



Job Description

Position:	Zika Entomology and Vector Control Technical Consultant (02 positions)		
Location:	TBD	Division:	International Health (IHD)
Contract:	HFG	Supervisor:	Dereje Dengela

Organization Overview

Abt Associates' The International Health Division is committed to the improvement of health and healthcare delivery around the world. Serving both the public and private sectors, our efforts include health policy research and evaluation, health promotion and disease prevention, health finance, and health systems management. Our impact is felt in policies that ensure healthcare access for women, children, and individuals with special needs, in strengthening health infrastructures, and communicable disease solutions.

Project Overview

Well-functioning health systems deliver quality health care to people where they need it and at prices they can afford. Strengthening health systems is a complex process, as described in USAID's Office of Health Systems new Vision for Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) 2015-19.

The Health Finance & Governance (HFG) team views health systems strengthening as a nonlinear process that requires holistic systems thinking rather than a traditional, vertical approach. Working simultaneously on multiple components of the system yields greater impact than only addressing an individual constraint. Effective interventions should target constraints that will have maximum benefit across multiple health programs.

Put another way, supporting the health system refers to any activity that improves services, from upgrading facilities and equipment to distributing mosquito nets. In contrast, strengthening the health system requires more comprehensive changes to policies and regulations, financing mechanisms, organizational structures, and relationships across the entire system. Above all, country ownership is essential to building a health system's sustainability and its ability to progress toward universal health coverage.

Opportunity Overview

The USAID-funded Health Financing and Governance (HFG) Project, in an effort to assess the government capacity to monitor and respond to vector-borne disease outbreaks, seeks an entomology and vector control technical consultant. Under the supervision of Dereje Dengela, the entomology and vector control technical consultant will conduct a rapid assessment to understand country capacity to determine breeding habitat, resting habit, feeding habit, response to insecticide, and control of *Aedes aegypti* to reduce transmission of the Zika virus. The assessment will cover seven elements of local capacity:

1. Human Resources at the national level and province/district levels;
2. Infrastructure: presence of Reference Laboratory at the National Level to determine mosquito infection rate, presence of equipment and vehicles to conduct control of *Aedes aegypti*;
3. Capacity to design and prepare vector control and entomological monitoring plans;

4. Capacity in supply chain mechanisms;
5. Implementation capacity for entomological monitoring and *Aedes* vector control activities ;
6. Collection, analysis, and reporting of entomological and vector control data; and
7. Stakeholder engagement and use of entomological data to inform vector control.

Specific duties and responsibilities include the following:

- Assist with team preparation and travel planning, including communications and coordination with local USAID Mission and national authorities in-country to produce detailed technical assistance trip schedule
- Lead capacity assessment activity in up to five Zika-affected Latin American countries over 75 working days, focusing on key areas listed above. This will include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - In collaboration with ministry of health of each country and the local USAID mission, lead identification of areas of strength and weakness in government capacity to monitor *Aedes aegypti* breeding habitat through egg, larval and pupal surveys at community level; monitor distribution and behaviour of *Aedes aegypti*; monitor vector abundance over time; and conduct susceptibility tests to understand the response of *Aedes aegypti* to insecticides.
 - Identify government capacity to implement key *Aedes aegypti* control measures that include, but are not limited to, public mosquito control education campaigns, community-wide source reduction (environmental management) campaigns, larviciding, space spray, indoor residual spray, biological control, use of adult mosquito traps, status and potential to use personal protective measures, and ability to conduct door-to-door inspections to assess vector control status .
 - Assess in-country capacity to evaluate the impact of vector control on entomological indicators
 - Assess safety plan for the application and handling of insecticides
 - Work closely with the HFG project team and in-country partners to identify gaps related to materials for mosquito surveys, test kits, insecticide-impregnated papers, spray equipment, transportation services and other items needed for successful implementation of entomological monitoring and vector control activities
 - Desk review of relevant entomological monitoring and *Aedes aegypti* control reports, where available
- Prepare and finalize capacity assessment report following country visits
- Review capacity assessment tool, and provide inputs if needed
- Perform other additional duties assigned by the project

Qualification requirements include the following:

- Master's degree (minimum), Doctorate degree (desirable), in Medical Entomology
- 7 to 10 years of relevant professional work experience with a Master's Degree, or 4 to 6 years with a Doctorate, including at least 4 years of experience directly related to integrated vector control management, including monitoring and control of *Aedes aegypti* mosquito
- Experience in regulatory and operational aspects of vector control methods and management
- Demonstrated ability to work with minimal direction and supervision
- Demonstrated ability to work as a member of a team with the ability to accept the inputs of other team members
- Good management and planning skills of project tasks
- Produces high quality work in a timely, cost effective manner, and has excellent writing skills
- Excellent organizational, interpersonal communication and computer skills
- Experience with USAID and donor projects is highly desirable
- Spanish and English languages required

Contact: Francisco Gonzales (francisco_gonzales@abtassoc.com)