Consultant vacancy

---

1. **Area of expertise :** Clinical trial preparedness and implementation, research and development of medical countermeasures

2. **Purpose of consultancy** To coordinate filovirus epidemic preparedness and response in at-risk countries

3. **Background**

The WHO R&D Blueprint for Epidemics aims to accelerate the development and evaluation of medical countermeasures (MCMs) for priority pathogens with epidemic and pandemic potential, using a viral and bacterial family approach. Recent pathogen prioritization exercises classified viral families and selected bacterial groups according to their capacity to harbour priority pathogens capable of causing PHEICs or pandemics, highlighting several families with particularly high concern. Experience from responses to filovirus, coronavirus, and other outbreaks shows that pre-agreed, flexible core protocols and platform trials are essential for rapidly launching high-quality clinical studies and generating robust evidence on vaccines and therapeutics during outbreaks and inter-epidemic periods.

One of the priority families is the Filoviridae. The most well-known filovirus diseases, Ebola disease and Marburg disease, have a high mortality rate. Outbreaks are devastating to affected communities and can have severe social and economic consequences for countries. Despite this, testing promising candidate vaccines and treatments has been difficult because the timing and exact locations of outbreaks are unpredictable. Clinical trials are the most robust way to assess whether promising vaccines and drugs are safe and effective. They are designed to produce accurate, reliable findings and are conducted in accordance with regulations to ensure quality and safety.

The WHO CORE clinical trial protocols outline WHO-sponsored and endorsed trials to evaluate the most promising vaccines and treatments for these diseases in countries most likely to experience an outbreak.

4. **Deliverables**

- Deliverable 1: Updated and/or adapted protocols and standard operating procedures (SOPs) and other documents needed for ethical and regulatory approval in the filovirus at-risk countries in the AFRO region.
- Deliverable 2: Outline of training courses in data management, safety management and reporting, and SOPs for the filovirus protocol implementation
- Deliverable 3: Participate in the preparedness and implementation of the CORE clinical trial protocol for filovirus vaccine in the at-risk countries in the AFRO region.

5. **Qualifications, experience, skills and languages**

Educational Qualifications:

)

Essential: First university degree in medicine, public health, epidemiology, or a related discipline.
Desirable: Advanced university degree (Master's or higher) in medicine, public health, epidemiology, or a related discipline.

Experience

- Essential: 5-10 years of relevant professional experience in design, conduct, or oversight of clinical trials for vaccines and/or therapeutics, preferably in infectious diseases with epidemic or pandemic potential, preferably in filovirus outbreaks. Demonstrated experience in perpardeness and implementation of core clinical trial protocols, ideally in collaboration with WHO, academic consortia, or similar entities.
- Desirable: Experience working in or with low- and middle-income country settings and with national research teams or Ministries of Health. Prior involvement in WHO R&D Blueprint activities.

Skills/Knowledge:

- Essential: Strong expertise in clinical trial preparedness and implementation. Excellent facilitation, consensus-building, and coordination skills, including leading multi-disciplinary and multi-partner clinical trial teams. Very good communication skills.
- Desirable: Ability to work effectively in a virtual, global team and to communicate clearly and diplomatically with diverse stakeholders.

Languages and level required (Basic/Intermediate/Expert):
Essential:
Expert knowledge of English and French

6. **Location**
   Off site: Home-based or in affected country in case of a filovirus declared outbreak.

7. **Travel**
   The consultant is expected to travel to WHO headquarters for selected consultation meetings, subject to WHO approval and travel regulations.

8. **Remuneration and budget (travel costs are excluded):**
   a. Remuneration: *Payband level B - Remuneration currency* USD - *Payband range 7,000 – 9,980 per month*
   b. Living expenses in case of deployment to a filovirus-affected country in case of a declared outbreak.
   c. Expected duration of contract (Maximum contract duration is 11 months per calendar year):
      11 months – part time might be possible

Please send a copy of your CV and a motivation letter to rdblueprint@who.int by COB March 30, 2026.

)