



International CONSULTANCY

Terms of Reference

TORs are classified at Band Level "B"

Abla El-Solamy, HRBP Associate

11 April 2022

This consultancy is requested by:

Unit:	WCO TUN
Department:	National Observatory for New and Emerging Diseases (ONMNE)

1. Background

The COVID-19 pandemic denoted major challenges to the health and well-being of communities, resilience of health systems, stability of national economies, and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The outbreak is a fast-changing crisis, where trusted sources of health information are essential for successful response and management of the crisis at the national and international level.

Currently, epidemiological surveillance in Tunisia relies on different systems implemented by different stakeholders.

These systems relying on a regular collection of data and building of indicators (Indicator-Based Surveillance - IBS) are characterized by significant underreporting, lack of implication from certain sectors (private sector and hospital services), and delay in reporting.

Responsibilities as well as how the information should be shared are not clearly defined. There is no unique IT platform to support the collection, storage, analysis, and dissemination of surveillance data, and intermediate and peripheral levels of the health system are most often not computerized.

In Tunisia, the National Disease Surveillance and Response system integrates an Event-based surveillance (EBS) which complements the IBS component for an efficient Early Warning function, but it is not fully capacitated.

During the current COVID-19 pandemic, the country realized the urgent and consistent need for a well integrated disease surveillance system with a strengthened EBS. This need was supported by a recommendation of the COVID-19 Intra-Action Review that was conducted by WHO in November 2020. Hence, decision has been taken to implement Integrated Disease Surveillance with a focus on the strengthening of the existing EBS component, particularly in expanding the sources of information and making it more structural and functional in the country, to improve the sensitivity of the national surveillance system

6. Technical Supervision

The selected Consultant will work under the supervision of:

Responsible Officer:	- Dr ARFAOUI EP ASSIDI Latifa	Email:	arfaouil@who.int
Manager:	- Dr HERMEZ Joumana	Email:	hermezj@who.int
General Director ONMNE	- Pr Nissaf Ben Alaya	Email:	Nissafba@yahoo.fr
FP ONMNE	- Dr Souha Bougatef	Email:	souhabg@yahoo.fr

Regional oversight

Dr. Pierre Nabeth (nabethp@who.int), Program Area Manager, Health Emergency Information and Risk Assessment (HIM) unit, World Health Emergencies (WHE) Department, EMRO

7. Specific requirements

Qualifications required:

- **Essential:** Minimum first university degree for lower end of range, Master's degree for mid and high end of range in preventive Medicine, Veterinary Medicine or pharmacology
- **Desirable:** Master's Degree, Phd in Public Health, Epidemiology, or related Field, or FETP graduate

Experience required:

- **Essential:** From 5 to 10 years of experience in epidemiology, surveillance, or related fields. Experience in setting up event-based surveillance system.
- **Desirable:** Good understanding of the main principles of epidemiological intelligence in public health are important assets.

Skills / Technical skills and knowledge:

- Demonstrated ability to interact in complex situations involving technical, cultural, and political elements
- Sound analytical and organizational skills
- Demonstrated knowledge of surveillance issues and emerging diseases in an international context.

Language requirements:

- Languages and level required: Expert knowledge of French (Read–Write–Speak)
- Desirable: Intermediate knowledge of English (Read–Write–Speak)

8. Place of assignment

The work is expected to be carried out from the National Observatory of New and Emerging Diseases (ONMNE), and the consultant is expected to work closely with the EWARS team at the ONMNE and WCO TUN and WHE/HIM unit in EMRO, Cairo.

La Directrice Générale
Signé: Prof.
NISSAF BOUAFIF Ep. BEN ALAYA

2. Purpose of the Consultancy

The purpose of this consultancy is to provide technical support to strengthen the public health surveillance of COVID-19 through the implementation of integrated disease surveillance, with a focus on the reinforcement and the scaling up of the event-based surveillance (EBS) in Tunisia.

3. Planned timelines:

45 days spread over the indicated below period:

Start date: 01 May 2022

End date: 31 August 2022

Publication of ToR: 13 April 2022

Deadline for submitting applications: 28 April 2022

4. Work to be performed

The tasks that the selected candidate will have to perform:

1. Develop an EBS work plan in coordination with ONMNE
2. Review the current structure of the surveillance system in Tunisia and Identify EBS priorities in collaboration with ONMNE and all stakeholders
3. Facilitate a multisectoral advocacy stakeholder meeting and raise country's awareness on EBS
4. Mapping of EBS information sources and flux of information in Tunisia
5. Update the EBS guideline/SoP's for each of the EBS priority information sources in Tunisia (community, health facility, laboratories, veterinary services, media, and others)
6. Customize EBS training materials according to the context of Tunisia
7. Identify and train ONMNE mentors (at least 2) on EBS; in collaboration with EMRO (HIM)
8. Identify pilot sites for EBS implementation
9. Train staff at identified pilot sites on EBS guidelines
10. Propose the legal framework implementation of EBS in Tunisia in collaboration with other sectors

5. Expected outcomes

- Work plan for EBS implementation developed
- **A report on the current structure of the surveillance system in Tunisia with EBS priorities produced**
- EBS guidelines/ SOPs revised and shared with stakeholders for endorsement.
- EBS training materials reviewed and customized to the Tunisian context.
- Training of 2 ONMNE mentors on EBS conducted.
- Pilot sites for EBS implementation identified.
- Training of pilot sites staff conducted

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9. Medical clearance

The selected consultant will be expected to provide a medical certificate of fitness for work.

10. Travel

This is an international consultancy, and the selected candidate will be expected to travel to Tunisia and to some governorates inside the country.

The application must be submitted in a sealed envelope to the ONMNE registry with the mention For the attention of the "WHO, national consultancy" project coordinator. The stamp of the registry being authentic

La Directrice Générale
Signature: Prof.
NISSEF BOUABEY-EP. BEN ALAYA