

## **Consultant Opportunity with Vital Strategies Scope of Work for Burden of Disease Assessment Consultant/Consortia**

### **Background**

Vital Strategies is an international public health organization. Its programs strengthen public health systems and address the world's leading causes of illness, injury, and death. Vital Strategies currently works in 80 countries, supporting data-driven decision-making in government, advancing evidence-based public health policies, and mounting strategic communication campaigns. Vital Strategies' priorities are driven by the greatest potential to improve and save lives. They include non-communicable disease prevention and commercial determinants of health (tobacco, alcohol, and ultra-processed foods); injury prevention (including drug overdose, road safety, and gender-based violence); and environmental health (including air quality and lead poisoning). The organization's programs are primarily concentrated in low-and middle-income countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the Pacific. Please visit our website at [www.vitalstrategies.org](http://www.vitalstrategies.org) to find out more about our work.

### **Purpose and Scope of the Consultancy**

Vital Strategies is seeking competitive proposals from qualified independent contractors or consortia to provide services to conduct an assessment of the use of burden of disease evidence by national and subnational decision-makers. The project will involve desk work as well as travel to several focus countries to carry out the assessment.

This project will assess the current landscape of burden of disease (BoD) estimation efforts and generate insights into their use in health policy decisions made by governments, whether and how BoD estimates could be better used to inform those decisions, and the desired characteristics of BoD estimates for this purpose. The work will incorporate:

- a landscape review including a desk review and interviews with global experts,
- three to four country assessments including national and subnational health policy and decision-makers,
- validation of findings in three to four additional countries, and
- synthesis to generate actionable insights.

It will be implemented through a mixed-methods approach, combining desk reviews and interviews with authorities working on global, national, subnational, and disease-specific BoD estimates with in-country engagement to ensure findings are grounded in real-world use cases and stakeholder needs.

### **Deliverables**

The following deliverables are expected to be completed within the 6-month period:

- Report examining key differences across global BoD approaches and their practical implications for how countries access, interpret, and apply estimates
- Development and eventual publication of an assessment tool for evaluating country use of BoD estimates, including a structured tool as well as guidance on its application by governments and partners
- Preparation of IRB submission/s for country assessments (as required)
- Analysis and documentation of assessment findings from the four focus countries
- Synthesis of validation exercises in additional African countries
- Final report integrating the findings of all components with recommendations, providing details per country
- Draft of a manuscript for submission to a peer-reviewed journal summarizing the landscape of country BoD use and key findings from the country assessments

### **Assignment**

This is a consultant position with an anticipated level of effort of up to 112 days over a 6-month period, beginning in August 2026. The level of effort will be adjusted for consortia. Note that contracts are executed and paid in the currency of the country where the consultant is based and that payments are tied to deliverables.

### **Payment**

Please include a daily fee in local currency if applying as a consultant, or the estimated cost of services if applying as a consortia. Vital Strategies reserves the right to negotiate fees. Please note that contracts must be executed and paid in the currency of the country where the consultant or consortia is based and that payments are tied to deliverables and the actual number of days worked unless otherwise agreed to by the contract manager.

Vital Strategies will cover travel expenses from the Consultant's residence to the countries for the country assessments and validation of findings according to the following guidelines:

- Per diem following the Vital Strategies rates and guidelines.
- Economy airfare to be booked by Vital Strategies.
- Ground transport to/from airport and hotel and visa fees to be reimbursed based on costs, with receipts/documentation provided.
- Lodging at standard room rates at the hotel will be booked directly by Vital Strategies.

### **Qualifications and experience**

It is expected that the consultant or members of a consortia will have the following qualifications and experience:

- Post-graduate degree in a relevant field (public health, epidemiology, demography, etc.) from a recognized university

- Minimum of 10 years of relevant work experience preferred.
- Proficiency and fluency in English, written and oral
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office suite (MS word, Excel, Outlook)
- Understanding and knowledge of burden of disease estimation, including global and local approaches;
- A deep understanding of data use for decision-making, including challenges and barriers to data use;
- Expertise in qualitative research methods;
- Significant experience engaging with decision-makers in low and middle-income countries.

### **Expressions of Interest**

Interested persons/consortia should submit a cover letter, including the rate/estimated cost in local currency, and CVs to [rjina@vitalstrategies.org](mailto:rjina@vitalstrategies.org) and [emyers@vitalstrategies.org](mailto:emyers@vitalstrategies.org). The cover letter should describe your interest, expertise and, experience with qualitative research methods, any past experience producing or using burden of disease estimates, and experience engaging with senior government officials on projects related to data production or use.

### **Note**

This consultancy is contingent upon award of the grant and will not be engaged until funding is confirmed.