Request for Proposal

Scaling Access: Improve and accelerate access to antibiotics and diagnostics used in hospital settings in low- and middle-income countries

Overview

The AMR Industry Alliance is one of the largest private sector coalitions established to provide sustainable solutions to curb antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The AMR Industry Alliance currently includes over 100 biotech, diagnostics, generics and research-based pharmaceutical companies and associations. Through its members, the AMR Industry Alliance drives the life-sciences industry to curb AMR across four different pillars: (i) **appropriate use** of antibiotics to reduce the development of AMR with the support of vaccines and diagnostics; (ii) **access** to quality antibiotics and ensuring new ones are available to all, and improve and accelerate access to diagnostics in low- and middle-income countries; reducing the environmental impact of **manufacturing**; and (iv) investing in **research and science** to meet public health needs with new innovative diagnostics and treatments.

As part of its Strategic Plan 2021-2025, the AMR Industry Alliance is pursuing initiatives across each of these four pillars through relevant internal Working Groups. The AMR Industry Alliance is currently seeking proposals to support the work of its Access Working Group. The duration of this consultancy is defined for a period of approximately 5 months, starting 28 July 2021 (or as soon as the procurement process is completed) and ending in December 2021 when the deliverables have been approved by the AMR Industry Alliance Board. The consultancy will be conducted under the overall guidance of the AMR Industry Alliance Access Working Group Leads and Core Team.

Background and Objectives of the Consultancy

The AMR Industry Alliance has made commitments related to increasing access to antibiotics in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), including through appropriate use and stewardship. Global partners[1] including the Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership (GARDP)/SECURE and other actors active in the diagnostics space (i.e., Wellcome Trust and the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND)) are also working to support sustainable access to, and appropriate use of, antibiotics. Currently, there is little guidance and few supporting structures to expand appropriate access to both existing and novel antibiotics as well as diagnostics in LMICs with weaker health systems. It is critical to build in appropriate use and stewardship efforts into all access initiatives.

[1] Partners include the Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership (GARDP), the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), and the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI).

The Consultant will support the AMR Industry Alliance's Access Working Group to develop a framework for appropriate access to diagnostics and antibiotics in hospital settings in LMICs and design a pilot initiative to test this framework (several sites in 2-3 countries, TBD), in collaboration with global partners. Attention to appropriate use and stewardship practices will represent a core component of the access framework. The consultant will be responsible for developing a proposal aligned among the AMR Industry Alliance Access Working Group members and engaging with global partners to advance the pilot. The specific objectives of the consultancy are to work with the AMR Industry Alliance Access Working Group to:

- Establish an access framework for antibiotics and diagnostics used in hospital settings that can be scaled and replicated that accounts for both appropriate use and stewardship. The framework should include a needs assessment, stakeholder mapping, recipient partnership requirements, communication and outreach strategy, and impact metrics;
- Design a pilot project including project scope and a readiness assessment tool to select countries, products and sites as well as on-the ground implementation partners whose efforts are aligned with initiatives such as SECURE;
- Develop an implementation and scaling strategy for the pilot project, including identified implementation partners, sites, products, and approach to engaging companies, stakeholders and countries (where appropriate, in collaboration with ongoing relevant initiatives);
- Engage with GARDP/SECURE, the Wellcome Trust, FIND or other relevant partners to establish the access framework and pilot project, ensuring both appropriate use and stewardship.

Deliverables and timelines

In line with the objectives of the consultancy, the main deliverables and corresponding timelines are outlined below.

- 27 August 2021: Draft framework for access to diagnostics and antibiotics in hospital settings in LMICs.
- 30 September 2021: Draft outline of the pilot project scope and readiness assessment tool (for country, product and site selection).
- 15 October 2021: Final draft of the access framework.
- 30 October 2021: Draft pilot project implementation strategy.
- 30 November 2021: Final draft of the pilot project scope, implementation strategy and readiness assessment tool.

Estimated requirements, expertise and qualifications

The consultant should be a company, an international consulting group, or other type of organization or an individual with proven expertise in:

- Developing and managing inter-institutional partnerships/coalitions – ideally with experience in both the public and private sectors.

- Facilitating consultations and building consensus amongst diverse stakeholders, including private sector actors, global donors, multilateral and not-for-profit organizations.
- Understanding access to medicines and diagnostics / AMR challenges, including related to regulation, procurement, appropriate use and stewardship, logistics and supply chain in LMICs.
- The broader access to medicines and diagnostics, AMR, and global health ecosystem, including actors and funding mechanisms and strong existing connections with key external stakeholders relevant to this project.

Proposals will be assessed against these selection criteria.

Proposal content/structure

Proposals should include the sections and elements outlined below.

Section 1: Technical

- The methodology and work plan for addressing the functional requirements set out in the terms of reference. This should include a tentative schedule of the activities outlining the timelines for major action.
- Expertise of the bidder with respect to the objectives of the terms of reference.
- If applicable:
    - Staff dedicated to the project, with lead identified.
    - Expertise of staff involved.
    - CV of the staff.

Section 2: Profile of the bidder

- Location
- Status (individual, private company, etc.)
- Statement of relevant experience (incl. key clients)
- Previous experience with private sector and access to medicine / AMR
- Code of conduct
- Declaration of non-conflict of interest

Section 3: Financial / cost

The bidder is asked to provide a detailed budget to be evaluated in either CHF or USD, including categories related to staff (role, number of days and cost per day), supplies, and travel.

Responding to the Request for Proposal (RFP)

Proposals and requests for additional information regarding this RFP should be submitted by email to Melissa Gong Mitchell, AMR Industry Alliance Secretariat Lead at mmitchell@amrindustryalliance.org. The deadline for submission of proposals in response to this RFP is **Friday 16 July 2021**. Please note that the AMR Industry Alliance may decide to extend the period to receive proposals, if deemed necessary.