

Terms of Reference (TOR) for a Malaria Epidemiologist

Introduction:

The National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) is organized along all the administrative levels of government, at National, Zoba and Sub-Zoba Levels in giving malaria treatment and prevention services. The health facilities, hospitals and health stations are the operational units of the Malaria Control Program. Eritrea has been implementing a multitude of interventions to fight malaria. With declining homogeneity of malaria in the country, these interventions need to be applied in areas where they are relevant that is guided by retrieval and analysis of granular data. The support of an epidemiologist is therefore considered of high importance to guide stratification and targeting of malaria interventions.

At national level, there are one Program Manager and assistance public health officers. However, the program lacks highly qualified experts to guide on implementation of various interventions and perform epidemiological analysis that are key to program performance.

Therefore, the Ministry of Health recognizes the need for continuing the international support to the programme to assist in the following tasks.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

An Epidemiologist or epidemiology advisor will be responsible for the following duties:

- Serves as a resource for increasing the capacity for collecting, managing, analyzing and using data through improvements to the existing surveillance systems, operational research program, and information systems;
- Leads and supports the establishment of malaria data repository;
- Supports or updates subnational malaria stratification (production of malaria risk maps) and tailoring of malaria interventions in accordance with normative guidance of WHO and Global Fund malaria information note;
- Conducts malaria matchbox analysis;
- Undertakes routine and special analysis of malaria surveillance data;
- Supports routine production of maps of surveillance data and programmatic activities;
- Supports writing and/or updating of guidelines, particularly surveillance guidelines;
- Provides epidemiological technical support in designing, analyzing and reporting field studies in malaria to support Program planning (including drug efficacy studies, LLIN durability studies, case management audits etc.);
- Operationalizes case-based malaria surveillance in Eritrea;
- Provides technical support and training in data management and analysis, epidemic forecasting, among others;

- Provides epidemiological training activities for malaria staff to support surveillance at the central and zonal levels;
- Oversees outbreak investigations and provide technical guidance;
- Engages in all phases of Malaria Program Review or Mid-term Review (MPR/MTR);
- Supports Global Fund Malaria Funding Request Application, 2024-2026 (including proposal with all the necessary annexes, responding to TRP questions and support Grant Making stage);
- Reports to CDC Director and NMCP Manager of the Ministry of Health;
- Performs other relevant activities as requested by the Ministry of Health;

Required qualifications and Experience

- Post-graduate degree in epidemiology and minimum 10 years' experience in epidemiological/statistical analysis and modeling with traceable reference.
- Ability to handle multiple tasks and priorities.
- Ability to use advanced database and statistical analysis softwares.
- Demonstrated skill in analyzing data from studies and routine data.
- Experience in writing and communicating research or surveillance findings.
- Conversant with malaria situation in Eritrea and previous experience in malaria technical assistance in Eritrea is compulsory.

Duration of Service: January to November 2023