



Consultant Opportunity with Vital Strategies

Planning Sample Registration System (SRS) for Mortality Surveillance

Scope of Work for Consultant

Location of Consultancy/Assignment: Based in Senegal.

Category: Consultancy

Duration: June 2025 through February 2026

Contract Manager: Benjamin Clapman, Regional Deputy Director, Latin America and Francophone Africa

Vital Strategies Organizational Background

Vital Strategies, headquartered in New York City, is an international public health organization. Our programs strengthen public health systems and address the world's leading causes of illness, injury, and death. We work in more than eighty 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 solutions with the greatest potential to improve and save lives. They include non-communicable disease prevention, tobacco control, road safety, food policy, environmental health, civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS), and overdose prevention. Our programs are concentrated in low- and middle-income countries and cities in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the Pacific. Please visit our website at www.vitalstrategies.org to find out more about our work.

Purpose and Scope of this Assignment/Consultancy

Vital Strategies seeks an experienced consultant to assist with the Planning Sample Registration System (SRS) for Mortality Surveillance. The purpose of the consultation is to provide technical guidance and support in the planning phase for designing a cost-effective Sample Registration System (SRS) for mortality surveillance in Senegal, working closely with the CRVS and mortality surveillance government stakeholders, public health and academic institutions, and other key partners in this country. .

The consultant should have experience with CRVS and health information systems strengthening in low- and middle-income countries. They should also have a strong record of mortality surveillance system design and implementation (e.g., HDSS systems) Verbal Autopsy methods for community cause of death determination, and sample-based mortality surveys and routine systems. Lastly, the consultant should have strong facilitation, organizational, interpersonal, and communication skills, including high proficiency in speaking and writing in English. Writing and Speaking French to support Senegal is an added advantage.

Vital Strategies, through collaboration with the Swiss Tropical and Public Health (STPH) Institute and with support from the Gates Foundation, will provide technical guidance and support in the planning phase for designing a cost-effective Sample Registration System (SRS) for mortality surveillance in **Senegal**, working closely with the CRVS and mortality surveillance government

stakeholders, public health and academic institutions, and other key partners in these countries.¹ The engagement is expected to require an average of 25% level of effort for an individual consultant throughout.

The purpose of this consultancy is to deliver this support in collaboration with STPH and potentially with additional partners such as the Africa CDC.

Deliverables:

Senegal has been awarded a one-year SRS planning grant from the Gates Foundation. The expected deliverables from this planning grant includes:

1. **A situational assessment report** of existing mortality data sources and an evaluation of current tools and processes for collecting mortality data that follows guidance provided by BMGF. Ideally completed by the 6th month of the grant period.
2. **A national SRS design proposal** that includes detailed objectives, key design attributes, and options for the SRS platform, including but not limited to preliminary sampling frame, sample size, data flows (including with CRVS processes), and human resource requirements.
3. **A costed strategic action plan** detailing planned activities, their rationale, potential impact, identification of responsible government entities, departments or individuals, and potential funding sources over four years to fulfill the national SRS design proposal.
4. **A presentation of the action plan to stakeholders**, including BMGF staff.

Role and Deliverables of the Consultant

The Consultant, Planning Sample Registration System (SRS) for Mortality Surveillance will support the Senegal country team to produce their required planning grant deliverables. The consultant will provide support so that during, and by the end of the planning phase, the countries produce deliverables listed above. The consultant's role is to assure each deliverable reflects:

- Attention to technical rigor/emerging best practice in SRS
- Operational feasibility
- Sustainable institutional ownership and resource requirements
- A learning and improvement agenda for CRVS improvement based on learnings from the SRS

Specific Tasks, Deliverables, and Due Dates

The consultant is expected to provide technical support for the work/activities during Senegal's SRS planning phase in the following manner:

1. Support finalization of assessment of existing mortality data sources in the country
2. Produce report on the TA needs assessment using materials provided by STPH
3. Participate (if feasible) in the SRS Planning Workshop to be held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from June 2 – 5, 2025
4. Conduct a face-to-face meeting for SRS planning
5. Support the high-level design of an SRS platform to produce national and sub-nationally representative data prioritizing existing government structures and led by one or more government institutions

¹ An SRS for mortality surveillance is a sustained and continuous data collection and analysis system based on a representative sample of geographic population clusters to produce population-based empirical estimates of mortality, cause of death, and other population demographics. The overall purpose and strategy of the SRS system for mortality surveillance is to solve short-term mortality data needs for policy, decision-making and health security, while contributing to longer-term imperative for universal civil registration. The SRS system for mortality surveillance will provide continuous, routine, and timely follow-up of pregnancies, live births, deaths, and causes of death. It is also designed to produce routinely updated direct measures of surveillance area resident populations, which provide the denominators for the calculation of several mortality indicators (rates and ratios).

6. Support the country team in the development of a plan for the establishment of a sample registration system (SRS) for mortality surveillance
7. Maintain full situational awareness of the progress of the SRS planning phase
8. Be available to support the engagement of a local or external expert/consultant, including managing any internal and/or external consultant(s) who may be requested to support any components of the twelve key steps [Annex D] for establishing an effective SRS for mortality surveillance

Deliverable	Due Date
Situational Assessment Report: Including full results of situational and technical needs assessment	June 30, 2025
Country Specific TA Plan: Plan presenting and describing the analysis of the TA requirements	June 30, 2025
Participation and facilitation of the face-to-face workshop: Participation in Dar es Salaam workshop (if feasible) and support for report preparation summarizing outcomes of the face-to-face workshop relevant	July 14, 2025
Participation and engagement in the TA coordination mechanism: Participate in the bi-weekly meetings providing updates	Ongoing through February 19, 2026
Provision of TA: Engage in technical or managerial assistance to Senegal team within the scope of the agreed TA plan, including review and comment on all outputs	February 19, 2026
Capacity building and TA materials: Training manuals and protocols including slides that were used in activities related to providing TA within the scope of this project	February 19, 2026
Final Technical Report: Detailed overview of the work performed, lessons learned, and recommendations	February 19, 2026

Instructions for Consultant

1. **Expressions of Interest.** Please provide CV and any other relevant information to Contract Manager at Benjamin Clapman, Regional Deputy Director, Latin America and Francophone Africa: bclapham@vitalstrategies.org
2. Submission of the application should be made in English.
3. **Payment Currency:** Please include your daily rate or fee for service. 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 service provider is based.
4. **Questions.** Consultants shall refer any questions, via email to: bclapham@vitalstrategies.org
5. **Due Date.** Expressions of interest must be submitted in PDF format by May 23, 2025.

Existing Contract Information	
Current Contract with Vital Strategies?	No
If Yes, Name of Vital Strategies Contract Manager	N/A
Implementation Timeline of Existing Contract	N/A