

Call for Expressions of Interest and Proposal

Job Title:

VN019 - A capable team to implement a pilot project on integration of HCV and HIV viral load testing using existing GenExpert system in district health centre

1. Background

Vietnam is home for nearly one million people living with HCV and 230,000 people living with HIV. The burden of HCV and HIV infection remains an important public health issue in Vietnam. HCV and HBV are the main causes of cirrhosis, liver cancer and liver-related death in Vietnam. Hepatitis is also one of the main causes of death among people living with HIV despite effective antiretroviral therapy. To achieve the goal of the national strategy to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030, Vietnam needs to achieve the 95-95-95 target by 2030, which means that the HIV viral load coverage rate must be at 95%. Currently, HIV viral load testing in Vietnam is centralized at national and regional laboratories. Therefore, specimen transportation from primary health care facilities to these laboratories for testing leads to long turnaround time and delays in clinical management. In addition, there are additional costs for specimen transportation. In addition, reimbursement of viral load testing through centralized testing faces a lot of difficulties. Similarly, HCV viral load testing is not available in all district health facilities and in many provincial hospitals which limit the access to HCV diagnosis and treatment for people in need.

Vietnam's national TB program has a very good GenExpert system, mainly for the diagnosis of tuberculosis and multidrug-resistant tuberculosis. Currently, with the support of the Global Fund, Vietnam has 231 GenExpert systems located in 155 medical facilities in 63 provinces. The GenExpert system is a point-of-care testing machine operated by trained district health personnel. In recent years, along with the development of technology, the GenExpert system has become a widely used HIV and HCV load testing platform and has been pre-qualified by WHO. Decentralizing viral testing, enhancing laboratory capacity centralization and integrating implementation of HCV and HIV viral load testing on the existing GenExpert system at district health facilities will contribute to increasing the access to HIV and HCV viral load testing, shorten the turnaround time and thereby improving the access to HCV treatment and monitoring HIV treatment.

This pilot on integration of HCV and HIV viral load testing using existing Expert machines is expected to address the current barriers of accessing HIV and HCV viral load testing. Experiences and lessons learned from this project will provide important evidence to advocate for decentralization and integration of HCV and HIV viral load testing into the existing GenExpert system at district health facilities.

WHO is calling for **02 capable teams** to carry out this pilot project and to document the results as well as lessons learned from the integration of implementation of HCV and HIV viral load testing on the existing GenExpert system at **two district health centre/hospital, one in Hanoi and one in Can Tho.**

2. Planned timelines (subject to confirmation)

Start date: 20/04/2023

End date: 30/12/2023

3. Work to be performed

To implement the pilot project of integrating HCV and HIV viral load testing into the existing GenExpert system at the district health centres.

Task 1: Develop implementation plan

Activities:

- Develop implementation plan with clear timeline

Output/s: Implementation plan developed

Task 2:

Activities: training lab staff and clinicians on project implementation

- Train lab staff on performing HCV and HIV viral load testing using existing Expert machines
- Train clinical staff on ART monitoring and HCV diagnosis and treatment

Output/s: Lab staff are trained and capable to provide HIV and HCV viral load testing using Expert machine

Task 3: Implement of the pilot project

Activities:

- Collect specimens and perform HIV viral load testing for treatment monitoring among ART patients from outpatient clinics
- Collect specimens and perform HCV viral load testing for people under methadone treatment and other key populations
- Record the data using the predesigned form and provide monthly report to WHO

Output/s:

- Estimated 750 PLHIV on ART will receive HIV viral load testing and 350 people on methadone treatment and other key population with anti-HCV positive will receive HCV viral load testing using Expert machine at district health centre

4. Specific requirements

The applicant should submit the following documents

- Technical proposal including Background, Methods, Expected results and Timelines
- Financial proposal
- Documents to prove the technical capacity to undertake the proposed activities
- CVs of project coordinator, site coordinator and team members
 - Project coordinator: Own university degree in medicine or public health. Having advance training on medicine or public health is desirable. Demonstrated at least 10 years of work experience in management of HIV viral load testing programme in Viet Nam.
 - Site coordinator: Own university degree in medicine or public health. Having at least 10 years of work experiences in management of HIV programme at district level. Demonstrated good understanding/knowledge on HIV, hepatitis C diagnosis and treatment is desirable
 - Team member requirement:
 - a. Counsellor: having experience in provide counselling on HIV and HCV testing, treatment and treatment adherence
 - b. Clinicians: having experiences in clinical management of HIV and/or HCV diagnosis and treatment
 - c. Lab staff: having capacity in operating GenExpert machine
 - d. Data manager: having experience in HIV and/or HCV data recording and reporting

- e. Project assistance: experience in administrative management of project related activities

Language requirements: Demonstration of proficiency in Vietnamese. Team leader may have basic English

Competencies:

- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Ability to plan and prioritise challenging workloads
- Demonstrated ability to work as part of a team
- Fostering integration and teamwork

5. Place of assignment

Hanoi and Can Tho City

6. Medical clearance: N/A

7. Travel: N/A

8. Budget

Detailed budget breakdown to be submitted.

Please take note of the following when submitting application: The contractor will be responsible for paying taxes, if any.

Those who are interested can submit the following documents:

- Technical proposal including Background, Methods, Expected results and Timelines
- Financial proposal
- Documents to prove the technical capacity to undertake the proposed activities
- CVs of coordinators and team members

Please indicate post title and vacancy notice # and should be addressed to:

**Administrative Officer
World Health Organization
UN Building, 304 Kim Ma Street
Hanoi, Viet Nam**

OR

wpvnmdc@who.int

Before/by 13 April 2023

For further information on this TOR, please contact:

wpvnmdc@who.int