Request for Quotation - Consultancy to support GRID3 solutions for data integration into routine health information systems.

Open until: September 9, 2022, 17:00 EDT

Background

GRID3 (Geo-Referenced Infrastructure and Demographic Data for Development) works with countries to generate, validate and use geospatial data on population, settlements, infrastructure, and boundaries. GRID3 combines the expertise of partners in government, United Nations, academia, and the private sector to design adaptable and relevant geospatial solutions based on capacity and development needs of each country.

Improving data and information systems is an area of focus in UNICEF’s approach to health systems strengthening, contributing to health systems that close the equity gaps in maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and nutrition, and progress towards Universal Health Coverage. Access to timely, geographically accurate local level (i.e. subdistrict, facility, community) population estimates is essential for the development of health-related policies, strategies, plans and budgets at all levels of the system. It provides the necessary information for evidence-based prioritization, resource allocation and monitoring/accountability for programs that seek to reach every child within a district, facility catchment area and/or community. It is also essential for preparedness and response during health, humanitarian, and natural disasters/emergency.

A longstanding challenge limiting the use of routine health management information (HMIS) data by district and program managers is the availability of timely, and reliable local level (i.e. subdistrict, facility, community) population estimates and population distribution for generating subnational profiles, planning and monitoring the situation of primary health care programs that seek to reach every child within a district, facility catchment area and/or community. UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) is launching an initiative to harness innovations in data, technology and modelling, with focus on strengthening government capacity, to generate and use spatially precise population estimates within national health management information systems.

The innovation aims to work closely with government and implementing partners to generate and integrate population and settlement data (derived through combining census projections and satellite imagery derived building footprint data) into routine information systems for use in accountability and planning, routine decision-making and monitoring the reach of primary health care services; and in emergency preparedness and response.
This project is implemented by the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) in partnership with UNICEF’s ESARO and selected Country Offices (CO), University of Southampton, University of Oslo, and Health Information Service Providers (HISP) in selected African countries. CIESIN seeks a consultant to support GRID3 solutions for data integration into routine health information systems in selected ESAR countries.

Scope of work

The consultant will work collaboratively with project partners to achieve the following overarching objectives:

- Population data layers and associated facility catchment areas are processed, by country, for integration into DHIS2
- Capacity is strengthened to support scale up and sustained generation and use of data
- Evidence base on implementation strategies to integrate and enhance use of innovative high-resolution population estimates for primary health care/routine information systems for planning and information for action, is documented.

Specifically, the consultant will support the following activities and deliverables:

Activity 1: Development of a landscape analysis and inception report for each country (at least 5 countries)

Deliverables:
1.1 Provide guidance and input to develop a template for the landscape analysis and needs assessment document.
1.2 Participate in regular calls with country teams where inputs provided to landscape analysis and needs assessment are discussed. Provide written minutes for each call.

Activity 2: Support data analysis/mapping tasks, and provide technical advice on the applicability, feasibility, and robustness of using selected population datasets in DHIS2 or other health planning tools, such as maps (at least 5 countries).

Deliverables:
2.1 Document population data and health planning tool needs, in coordination with country teams (UNICEF RO and CO, and HISPs teams) and GRID3 teams (as applicable).
2.2 Support the project team with technical advice on the feasibility, applicability, and other considerations for any potential population solution provided. Document all these decisions as part of the lessons learned from the project.
2.3 Coordinate data review processes; provide data analysis and mapping support in conjunction with GRID3 teams at CIESIN and University of Southampton.

Activity 3: Support the capacity building strategy in up to 5 countries, including the development of capacity building materials (at least 5 countries)
Deliverables:
3.1 In collaboration with project partners, support the development of a capacity building strategy aimed to demonstrate the value of geospatial data integration into health information systems.
3.2 In coordination with project partners, support the development of training materials (e.g. presentations, maps, data visualizations, etc.) to use during a capacity building workshop in TBD country.

**Activity 4:** Support with overall management and coordination, liaising with other GRID3 teams at CIESIN and University of Southampton, as needed.

Deliverables:
4.1 Hold regular meetings with the project team at CIESIN for overarching coordination and guidance. Identify project risks and bottlenecks, and communicate them to project leadership in a timely manner. Coordinate potential overlapping country-level support with other GRID3 teams at CIESIN. Document all coordination accordingly.
4.2. Provide support on the development of project reporting.

**Activity 5:** Support Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) activities

Deliverables:
5.1 Consolidate all lessons learned from the project in a report, summarizing them under a TBD framework (e.g. SWOT).
5.2 Provide written input on data use case documentation, as needed.
5.3 Work with a selected UNICEF consultant to develop a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) strategy and framework. Provide technical support to develop a tool and SOPs to implement such a strategy. Support with the interpretation of results and development of written content to complement the MEL report.
5.4 Contribute with data analyses, visualization, and mapping tasks to complement all MEL documentation.

**Minimal qualifications**

- At least 10 years of relevant professional experience working in development-type projects that combine geographic information, systems, and tools into programmatic solutions. Of those, at least 5 years of experience focusing on health-sector related projects is required.
- Previous relevant experience designing/ developing/ implementing MEL framework is required.
- Previous relevant experience designing/ developing/ implementing capacity building framework utilizing GIS into planning and programming is required.
Field experience working/ coordinating/ engaging with in-country teams, government entities, and multilateral agencies is a must.
Creative thinking approach to solving complex problems is strongly preferred.

Terms

Start date: September 15, 2022
End date: December 31, 2022

The consultant is expected to work on a full-time basis. The consultant has the right to employ others to assist in carrying out the deliverables assigned to this consultancy. The retention of those individuals are solely at the discretion of the consultant, and any compensation will be paid by the consultant.

CIESIN/ Columbia University reserves the right to cancel this solicitation at any point and is under no obligation to issue a contract as a result of this solicitation. CIESIN/ Columbia University will not reimburse any expenses related to the preparation of any proposal related materials, or delivery.

How to apply

Offers must be submitted by email to grid-consultants@ciesin.columbia.edu by Friday September 9, 2022, 17:00 EDT.

The consultant is expected to submit the following documentation:

- A signed cover letter presenting the consultant's capabilities and relevant prior experience to conduct this work (2 pages, maximum).
- A quotation for services with an estimated number of person-days per activity and a daily rate (in USD). Total costs should be provided inclusive of applicable fees, taxes, and/or other duties. The quotation should exclude travel costs and expenses.
- Curriculum vitae of the consultant.

We look forward to working with you!