide technical support to the PMPA program implementation by speeding up the prioritisation exercise. The specific objectives are as follows:   * Develop a list of essential medical products prioritized for local manufacturing in each REC . * Draft a continental roadmap outlining steps to strengthen local manufacturing capability, adhere to quality standards, ensure affordability and improve supply chains for identified medical products | |
| **Specific Tasks of the assignment**  The consultant will be expected to deliver on the following tasks:   1. Review existing tools and initiatives for identifying priority health products. 2. Convene virtual meetings of stakeholders to discuss and refine criteria for prioritization. 3. Initiate data collection and analysis for prioritization exercise. 4. Conduct prioritization exercise for health products, involving the regional economic communities. 5. Develop regional value chain roadmaps based on prioritization findings. 6. Synthesize prioritization exercise findings into a consolidated continental roadmap. 7. Finalize regional value chain roadmaps and integrate into the continental roadmap. | |
| **Location**  Consultancy will be conducted remotely. | |
| **Timeframe of the assignment**  The consultancy will be for a period of 4 months starting from 15 June 2024, and ending on 15 October 2024. | |
| **Deliverables/Reports/Milestones Schedule**   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **s/n** | **Milestone** | **Estimated Person Days** | **Duration** | | 1 | Inception Report | 5 person days | 2 weeks after contract signature | | 2 | Prioritized list of health products for regional manufacturing | 20 person days | 10 weeks after contract signature | | 3 | Consolidated continental roadmap for priority health products | 10 person days | 14 weeks after contract signature | | 4 | Submission of Final Reports | 5 person days | 16 weeks after contract signature Throughout the consultancy period | | |
| **Payment Schedule**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Milestone/deliverable/report** |  | | Prioritized list of health products for regional manufacturing | 30% of Contract Amount | | Consolidated continental roadmap towards self-reliance for priority products | 30% of Contract Amount | | Submission of final reports | 40% of Contract Amount | | |
| ***Language requirements:***  The Consultant should be proficient in English and Proficiency in any one or more of the African Union's working languages (French, Portuguese, or Arabic) working language(s) would be an added value. | |
| **Governance, support, and facilities to be provided by AUDA-NEPAD**  The consultants shall work under the guidance of the AUDA-NEPAD in undertaking the task. The AUDA-NEPAD will provide technical support to the consultant on programmatic issues.  The AUDA-NEPAD shall provide travel logistical support for the consultant to countries to provide technical assistance. The AUDA-NEPAD shall also write introductory letters for the consultant to support their engagement with countries and other relevant stakeholders. | |
| **Qualifications and Experience of the Consultant**  Minimum of an Advanced degree in public health, pharmaceutical sciences, or a related field.  Over 10 years’ experience in healthcare systems in Africa, preferably in pharmaceutical manufacturing or supply chain management.  Minimum of 5 years of experience in health systems strengthening, pharmaceutical manufacturing, or related fields. Demonstrated expertise in prioritization methodologies and roadmap development. Proven track record in facilitating multi-stakeholder engagements and policy dialogues.  Familiarity with the African health landscape and regional economic communities (RECs) is highly desirable.  Proven track record in conducting surveys and assessments related to medical product prioritization and manufacturing.  In-depth knowledge of regulatory frameworks, procurement processes, and market dynamics for medical products in African countries.  Strong analytical and research skills to identify gaps and opportunities in regional manufacturing.  Excellent communication and presentation skills to convey findings and recommendations to stakeholders effectively.  Experience in developing strategic roadmaps and action plans for achieving self-reliance in medical product manufacturing.  Ability to work collaboratively with diverse stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and industry partners.  Demonstrated understanding of socio-economic factors impacting healthcare accessibility and affordability in African regions. Fluency in English; proficiency in other African languages is a plus. | |
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