



**Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations**

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Regional Epidemiologist West and Central Africa

Contract duration: 11 months (with possibilities for renewal)

Vacancy No. IRC3791

Deadline for Applications: 10 January 2017

Duty station: Accra, Ghana

Tasks and responsibilities:

The Animal Production and Health Division (AGA) is closely working with the Emergency and Rehabilitation Division (TCE) under the Strategic Objective 5 to support various aspects of the animal health programme of FAO. The tasks envisaged for this consultancy are to be carried out through the Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) programme, which is currently supported by the following projects.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), under their Emerging Pandemic Threats (EPT-2) Programme, granted new funding to FAO to support Africa to address the problem of emerging and re-emerging high impact zoonoses. The EPT-2 Programme is a global programme with several components for Africa, Asia and the Near East. The key components relevant for Africa include:

1. Ebola and other filoviruses surveillance in livestock in 14 countries in West, Central and East Africa.
2. Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) surveillance in select livestock in 4 countries in the Horn of Africa and Near East.
3. Emergency H5N1 HPAI prevention and control in 11 countries in West and Central Africa.
4. Africa Sustainable Livestock 2050 Programme to identify policy gaps and priorities in order to ensure a sustainable growth of livestock in the long term from a public health, environmental and livelihood perspective in sub-Saharan Africa.

Under the Ebola (filoviruses) surveillance in livestock of the EPT-2 Programme, FAO will focus on defining host species and boundaries of the Ebola epizone while also supporting surveillance, strengthening and harmonizing surveillance systems, enhancing epidemiological capacities and diagnostics, and developing risk-mitigation strategies. These efforts will not only improve prevention, detection, and response to Ebola and other filoviruses, but also improve control of other high impact zoonoses by helping countries move towards implementation of real-time bio-surveillance at the human-animal interface for all animal diseases, using the One Health approach.

The project will mitigate potential negative public health impacts of Ebola and other filoviruses associated with livestock and will be accomplished by efforts to understand animal hosts for these viruses as well as drivers that influence their emergence, spill-over, spread and persistence in order to improve early detection and timely application of appropriate policies and practices for risk reduction. The project will also broadly generate information and build capacity that will contribute towards reducing risk posed by other high impact zoonotic pathogens in East and West Africa.

The EPT-2 is a multi-million dollar programme covering large parts of Western, Central and Eastern Africa and Horn of Africa, the Near East and South and Southeast Asia with inputs from multiple partners, sectors and disciplines.

The Regional Epidemiologist will be responsible for the implementation of the epidemiology aspects of the EPT-2 programme in the West and Central Africa.

The post is located at Accra Ghana with frequent travel to key countries, regions and headquarters.

Reporting Lines

The Regional Epidemiologist reports to the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO/Chief, Animal Health Services), and works under the functional and administrative supervision of the Assistant Director General (ADG) and FAO Regional Representative for Africa in Ghana, and the direct supervision of the Regional Manager of ECTAD in West and Central Africa, and in close collaboration with ECTAD country team leaders in the region, the Head of the Emergency Prevention System for Animal Health (EMPRES-AH), the Head of the Global Early Warning System for Livestock Diseases (GLEWS) of the Animal Health Service (AGAH) and the animal production and health officers from the Regional and sub-Regional Offices and Country Offices.

Technical Focus

Technical support and guidance to surveillance activities in West and Central Africa.

Key Results

Developing, coordinating and supervising surveillance activities under the FAO component of the USAID EPT-2 programme in West and Central Africa.

Key Functions

- Assess status of surveillance capacities in the EPT-2 countries in the region and develop, and harmonize the implementation of the regional and national programmes and activities to strengthen surveillance capacity of member countries, where required;
- Lead the implementation of activities relevant to the Ebola and other filoviruses surveillance in livestock as well as the HPAI surveillance in poultry as a basis for early detection of emerging and re-emerging zoonotic and non-zoonotic diseases (rEIDs) in the region. This includes:
 - Support the preparation and implementation of national surveillance plans for Ebola and other filoviruses in livestock as well as for HPAI;
 - Support the planning and execution of sample collection from livestock in targeted farming systems, value chain nodes and at domestic animals-wildlife interfaces;
 - Plan and organize capacity development of animal health systems through the use of field epidemiology training and participatory epidemiology approaches targeting veterinarians, animal health technicians, community animal health workers and farmers;
 - Conduct and or supervise risk assessment exercises at the human/livestock/wildlife interface in collaboration with AGAH/GLEWS team;
 - Conduct and or supervise in country expert missions on epidemiology and surveillance;
 - Provide technical assistance to countries on the use of mobile applications for data collection during sampling visits, analyze surveillance results at regional level and facilitate data sharing with the other EPT-2 regions and project partners;
 - Support national projects implementing Event Mobile Application (EMA-i) app to enhance disease reporting and surveillance of animal diseases in collaboration with AGAH/GLEWS team;
 - Develop tools and frameworks to support national consultants in profiling the impacts (potential and on-going) associated with rEIDs;
 - In collaboration with national ECTAD teams and FAO headquarters (HQ).
- Prepare regular updates on the epidemiology situation in West and Central Africa and liaise with HQ and the FAO Regional Office for Africa (RAF) and DOs teams on a regular basis, e.g. through attending coordination or technical discussions over skype/phone;
- Support the collection, storage, appropriate analysis and when pertinent publication of data originating from field surveillance;
- Contribute to the elaboration of national and regional strategies for animal disease prevention and control, development of plans and protocols for epidemiological investigations and studies, designing and coordinating the surveillance activities for the prevention, control of priority transboundary animal diseases (TADs) in the region;
- Participate in emergency preparedness and rapid response missions;
- Assist in the organization of training workshops, simulation exercises and other technical meetings.
- Serve as liaison officer with regional organizations, ECOWAS, WAEMU, ECCAS, CEBEVIRHA, OIE, AU IBAR, WHO/AFRO and Member States to support the implementation of their regional strategic frameworks relevant to surveillance capacity building and networking. This includes liaison with the RESOLAB and RESEPI Coordinators and other RESOLAB/RESEPI Working Group focal points to improve active and regular information sharing at national and at/cross regional levels;
- Participate, when required to WHO/AFRO Joint External Evaluation (JEE) missions to ensure effective contribution of the animal health sector in the implementation of the International Health Regulation (IHR, 2005) under the One Health Approach;

- Enhance better cross-sectoral technical cooperation with the human health sector with respect to zoonotic diseases, particularly using the FAO tools/guidelines/strategy (4-Way Linking platform, FETLPv);
- Contribute to the preparation of regular reports on the progress of the implementation of projects implemented by the ECTAD office in Accra;
- Contribute to resource mobilization through writing and submitting project proposals;
- Contribute to the preparation of project reports as required by the Governments, FAO and donors;
- Contribute to regional and global disease intelligence activities by verifying and validating information related to rumors or suspicions of animal diseases with national and regional stakeholders and partners and sharing this info with FAO-GLEWS@fao.org;
- Perform other related duties as required.

Candidates should meet the following requirements:

Minimum Requirements

- University degree in veterinary science and relevant post-graduate degree from a recognized university on veterinary epidemiology;
- At least 10 years of proven experience in the management and implementation of infectious disease control programmes in the developing world setting;
- Good command of English and French is essential.

Competencies

- Results Focus
- Teamwork
- Communication
- Building Effective Relationships
- Knowledge Sharing and Continuous Improvement

Technical/Functional Skills

- Work experience in more than one location or area of work, particularly in field positions is desirable.
- Extent of relevant experience at international level.

Selection criteria

Based on requirements, competencies and skills.

Additional Information

FAO seeks gender, geographical and linguistic diversity in its staff and international consultants in order to best serve FAO Members in all regions.

All candidates should adhere to FAO values of Commitment to FAO, Respect for All and Integrity and Transparency.

How to apply

All applications are to be made through FAO's [iRecruitment](#) system. Click on the link below to access [iRecruitment](#), complete your online profile and apply for this Call for Expression of Interest.

<http://www.fao.org/employment/irecruitment-access/en/>

In order for your application to be properly evaluated, please ensure that all sections of your iRecruitment account are completed. Incomplete applications will not be evaluated.

If you need help, or have queries, please contact: iRecruitment@fao.org