Consultant Opportunity: Vaccine Safety Expert

**Position Title:** Global nOPV2 Safety Expert Consultant

**Application Deadline and Process:** Applications must be received by COB September 30, 2021. Interested applicants should send a cover letter and resume/CV to aguete@who.int noting nOPV2 safety consultant in the subject line.

**Location:** Remote (availability to travel internationally and attend meetings during work hours in varying time zones)

**Context**

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) is facilitating the rapid field availability of type-2 novel oral polio virus vaccine (nOPV2) vaccine as the first vaccine ever to roll-out under the WHO’s Emergency Use Listing (EUL) procedure. Countries interested in using nOPV2 under EUL are required to meet specific criteria in safety and other domains, and be verified as “ready” before vaccine may be used.

This is an exciting opportunity to make a large, international impact towards the safe and timely introduction of the first-ever EUL vaccine to address a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

**Planned timelines** (subject to confirmation)

Start date: 8/11/2021   End date: 8/05/2022 (extension of consultancy subject to review)

**Contract details**

Level of effort: Full time (monthly)   Location: Remote working/home based availability to travel internationally and attend meetings during work hours in varying time zones)

**Work to be performed**

**Deliverable 1: Serve as safety subject matter expert (SME) on the nOPV2 Readiness Verification Team (RVT)**

a. Review country-submitted safety plans to ensure consistency and completeness to enable readiness verification
b. On a monthly basis, assess current safety and regional verification progress and provide recommendations to address gaps and support their implementation
c. Be available as a resource for regional nOPV2 safety focal points during their review of and/or support in developing country safety monitoring plans for nOPV2

**Deliverable 2: Ensure global and regional nOPV2 safety focal points have the necessary knowledge, tools, and resources to support nOPV2 safety surveillance**

a. Develop, adapt, and conduct safety trainings and refreshers as needed for regional
Deliverable 3: Participate in the nOPV2 Safety Subgroup
   a. Contribute to all subgroup meetings and relevant action items
   b. Support the scheduled and ad hoc reporting of safety data and activities
   c. Provide SME inputs to the implementation of recommendations from GACVS, SAGE, and regulatory/oversight bodies
   d. Provide SME review of global and regional safety documents upon request

Deliverable 4: Identify opportunities to enhance polio safety surveillance through partnership with other safety programs/initiatives
   a. Document and disseminate best practices and lessons learned on nOPV2 safety monitoring

Specific Requirements
   • Education: The applicant should hold an MD, MBChB, Nursing or other relevant degree with at least four years of experience in immunization services and systems (additionally, a postgraduate degree at the master’s level in public health is desirable). Alternately the applicant should hold a doctoral level degree in public health with at least four years’ experience in immunization services and systems
   • Work experience: Extensive experience working on safety monitoring in low and/or middle income countries. Experience with vaccine safety surveillance and/or other disease surveillance systems (preferably polio)
   • Language skills: Fluency in the English language (additional fluency in French, Portuguese and/or Arabic is an asset)
   • Additional requirements:
     a. Excellent leadership, interpersonal and communication skills, and ability to collaborate with others
     b. A track record in delivering on program objectives
     c. Ability to write technical reports and prepare briefings in English and other languages
     d. Ability to think critically and analyze findings
     e. Ability to handle confidential information in a discreet and professional manner

Medical clearance
The selected consultant will be expected to provide a medical certificate of fitness for work.

Application Process

Interested applicants should send a cover letter and resume/CV noting nOPV2 safety consultant in the subject line by close of business on Thursday September 30th to aguete@who.int. Only those candidate considered for the position will be contacted.