

## Initial Terms of Reference

This consultancy is requested by:

Unit:	Preparedness, Readiness and Core Capacity Building
Department:	Country Health Emergency Preparedness and IHR

### 1. Purpose of the Consultancy

Support the development of Argus: electronic solution for public health surveillance; and its implementation in WHO Member States.

### 2. Background

1. Early detection and response to public health events such as infectious disease outbreaks are key to reducing their propagation and impact. Paper based transmission is the traditional way of reporting public health surveillance data. Due to lack of resources and infrastructure this hinders timely detection, reporting, assessment and response to acute public health events.
2. In the last decade, there has been a striking development of mobile phone infrastructure in resource-limited settings, including in hard to reach areas. Combined with mounting internet accessibility from country intermediate level, this creates new possibilities for electronic management of public health surveillance data at all country levels.
3. The World Health Organization (WHO) has developed Argus, an open source electronic tool to support public health surveillance for early detection and response in respect to the Integrated Surveillance and Response (IDSR) technical guidelines and the WHO Regional Office for Africa public health surveillance strategy. It uses Short Message Service (SMS) technology for the transmission of information between the local healthcare facilities and all levels of the public health surveillance system via a mobile application. A web platform complements the application for data management and analysis by using the internet.
4. Argus is available with an implementation toolbox. The Argus Implementation Toolbox provides the necessary guidance and tools for setting up Argus in a country. Its objective is to allow countries to implement Argus autonomously to strengthen their national public health surveillance system. The Argus Implementation Toolbox consists of an instruction document on how to set up Argus for national public health surveillance and several companion kits: an installation kit; a training kit; and an evaluation kit.
5. The requesting unit is part of the WHO's Health emergencies programme. A major part of the programme's work is to ensure preparedness for the detection of, and rapid response to, outbreaks of infectious diseases that may cause an international public health impact, according to the International Health Regulations requirements. The unit is therefore supporting Member States in achieving the International Health Regulations (2005) core capacities for surveillance and response.
6. The proposed consultancy contract is aiming at supporting the development of the Argus electronic tool for public health surveillance and its implementation toolbox, along with providing direct support to Member States in implementing, operating, and evaluating Argus for early detection of outbreaks.

### 3. Planned timelines (subject to confirmation)

Start date: 11/06/2018

End date: 10/12/2018

### 4. Work to be performed

#### **Activity 1: Supervise the development of the Argus electronic tool for public health surveillance.**

Weekly follow-up of contractors' development activities will be performed, all new features will be tested, and the updated documentation reviewed. R scripts used to create dashboards for Argus will be improved.

Deliverable 1.1: document listing bugs, and available and requested features updated on an ongoing manner.

Deliverable 1.2: improved R scripts used to create dashboards for Argus.

#### **Activity 2: Finalize the development of the Argus implementation toolbox.**

The Argus implementation toolbox will be finalized in English and French. It will be kept updated as new developments are performed.

Deliverable 2.1: finalized and up-to-date implementation toolbox.

**Activity 3: Provide on-site technical assistance to a maximum of three vulnerable and resource-limited countries in the implementation of Argus, upon request from WHO country or regional office(s). This output may not be delivered if no request is received by the requesting unit during the course of this consultancy contract.**

Deliverable 3: one mission report per on-site technical mission performed.

**Activity 4: Provide at distance technical assistance in the implementation of Argus.**

Deliverable 4: up to date register on technical assistance provided for Argus.

## 5. Specific requirements

### - Qualifications required:

- Advanced degree in public health or computer science.

### - Experience required:

- At least 3 years of experience in public health activities, including 1 at international level.
- Experience in low and/or middle-income countries (as per World Bank classification).

### - Skills / Technical skills and knowledge:

- Experience in developing and monitoring work plans.
- Experience in developing technical reports and guidance documents.
- Proven capacity in networking sensitively, co-operatively and productively with multiple stakeholders.
- Proven analytical and data presentation skills.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Experience in developing scripts for the R statistical software.
- Knowledge in public health surveillance will be an asset.
- Experience with free and open source software and knowledge in SQL language will be an asset.

### - Language requirements:

- Excellent knowledge of English and working knowledge of French.

## 6. Place of assignment

The assignment is preferably based in WHO Lyon Office, France.

However, consideration will be given to offers from consultant willing to work from another place of work/residence and commuting on a regular basis (at least monthly) to Lyon for face-to-face coordination with the technical unit.

## 7. Working time

The consultant will be expected to work as a full-time equivalent (40 hours per week), consideration may be given to consultants willing to work at least 80% full-time equivalent.

## 8. Medical clearance and travels

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

Travels from the place of work (Lyon Office or other place of work/residence) will be required to Geneva Headquarters (at least 2 travels) and to resource-limited countries (see activity 3 above). These travel costs will be covered by WHO.

*These **travel arrangements** will be made by WHO – WHO will not be responsible for tickets purchased by the Consultant without the express, prior authorization of WHO.*

If the selected consultant works from another place of work/residence and has to commute on a regular basis to Lyon for face-to-face coordination meetings with the requesting unit, WHO's financial support to these coordination travel costs will be discussed on a case-by-case basis, depending on the place of work and the proposed frequency of the travels.

*Visas requirements: it is the consultant's responsibility to fulfil **visa requirements** and ask for visa support letter(s) if needed.*

## 9. Application process

Before 1 May 2018 included: send your CV to [rodrigueze@who.int](mailto:rodrigueze@who.int), mentioning "Consultant\_Surv\_Argus" as subject.

From 7 May 2018: three to five preselected applicants will be contacted to undertake a written test followed by an interview by phone.

End of May 2018: end of the selection process.