

FIND

Diagnosis for all

Request for Quote (RFQ) - RQ22-0001

**Clinical Research Organization or Clinical Research
Associates to support a field evaluation study on
schistosomiasis diagnostics in Kenya**

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1. ABOUT FIND

FIND, the global alliance for diagnostics, seeks to ensure equitable access to reliable diagnosis around the world. We connect countries and communities, funders, decision-makers, healthcare providers and developers to spur diagnostic innovation and make testing an integral part of sustainable, resilient health systems. We are working to save 1 million lives through accessible, quality diagnosis, and save US\$1 billion in healthcare costs to patients and health systems. We are co-convenor of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator diagnostics pillar, and a WHO Collaborating Centre for Laboratory Strengthening and Diagnostic Technology Evaluation. For more information, please visit www.finddx.org.

2. BACKGROUND

Schistosomiasis (SCH) or bilharzia is a disease caused by parasitic worms, whose intermediate hosts are freshwater snails, and affects over 250 million people worldwide. It is one of the infections in a group of the diseases referred to as neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). The current WHO guidelines for the diagnosis of SCH recommend examination by microscopy of stool and/or urine samples for the detection of eggs. To support national SCH programmes to reduce the burden of disease, new and better diagnostic tests need to be developed. To address this gap, FIND and its Partners are developing a new point-of-care rapid diagnostic test (POC-RDT). Through a collaboration with KEMRI, the performance of the prototype RDT is being evaluated in three sites in Kenya, including Kwale, Siaya and Kiambu counties.

3. OBJECTIVE

This is a short-term assignment of 7 weeks, with the possibility of extension.

We are looking for two Clinical Research Associates (CRA) (either independent consultants or staff of a Clinical Research Organization) to supervise the study. The candidates should be able to work in Kenya and travel to Kwale, Siaya and Kiambu counties.

4. ACTIVITIES

The CRAs will provide on the ground support to the study, including overall monitoring and supervision, and will report to FIND Schistosomiasis Senior Scientist and Clinical Trials Unit (CTU) Senior Manager.

FIND staff will conduct a 1-day training to the CRAs on the study protocol, via zoom or any other communication platform. In addition, the CRAs, will spend 1 day reviewing the study protocol and familiarize themselves with FINDs CTU procedures.

The study principal investigator (PI) will then conduct a 1-day classroom-based training to the field study team with the support of the CRAs, at each site prior to initiation of the study. Thereafter, the CRAs will stay at the site for the duration of the study.

Estimated time spent in the field:

- 2 weeks for the first site
- 4 weeks in each of the second site and third sites. *

* Sample collection in the second and the third sites will be conducted in parallel, each supervised by 1 CRA.

The main tasks of the CRAs will include:

- Ensuring that the study team adheres to the study protocol
- Verifying that all the materials and supplies required for the study are available and in sufficient quantities
- Ensuring that study participants are being enrolled following GCP guidelines
- Ensuring that RDT testing is carried out according to the training and instructions for use provided by the test developer
- Verifying that sample containers, RDTs, slides, forms, and sample aliquots are labelled correctly using the FIND labels, stored and maintained according to the study protocol
- Verifying that all study related forms are filled out accurately
- Ensuring that samples are being aliquoted correctly and stored at the right temperature
- Providing daily reports on their observations and reporting on changes that were implemented (in case of issues). The daily reports should include photos and/or videos.

For all the above, the individual(s) should be able to course-correct, in consultation with the PI, if things are not done accurately. Any issues should be reported and escalated to FIND.

5. PROFILE & QUALIFICATIONS

We are looking for highly motivated CRAs with exceptional attention to detail, who can collaborate with cross-functional teams and meet tight deadlines. Prior experience in diagnostics would be an asset.

Qualifications and experience:

- MSc or higher degree in a related field.
- 5 to 10 years' working experience in clinical research, public health.
- Knowledge of NTDs strongly preferred.
- Good understanding of the East African context.
- Demonstrated ability to effectively collaborate with many individuals and teams.
- Extremely detail oriented and organized, with ability to manage multiple tasks at a time while sustaining quality of work and timely delivery.
- Proactive and adept problem solver; ability to come up with inventive solutions.

- Strong communication skills.

6. TIMELINE

Two positions are to be filled:

- 7-week consultancy, tentative date: April 2022, (1 week), May 2022 (2 weeks) and June 2022 (4 weeks).

7. QUOTE GUIDELINES

If you are interested, please send your quote and application (CV and cover letter explaining how your skills would support our needs in English and formatted in Microsoft Word or PDF) to ntdteam@finddx.org by **5pm CET on February 18th, 2022**. For more information on the content of the application, see **8. Evaluation Criteria**.

Selection of the applications will be based upon separate assessments of the offers. FIND reserves the right to request further information throughout the Request for Quote (RFQ) process.

Any questions or clarifications regarding this RFQ should be submitted in writing via e-mail to ntdteam@finddx.org prior to the closing date.

8. EVALUATION CRITERIA

To ensure consideration for this RFQ, your offer should be complete and include all of the following criteria:

For individual consultants:

- **Resume/CV and cover letter:** Bidders will be evaluated on their qualifications, capability and capacity, including history of their work pertaining to the curation and management of content through an e-commerce platform.
- **Financial proposal:** Bidders will be evaluated on the quality of the financial proposal for this RFQ as well as the transparency and breakdown of all financial elements comprising the final bid. Bidders should provide as much information as possible to explain the proposed budget.

For consultancy agencies:

- **Experience, capability & capacity:** Bidders will be evaluated on their qualifications, capability and capacity, including history of their work pertaining to the curation and management of content through an e-commerce platform.

- **Financial proposal:** Bidders will be evaluated on the quality of the financial proposal for this RFQ as well as the transparency and breakdown of all financial elements comprising the final bid. Bidders should provide as much information as possible to explain the proposed budget.
- **Proposed team member:** Bidders will be evaluated on the quality of the team member that will work on the RFQ. Bidders are asked to submit complete CVs of the proposed team member, detailing how their background and experience will be of benefit for this work.