REQUEST FOR TENDER [EXTENSION]

Open Tender: Implementing Partner for Sustainable Malaria Responses in Vietnam (Phase 1)

Description: The Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA) has been working in partnership with the University of California San Francisco (UCSF)'s Malaria Elimination Initiative (MEI) to develop robust strategies across the health system in Vietnam to ensure the sustainability of its malaria elimination goals.

This is an Open Tender for an organization (that must be registered in Vietnam) that can coordinate the provision of technical capacity to support on-the-ground implementation of this work in Vietnam.

[UPDATE] This Phase 1 contract will be for the period from June to December 2022. A separate Phase 2 contract (Option to Extend to be issued at a later date) will build on work done in Phase 1.

Original release date: 29 March 2022
Extension release date: 10 May 2022
Closing date for submission tender: 17 May 2022 (6:00 PM Singapore time)
Offer period: Offers to remain open for acceptance by APLMA for three months after submission
Lodgement of Tender: Responses are to be emailed in PDF to admin@aplma.org
See more details on format and process at https://www.aplma.org/work-with-us

APLMA-APMEN
The Asia Pacific Leaders’ Malaria Alliance (APLMA) is a coalition of the Asia Pacific heads of government who have committed to eliminate malaria in the region by 2030. It provides the leadership to accelerate malaria elimination efforts and address the risks posed to malaria elimination in the region. APLMA works in tandem with the Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network (APMEN), an inter-disciplinary platform of 21 national malaria programmes and 50 partner organisations, including malaria research institutes, implementing partners and civil society. APMEN is the technical arm that leads in-country needs assessments, program capacity building, cross-regional knowledge exchange, and building the evidence base. The APLMA-APMEN (AA) joint secretariat is a non-profit organisation registered and located in Singapore. More information on APLMA can be obtained at https://www.aplma.org/.

Background
The past decade has seen a record investment in malaria elimination globally, including in the countries of Southeast Asia. The malaria burden in many countries is low enough to put elimination in sight. In the countries of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), the investments made by the Global Fund through the Regional Artemisinin-resistance Initiative (RAI), in addition to key investments by other donors and by government commitment, have made these advances possible.
Reductions in donor funding before countries are prepared to assume financial and management responsibility of elimination efforts would cause concern for reaching elimination targets. In GMS countries, domestic funding for malaria programs remains low in comparison to donor funding. A transition planning period of multiple years is needed to fully prepare countries for the transition from donor-funded malaria elimination programs.

In partnership with the University of California San Francisco (UCSF)’s Malaria Elimination Initiative (MEI), APLMA is working with national malaria programs, country stakeholders, and external financing agencies as part of a new grant to develop malaria donor transition plans for Vietnam, which will be implemented over a multi-year period.

Over the past two years, MEI worked together with the Vietnam National Institute of Malariaology, Parasitology and Entomology (NIMPE) to prepare a transition readiness assessment and budget advocacy strategy that identifies potential risks and opportunities for sustainable malaria programming. The next phase of work will build upon these previously identified areas to develop robust strategies across the health system to ensure sustainability. APLMA will build upon MEI’s Sustainability Model in order to 1) support country planning and action to transition to fully country-financed and managed programs, and 2) strengthen domestic financing for malaria through subnational leadership and advocacy.

Purpose and Objective
APLMA wishes to engage an organization to support in-country efforts in Vietnam in line with this next phase of work:

- Work with country stakeholders and malaria programs to develop malaria donor transition plans for Vietnam to be implemented over a multi-year period.

- [UPDATED] Work with NMCPs and other partners to design a capacity building curriculum tailored to specific subnational conditions in Vietnam, and to implement trainings in two provinces. The trainings will strengthen skills necessary to budget and plan for elimination and POR.

Scope of Work
The chosen organization will be responsible for:

- Malaria budget advocacy:
  - Assess needs and support the design of a capacity building curriculum tailored to specific subnational conditions in Vietnam to strengthen domestic financing for malaria
  - [UPDATE] Lead capacity building trainings for both health and non-health officials at the sub-national level in two provinces

- Transition planning:
  - Plan and facilitate workshops to discuss proposed actions among stakeholders, as well as produce outcome documents from the meetings
  - Work with NIMPE and other key ministry representatives to decide which actions will be included in a malaria donor transition plan

- Government and stakeholder relations:
  - Support outreach to Senior Officials in Vietnam, beyond the Ministry of Health and including Ministry of Finance and other relevant ministries.
  - Coordinate communication between APLMA and NIMPE as well as other malaria partners in Vietnam

- Financial and administrative management:
  - Ensure documentation and reporting requirements for deliverables, including regular reports to APLMA
  - Provide administrative support, such as arrangements for field work in selected provinces/districts, including facilitating flight and travel arrangements as needed
Financial control of expenditures versus budget, ensuring transparency and good forward planning
Preparation of financial reports and acquittal of funds

The grantee will report to APLMA’s Senior Director, Government Affairs and Policy. The scope of work and list of activities are subject to revision over time as the program needs develop. Changes will be effective only on mutual agreement between the Grantee and APLMA-APMEN.

**Tender Format**
The Tender must be in English and be not more than 5 pages long. The following must be included:

- **Tenderer details**
  - Legal entity and business name
  - Registered office address and principal place of business
  - Ability to receive foreign funds
  - Tenderer’s contact who is authorised to represent and legally bind the Tenderer (name, address, email, phone)

- **Service Proposal**
  - Description of the organization
  - Details of team which will work on this project
  - Narrative on capability and plan to deliver on the Scope of Work
  - Description of any previous or current engagement with the Vietnamese government
  - Description of previous or current work related to sustainable programming, health financing or budget advocacy work in Vietnam
  - Evidence of knowledge, familiarity and engagement in malaria elimination efforts in Vietnam
  - Information on other unique selling points or additional services that would be valuable to the project

- **Price proposal**
  - Total price and detailed breakdown of expenses
    - Personnel (salaries and fringe benefits)
    - Travel and meetings (airfare, accommodation, meals, local transportation/fuel, meetings)
    - Consulting and professional fees, if any
    - Other direct costs (operation costs, laptop/equipment, others)
FAQ RESPONSE

The following document outlines APLMA’s responses to the questions received during the questions submission period for the Open Tender: Implementing Partner for Sustainable Malaria Responses in Vietnam (Phase 1), published on 29 March 2022.

1. Tender evaluation
   a) How will tender submissions be evaluated?
      Submissions will be evaluated through both a technical assessment (80%) as well as financial assessment (20%).

2. Contract
   a) From the tender, the only condition is that the applicants must be registered in Vietnam. Some additional information about contract obligations and conditions would be very helpful. Would it be possible to describe or share any contractual obligations and conditions for the award organization (i.e., reporting requirements, financial requirements, repay/refund etc.)? On the reporting requirements, the applicant is to propose documentation (as scheduled) of deliverables, which may include but are not limited to minutes of meetings and progress reports. The applicant should propose a payment schedule, subject to agreement by APLMA.

   On the invoicing requirements, the applicant shall submit an invoice and support documentation of deliverables and financial acquittal (except where there are no applicable expenses) to APLMA.

   The applicant is required to ensure budgetary control and to track the status of funds from APLMA. Any funds paid in excess, or paid in advance of the billing period, but unused or otherwise uncommitted due to early termination or other reasons, shall be returned to APLMA.

3. Budget/Costing
   a) Is there any budget indication/ceiling you would like tenders to follow?
      The applicants should provide the most economical budget estimate based on their proposal.

   b) Will the applicant be allowed to propose ICR (indirect cost rate)? If yes, at what rate?
      ICR rates should not exceed 10% and will be taken into consideration under the Financial Assessment component of the evaluation process.

   c) Any budget threshold requirements for HR/Staff?
      There is no specific threshold for HR/Staff.

   d) Any specific requirement for the number of technical staff?
      There are no specific requirements for the number of technical staff, but the proposal should describe the technical team that will be part of this work.

4. Timeline
   a) When is the anticipated start date for the implementation of this tender?
      We anticipate an estimated start date of June 2022, and a completion date of December 2022 for Phase 1.

5. Scope
   a) From the tender, this assignment is building off the previous successes with NIMPE over the past 2 years that successfully developed i) transition readiness assessment and ii) budget advocacy strategy that included potential risks and opportunities for sustainable malaria programming. Can those documents be shared as background information with applicants?
Yes, they are publicly available on MEI’s website here:  
http://shrinkingthemalariamap.org/resources/publications-database

b) Is it envisioned that the lead applicant will be focused on designing the capacity development curriculum with NIMPE and relevant stakeholders responsible for the actual capacity development implementation and delivery?

It is anticipated that the lead applicant will implement both the design and roll-out of the capacity building curriculum in collaboration with APLMA and MEI.

c) Development of a capacity development curriculum to strengthen the skills of subnational government is not specifically mentioned in the Scope of Work. Is this something that applicants should include?

Yes, as noted under the first bullet point on Malaria Budget Advocacy, the scope of work will include assessing the needs and supporting the design of a capacity building curriculum tailored to specific subnational conditions.

d) Are there specific quantities around expected deliverables that can be shared to facilitate budgeting?

Yes, for Phase 1, in addition to smaller stakeholder meetings and resulting outcome documents, major deliverables we anticipate include:

- Design and roll-out of tailored capacity building curriculum in 2 provinces
- 1-2 national stakeholder meetings
- A draft malaria donor transition plan

6. Phase 2

a) Does the tender request only plan for Phase 1? What are the key considerations for extending to Phase 2 implementation?

Yes, this tender request involves only Phase 1. Extension of the selected organization as implementing partner of Phase 2 will be primarily contingent upon the successful completion of Phase 1.

b) Phase 1 of this tender aims to i) Develop malaria donor transition plans and ii) Design a capacity-building curriculum tailored to specific subnational conditions in Vietnam focusing on strengthening skills budget and plan for elimination and Prevention of Re-establishment (POR), With the design and implementation of future phases in mind, would it be possible to share what would the priority focus for Phase 2 of this tender might be?

Phase 2 would focus on implementing the malaria donor transition plans, as well as scaling up the roll-out of the capacity-building curriculum in selected provinces.