



## **Consultant Opportunity with Vital Strategies Scope of Work for Surveillance Consultant – Lead Poisoning Prevention Initiative**

**Location of Consultancy/Assignment:** Kathmandu, Nepal

**Category:** Consultancy

**Number of Consultancy positions:** 2

**Duration:** September 1, 2026, through August 31, 2027, with annual renewal upon successful performance thereafter

**Contract Manager:** Yatin Pimple

### **Purpose and Scope of this Assignment/Consultancy**

The purpose of this consultancy is to provide specialized technical support for the design and implementation of blood lead surveillance systems in Nepal. The consultant will lead the design of surveillance methodologies, protocols, surveillance indicators, reporting systems and data management frameworks. The scope of work encompasses leading the design and implementation of robust blood lead surveillance systems and augment clinical capacity to detect and treat lead exposure. The consultant will support the Ministry of Health and partner institutions in establishing standardized surveillance systems to generate high-quality evidence for public health action on lead exposure.

This role requires a professional with an advanced degree in Public Health or Epidemiology, with demonstrated experience in surveillance system design, public health data systems and proficiency in biostatistical software (such as R or Stata) for data analysis and surveillance monitoring. Experience working with national surveillance systems, laboratories and government public health institutions is highly desirable. Nepalese citizenship or authorization to work in Nepal is required. Fluency in Nepali and English is required.

### **Vital Strategies Organizational Background**

Vital Strategies is a global health organization that believes every person should be protected by equitable and effective public health systems. We partner with governments, communities and organizations to reimagine public health, and the result is millions of people living longer, healthier lives. Our team of experts works in 73 countries with offices in New York City, São Paulo, Jinan, Addis Ababa, Paris, New Delhi, and Singapore to help strengthen public health systems, protect lives, and take on preventable diseases, all across the world.

We partner with governments, communities, and organizations to advance public health. Our team of scientists, researchers, communicators, and advocates works together with our partners toward cleaner air, healthier food, safer roads, science-led policies, and preventing disease and illness. Our goal is to build a future where health is produced and protected for everyone and by everyone across all facets of our lives, in our families, communities and countries.

### **Vital Strategies Program/Project Background**

Vital Strategies is expanding our program that addresses the issue of lead poisoning in low- and middle-income countries. We plan to build upon existing efforts and interest by collaborating with governmental agencies in countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America to strengthen health systems and build local expertise in childhood lead exposure to enact sound, cost-effective policies to address exposures. This engagement in Nepal is expected to last, at minimum, four years. The consultancy is annual and upon successful completion of tasks, is renewable for up to three additional years.

## Scope of Work/Specific Tasks

### Technical & Programmatic Support

- Surveillance Design: Support design and standardize a national blood lead surveillance system, including surveillance objectives, indicators, reporting and surveillance governance framework.
- Protocol Development: Support the development of surveillance protocols, standard operating procedures (SOPs), ethical approval documents and technical guidance for surveillance implementation
- Survey Methodology: Work with the team to design nationally representative surveys, sampling strategies, sample size calculation, and survey implementation plan
- Laboratory Assessments: Conduct technical assessments of laboratory capacity and provide recommendations to strengthen blood lead testing
- Capacity Building: Support the development of training curricula for government staff, frontline workers, and journalists.
  - Directly train and monitor field surveillance teams to ensure protocol adherence.
  - Develop and support the promulgation of clinical guidance to detect and address lead exposure.

### Data Management and Quality Assurance

- Field Monitoring: Conduct field visits for on-ground supervision and to ensure data quality
- Data System: Develop data collection tools, surveillance database, reporting templates and data management system in consultation with government partners.
- Monitoring: Conduct regular on-ground site visits to surveillance locations to ensure data integrity.
- Epidemiological Support: Collaborate with senior epidemiologists to clean, analyze, and synthesize data into actionable reports.
- Data Quality: Establish and maintain rigorous data quality control mechanisms for all field-collected datasets.
- Data Integration: Support integration of blood lead surveillance data into existing government health data platforms

### Stakeholder Coordination & Communication

- Representation: Serve as a liaison between Vital Strategies primary focal point and the Ministry of Health
- Technical Working Group: Support formation of a national technical working group on blood lead surveillance and clinical guideline development
- Dissemination: Prepare scientific manuscripts, surveillance reports, technical briefs, presentations and support dissemination of surveillance findings

## 3. Expected Deliverables & Timeline (Illustrative)

| Milestone                                | Deliverable                                                                                                                                                                          | Estimated Timeline |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Establish technical working group</b> | Establishment of a Technical Working Group for lead exposure surveillance; Engaging government to design a national biomonitoring surveillance system                                | December, 2026     |
| <b>Laboratory assessment</b>             | Identified laboratories that test biological samples for lead; Customize laboratory survey questionnaire                                                                             | February, 2027     |
| <b>Capacity assessment report</b>        | Stakeholder mapping to identify priority health stakeholders and champions, including government, and health research communities; Literature review completed with data abstraction | March, 2027        |

| Milestone                             | Deliverable                                                                                                                                                            | Estimated Timeline |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
|                                       | sheet, Capacity assessment report with recommendations on national surveillance options.                                                                               |                    |
| <b>Blood lead survey design</b>       | Collaboratively developed design for a nationally representative lead exposure survey of children and adults                                                           | May, 2027          |
| <b>Clinical guideline development</b> | Establishment of a Technical Working Group for the development, drafting and formal proposal of national clinical guidelines for lead exposure detection and treatment | June, 2027         |

#### Instructions for Consultant

- 1. Expressions of Interest.** Please provide CV and any other relevant information to Contract Manager, Yatin Pimple, Senior Program Manager, South Asia Region, [ypimple@vitalstrategies.org](mailto:ypimple@vitalstrategies.org)
- 2. 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.
- 3. Questions.** Consultants shall refer any questions, via email to [ypimple@vitalstrategies.org](mailto:ypimple@vitalstrategies.org)
- 4. Due Date.** Expressions of interest must be submitted in PDF format by August 21, 2026