

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Location:	Home based (preferable Venezuela)
Position Title:	Consultant
Type of Contract:	Individual Contractor
Languages required:	Spanish and English
Contract period:	1 January 2021 – 31 March 2021

BACKGROUND

Respond to recommendations raised by the Global Fund Technical Review Panel (TRP) on the malaria grant to Venezuela

During the 1950s, Venezuela was a pioneer in malaria eradication, and 68% of the endemic territory was certified malaria-free by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1960. A sustained increase in malaria cases began in 2010, rising from 45,155 new cases in 2010 to over 135,000 cases in 2015 and 400,000 cases in 2017. In the period from 2014 to 2017, malaria cases increased by 65% on average (range from 49.9% to 76.4%), an increase far higher than any other period in the country's recorded malaria history. In 2018 and 2019, the number of cases remained exceptionally high, as did persistent financial, logistical, and human resource constraints, which have impeded scale up of an adequate response.

The resurgence in territories where the disease previously was eliminated is among a multitude of issues driven by the loss of capacity in control teams, insufficient availability of drugs, lack of equipment, and low level of logistics management which has resulted in the burden of malaria exceeding the existing capacity of the country's malaria control program.

The current resurgence is also linked to the country's economic situation, which has led more people from all over the country to migrate to mining areas, where unregulated gold mining is increasing in difficult-to-access areas located mainly in the states of Bolivar and Amazonas, where more than 75% of the country's malaria cases originate. There are concerns related to the security situation in high-risk malaria areas, and there are reports of human rights violations and a polarized political situation.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Scope of Work

The TRP highlighted several issues to be addressed during the implementation of the malaria grant. Three of those issues are related to the weaknesses of the health system and the lack of sufficient attention to human rights and gender related barriers faced by the population to access services in the areas targeted by the grant, as follows:

1. Participation: Insufficient evidence of participation of relevant stakeholders in the development of the funding request and clear lack of engagement of malaria civil society organizations and impacted communities.
2. Unclear implementation plan: The funding request presents an implementation approach based on a weak, severely compromised health structure that is fraught with financial and human resources issues, inaccessibility, drugs and supplies stock-outs, and poor logistics management, among other issues.
3. Insufficient attention to human rights and gender barriers, and safety and security challenges in targeted areas.

Expected Outputs and Deliverables

The consultant in close consultation and collaboration with the UNDP country office, Principal Recipient for the grant and PAHO Regional and in country office, will lead and/or undertake the following tasks:

1. Develop ToRs for the creation and functioning of an independent Malaria Advisory Committee with representatives from the civil society, local and international NGOs, malaria experts, academia, and professional associations.
2. Develop a 5-page implementation plan for the delivery of vector control (LLINs), diagnosis, and treatment by the community.
3. Develop a 10-page plan for reengaging community structures that are robust enough to address the malaria needs in the current context Including:
 - a. a description of human rights and gender barriers that exist for access to malaria diagnosis and treatment for the remote and indigenous communities in Bolivar, Sucre and Amazona and how this will be mitigated especially given the rapid rate of increased mining on indigenous people's lands (see TRP recommendation).
 - b. description of client-centered and equitable quality of care mechanisms that will be leveraged to ensure all relevant community-based actors in high-risk areas are effectively engaged in the coordination of activities and community-based monitoring.
 - c. elaboration of how safety and security risks of staff participating in the program will be addressed

Intellectual Property:

All information and production of materials pertaining to the assignments as well as outputs produced under this contract shall remain the property of ICASO who shall have exclusive rights over their use. The products shall not be disclosed to the public nor used in whatever format without written permission of ICASO in line with the national and International Copyright Laws applicable.

Institutional Arrangement

The Consultant will work collaboratively with the ICASO, the Principal Recipient and the Global Fund Secretariat

Duration of the Assignment

This assignment should be completed by March 31, 2021.

Duty Station

Home-based, no travel anticipated

PAYMENT TERMS

The method of payment is **output-based lump-sum scheme**. The total amount quoted shall be **all-inclusive lump sum** and include all costs components required to perform the deliverables identified in the TOR, including professional fee, travel costs, insurance, living allowance (if any work is to be done outside the duty station) and any other applicable cost to be incurred by the IC in completing the assignment. The contract price will be fixed output-based price regardless of extension of the herein specified duration.

The payments shall be released upon submitting the required deliverables/outputs and approved by the parties mentioned above. as per agreement for each output in accordance with a set time schedule to be agreed in the contract.

In the event of unforeseeable travel not anticipated in this TOR, payment of travel costs including tickets, lodging and terminal expenses should be agreed upon, between ICASO and the IC, prior to travel and will be reimbursed.

COMPETENCIESFunctional Competencies:

- Demonstrated ability to write in a clear and concise manner;
- Demonstrated ability to organize and structure information;
- Some understanding of democratic governance and sustainable development, etc.
- Excellent analytical and writing skills demonstrating fluency in Spanish and English;
- Demonstrated accuracy and attention to detail;
- Ability to be flexible and respond to changes as part of the review and feedback process;
- Demonstrated ability to meet deadlines and work under pressure.

Corporate Competencies:

- Knowledge of the Global Fund processes and governance, including terminology, language and style.
- Displays cultural, gender, religion, race, nationality and age sensitivity and adaptability;

REQUIRED SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

Educational Qualifications:

- Master's degree in International Development, Economics, Public Health, Social Research, Anthropology or related area;

Experience:

- At least 8 years of experience working in planning, monitoring and evaluation of healthcare intervention and/or community health strategies;
- Sound knowledge of malaria programming and current responses in the Latin American region and specifically in Venezuela
- Previous working experience in the Latin American region is required and in Venezuela would be an asset
- Excellent analytical and research skills;
- Excellent writing and communication skills;
- Fluency in English and Spanish.
- Experience working in international development on issues of democratic governance and peacebuilding

Language requirements

- Fluency in Spanish and good level of English are essential.

Documentation required

Interested individual consultants must submit the following documents/information to demonstrate their qualifications to icaso@icaso.org. Please group them into **one (1) single PDF document:**

- **Personal CV** indicating all past experience from similar projects, as well as the contact details (email and telephone number) of the Candidate and at least three (3) professional references.
- **Financial proposal** that indicates the lump sum rate/fee of the candidate in USD