

Consultant vacancy

1. **Area of expertise** : Research and development of medical counter measures
2. **Purpose of consultancy** To coordinate a WHO-convened one working subgroup to develop adaptable study synopses and core clinical trial protocols for therapeutics and vaccines targeting viral and bacterial families assessed to have high potential to cause a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) or pandemic, under the WHO R&D Blueprint for Epidemics.

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.

WHO is therefore establishing a dedicated consultant-led process to produce harmonized, adaptable study synopses and core protocols for these high-priority R&D Blueprint (RDB) families.

4. Deliverables

- Deliverable 1: Generic, adaptable study synopsis templates for vaccine and therapeutic trials, plus (number to be agreed) examples applied to specific RDB families.
- Deliverable 2: Draft and final core vaccine trial protocols for agreed RDB families with high PHEIC potential (minimum number/families to be agreed with WHO at contract signature).
- Deliverable 3: Draft and final core therapeutics trial protocols (platform/adaptive where feasible) for the same RDB families.
- Deliverable 4: Draft and final core therapeutics trial protocols (platform/adaptive where feasible) for the same RDB families.

5. Qualifications, experience, skills and languages

Educational Qualifications:

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

Experience

- Essential: Over 15 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. Demonstrated experience in developing master or core clinical trial protocols, including adaptive or platform designs, 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, pathogen prioritization initiatives, or similar global health preparedness efforts is highly desirable.

Skills/Knowledge:

- Essential: Strong expertise in clinical trial methodology, including adaptive and platform designs for outbreak-prone diseases. Strong expertise in clinical trial methodology, including adaptive and platform designs for outbreak-prone diseases. Excellent facilitation, consensus-building and stakeholder coordination skills, including leading multi-disciplinary and multi-partner working groups.
- 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

Desirable: Intermediate knowledge of other WHO official language

6. Location

Off site: Home-based

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 D - Remuneration currency USD - Payband range 12,520 – 14,400 per month*
- b. Expected duration of contract (Maximum contract duration is 11 months per calendar year):
Initial six months, possibility of a part time

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