Landell Mills
DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS

ANIMAL HEALTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT PHASE II (AHDPII)

TERMS OF REFERENCE –– EPIDEMIOLOGIST

Landell Mills Limited (LML) (www.landell-mills.com) is one of the world's leading international development consulting firms. We have been in business for over 35 years and have been active in all continents. Our mission is to assist our clients to participate actively in the global economy whilst protecting their fragile environments and vulnerable communities in the process. We work with private and public sector clients on assignments lasting from a few days to several years. Our work is usually financed by international development agencies.

LML has been contracted by the European Commission to provide Technical Assistance (TA) to the Afghan Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock to enhance the functionality of Afghanistan's animal health and welfare services (AHDPII). The Animal Health Development Project II (AHDPII) is a follow on project from the first phase of AHDP (2006-10), which was also managed by LML. AHDPII is a five-year project, lasting from October 2010 to December 2015. For further details see www.ahdp.net

We now have a vacancy for a Veterinary Epidemiologist to provide services to the project.

Project Objectives and Tasks

The **overall objective** of AHDPII is as follows: *To contribute to the improvement of rural livelihoods (food security and farm incomes) and thus to the overall economic recovery of Afghanistan.*

The **purpose** of this contract, which will contribute to the overall objective, is as follows: *To improve the functionality of Afghanistan's animal health and welfare services.*

Results to be achieved through the contract include:

- **Result 1**: Core public functions, based on agreed policies, strategies and revised legal framework are being performed by the General Directorate of Animal Health and Production (GDAH&P) in collaboration with private and public sector institutions and organizations:
  - Result 1.1: Building on the accomplishments of AHDP I, principal and subsidiary legislations are further prepared, discussed and agreed by a wide range of stakeholders, and procedures for their implementation are developed;
  - Result 1.2: Institutional and human resources capacity at GDAH&P and target PVOs further enhanced;
  - Result 1.3: Animal Health and Production extension delivery capacity established and strengthened at central and to a certain extent regional levels.

- **Result 2**: Standards in all areas of Animal Health Services improved through better coordination and quality control in 12 target provinces:
  - Result 2.1: Quality and Quantity of disease reports increasing annually
  - Result 2.2: Increasing number of disease outbreaks investigated and responded to by PVEOs (Provincial Veterinary Epidemiology Officers) or CED (Central Epidemiology Department) officers within 7 days of notification.
    Veterinary services delivery is harmonised across selected parts of the country and a public-private sector sanitary mandate partnership is in place.
  - Result 2.3: Number of suspected diseases confirmed by laboratory tests increasing annually

- **Result 3**: Welfare of animals at AVPL improved and plan in place for moving AVPL from dependency to sustainability with increased capacity to produce quality vaccines

- **Result 4**: Project management and cross-cutting issues
  - Result 4.3 Number of Joint Livestock Steering Committee meetings attended, improved relations and coordination of activities including One Health
  - Number of public awareness materials prepared and events organized

Specific Tasks of the Consultant

The consultant will provide assistance to MAIL, General Directorate of Animal Health and Production, and the Central Epidemiology Department (CED) to:

(i) Strengthen national and provincial epidemiology capacity by providing regular and ongoing training to CED staff, organize coordination and training meeting for the Provincial Veterinary Epidemiology Officers (PVEOs), with focus on standard epidemiologic principles and approaches

(ii) Plan and prepare animal disease prevention and control schemes with particular focus on
   a. Brucellosis
   b. FMD
   c. PPR
   d. Rabies

(iii) Establish, strengthen and mentor a Livestock EWG, and facilitate the Directorate and CED effective participation in MAIL's Livestock Working Group, and Zoonotic Committee (Joint Committee between MAIL and MoPH – Ministry of Public Health), SPS and One Health activities

(iv) Assist with CED's compliance with all national and international (OIE) disease reporting requirements

(v) Strongly assist CED's effective leadership and participation with the SMCS (MAIL's Sanitary Mandate Contract Scheme) – public/private partnership for disease reporting and control activities in Afghanistan, in coordination with other involved Directorate Departments (CVDRL, SMCD, DMEC) and funding sources (Government budget, World Bank, FAO, others)

(vi) Assist CED to work with MAIL to establish prioritization of disease control programs and approaches

(vii) Facilitate communication and cooperation between Government and NGOs for effective strategies and approaches for disease reporting and control plans.

(viii) Ensure CED staff are trained and capable of producing and using required GIS maps related to animal health programs and disease outbreaks

(ix) Assist CED in establishing effective Disease Outbreak Investigations with appropriate diagnostics, evaluation, response strategies and reporting

(x) Establish MAIL's effective short-term emergency response capacity to natural disasters or emergency disease outbreaks.

(xi) Contribution to MAIL and project reports as required

Outputs

(i) Practical training delivered for central, regional and provincial staff
(ii) GIS linked database established (with assistance from a GIS specialist)
(iii) Coordination meetings
(iv) Disease prevention and control schemes prepared
(v) Emergency unit established and emergency response plans in place
(vi) Contingency plans prepared and training provided in their use
(vii) List of emergency supplies' providers in place
(viii) Vaccine supply chain management system in place
(ix) Recommendations on expansion of sanitary mandate scheme

Inputs

Full-time until 6 December 2015.

Location

Kabul, with travel to other provinces as required.

Salary package

- Salary to be negotiated. Based on a 26 day working month basis. (Fridays are non-working days)
- Full board provided
- Emergency travel and medical insurance
- Cost of return flights covered (economy class)

Candidate Profile

Attitude

We need someone who:

- Is pro-active in undertaking work and getting things done
- Concentrates on solutions, not problems
- Has the patience to work in an environment which can often be frustrating, but who can find ways to work things through

Training

- Veterinarian
- Post graduate qualification in Epidemiology, or significant experience working as an Epidemiologist

Practical experience

- Experience as an Epidemiologist
- Experience designing and carrying out surveys
- Experience implementing disease surveillance networks
- Experience with disease prevention and control programmes
- Experience with emergency outbreaks, and disease contingency planning
- Experience in providing effective training – one on one, small group, designing training courses, both theoretical and practical
- Understanding of relevant animal diseases, including zoonoses

Additional skills

- Computer skills (MS office, databases (e.g. Access), Epidemiology software (e.g. Epi-Info, TAD Info), analysis packages (e.g. MiniTab, SPSS, Gen Stat)
- Fluent in English (written, spoken, reading)

A key skill required will be the ability to check and analyse data which comes into the epidemiology department in order to provide epidemiology reports for the government, FAO and OIE who will be looking for rigour in our findings.

Desirable

- Speaks a local language
- Experience in Afghanistan or a country with a similar context

Application process

Interested candidates should send their CVs to Shantini Kunhamboo at shantinik@landell-mills.com with the words 'Epidemiologist – AHDPII' in the email subject line.

Applications will close as soon as a suitable candidate is found.