

## ToR for Consultancy Services: Development of a National Integrated Disease Surveillance Strategy for Animal Health.

### Background.

In Malawi, the livestock sector contributes 36% and 11% of the agricultural Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and national GDP respectively. However, this sector faces constant threats from endemic and emerging zoonotic and non-zoonotic animal diseases, which impede productivity, restrict trade, and cause substantial economic losses. Frequent outbreaks of some diseases such as Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD), and Newcastle Disease (NCD), lead to trade restrictions, movement controls, and reduced market access. Other significant threats include Bovine Tuberculosis (BTB), which compromises livestock productivity while posing serious zoonotic risks, and Tick-Borne Diseases (TBDs).

Emerging diseases further compound the challenge. Rift Valley Fever (RVF) continues to endanger both livestock and human health, while rabies causes an estimated 500 human deaths annually in Malawi. The growing challenge of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), along with natural disasters such as floods, droughts, and pest outbreak, further destabilizes Malawi's livestock production systems, creating an urgent need for a more resilient and integrated animal health surveillance system.

Recently, the performance of veterinary services was evaluated through a PVS-assessment by WOA and Malawi's animal disease surveillance system was evaluated by FAO. Both identified strengths and critical deficiencies and found significant gaps in reporting structures, laboratory infrastructure, and workforce capacity.

Recognizing these challenges, the Department of Animal Health and Livestock Development (DAHLD), in collaboration with the Norwegian Veterinary Institute and project partners, under the *One Health – Controlling Zoonotic Diseases and Antimicrobial Resistance in the Milk Value Chain in Ethiopia, Malawi, and Tanzania* project funded by Norway, are leading the development of a **National Animal Disease Surveillance Strategy for Malawi**. This strategy aims to strengthen national capacities for early detection, reporting, and response to priority animal diseases, including zoonoses, while ensuring alignment with international standards and One Health principles.

To support this process, DAHLD is looking for a qualified consultant to lead the technical development of the surveillance strategy through a participatory, evidence-based, and multisectoral approach.

### 2. Scope of work/Main tasks

The consultancy shall review the current surveillance system, draft a comprehensive national surveillance strategy, facilitate workshops and stakeholder validation, and finalize the strategy and action plan for adoption and implementation.

Recommendations are expected for optimizing data systems (including digitization), capacity building, institutional strengthening, and other infrastructures to sustain the implementation.

The consultant shall consistently work under the guidance of DAHLD and the Norwegian Veterinary Institute and routinely update the DAHLD director on progress to ensure smooth running of the consultancy.

DAHLD shall facilitate linking the consultant with key stakeholders where necessary.

## **Main tasks**

### **1. Inception report**

Prepare an updated Inception report with detailed methodology and work plan, following the submission of the initial proposal during the application process.

### **2. Desk Review and Needs Assessment**

- Analyze existing legislation, policies, frameworks, disease control strategies, and reports on animal and public health surveillance in Malawi and the region.
- Review and assess the current animal health surveillance system, identifying existing gaps based on findings from previous assessments (e.g., SET)
- Review epidemiological trends for notifiable diseases over the past ten (10) years.
- Incorporate findings from previous assessments (e.g., SET) and Identify gaps, strengths, and opportunities for improvement.

### **3. Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation**

#### **4. Organise and lead stakeholder consultations with relevant actors **Strategy Development****

- Draft a National Surveillance Strategy with clear objectives, theory of change, priority areas, implementation plans, budget, and covering the legal and policy frameworks supporting animal health surveillance

### **5. Validation and Finalization**

- Present the draft strategy to stakeholders during a validation workshop.
- Produce a final, polished National Animal Disease Surveillance Strategy incorporating the feedback from the validation workshop with its costed implementation plan to the Director of Animal health and Livestock Development within the specified contract period.

### **6. Provide Technical Recommendations for Long-Term Implementation**

- Outline governance, coordination, and technical structures required for sustainability.
- Recommend improvements in data systems (including digitization), capacity building, and institutional strengthening.
- Identify requirements for operationalizing surveillance functions at national and sub-national levels.

### **7. Duration of Assignment**

The consultancy duration will be agreed upon at contract signing; however, the task must be completed within the agreed project timeline (**60 days**). A detailed inception plan describing the methodology must be submitted within a maximum of 7 days after the contract is signed.

**Type of Assignment:** National Consultancy (National Recruitment)

**Minimum Expert Requirements:**

1. The consultant/firm **MUST** be led by a veterinarian with a minimum of postgraduate education in Epidemiology or Public Health and 10 years of experience in animal disease surveillance, epidemiology, or policy development.
2. Excellent skills in organizing and delivering workshops
3. Experience in facilitating stakeholder consultative workshops.
4. Knowledge and experience in formulating strategy documents

**Competencies:**

1. Proven experience in developing or evaluating animal and public health surveillance systems.
2. Strong understanding of international standards (WOAH, WHO, FAO) and regional frameworks (SADC, AU-IBAR).
3. Demonstrated ability to engage and collaborate with multidisciplinary stakeholders.
4. Excellent analytical, report-writing, and presentation skills.
5. Ability to lead strategic planning, results-based management, and reporting;
6. Ability to provide sound advice in formulation, monitoring and evaluation of development programs and projects;

**Application Requirements:**

Interested applicants should submit:

1. A cover letter detailing relevant experience
2. Curriculum Vitae (CV)
3. Examples of similar work (if available)
4. Proposed methodology and timeline (Initial inception note)

**Consultancy fee:** Based on qualifications, the total consultancy fee is fixed at USD 4,000–4,500, covering all professional charges, and associated costs.

**How to apply:**

- Upload your application letter and supporting documents as indicated in the application requirement. [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeFRPqyvurcbGcJYjDfU-V\\_gyEtv4glcWVn1ojwt-9IZldnAw/viewform?usp=header](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeFRPqyvurcbGcJYjDfU-V_gyEtv4glcWVn1ojwt-9IZldnAw/viewform?usp=header)

If you have any questions or need further clarification, please contact **Dr. Marvin Phonera**, Veterinary Epidemiologist, DAHLD, at [marvinphonera@gmail.com](mailto:marvinphonera@gmail.com)

**This call is open up to: 21 April 2026.**