1. Background

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative, mandated by the World Health Assembly to stop transmission of wild poliovirus, has reduced global incidence of polio by 99.9%. It is a partnership spearheaded by WHO, Rotary International, US CDC, UNICEF and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and supported by BMGF. The programme supports Member States in carrying out surveillance and immunization campaigns and strengthening routine immunization, in order to stop polio transmission.

Working across the GPEI partnership and through direct engagement with senior staff at BMGF, UNICEF, US-CDC, Rotary and Gavi, as well as senior WHO regional, global and country staff, along with vaccine manufacturers, regulators and senior national government partners, the selected consultant will focus on two critical GPEI initiatives:

1. Ensuring timely availability of nOPV. A key pillar in GPEI’s new strategy, availability of nOPV1, nOPV2 and nOPV3 is a priority for the partnership, and requires close collaboration with vaccine manufacturers, regulators, national governments and policy development bodies. The nOPV work spans the following interconnected areas: policy, vaccine supply, research and analytics, readiness verification, communications, advocacy, guidance and technical support to regions and countries, review and assessment of nOPV2 functionality in the field.

2. Operationalization of GPEI’s Executive Management Unit (EMU): The EMU is designed to allow the GPEI Strategy Committee (composed of Directors of Polio Eradication departments across partners) to focus on strategic matters, relying on the EMU for direction on day-to-day activities. The EMU will ensure smooth operations of GPEI through the following activities:
   a. Coordinate and support the work of the Global Program Support (GPS) and Regional Operations (RO) groups
   b. Lead the implementation of cross-cutting priority issues across GPEI partnership (i.e. integration, gender)
   c. Ensure performance and risk management processes are managed consistently across the partnership; and
   d. Coordinate the operations of the Strategy Committee (SC).

2. Deliverables

1. Develop and implement GPEI’s nOPV roadmap
   - Facilitate coordination of nOPV activities across GPEI as well as all levels of WHO and within POL, PQT and IVB
   - As the development of nOPV candidates for other serotypes of polio advances, facilitate programmatic alignment and decision-making related to their future deployment on behalf of GPEI.
   - Ensure timely progress with EUL for nOPV2 from the second manufacturer, identifying, solving and escalating issues as needed
   - Facilitate and drive the implementation of the nOPV2 the readiness verification process across WHO, UNICEF, BMGF and CDC, supporting regional and global technical experts as required
   - Hold briefings for donors, partners and governments on nOPV,
Provide updates on progress with nOPV to the POB and SC as requested
Ensure documentation of nOPV2 lessons learned

2. Support the establishment and operations of the EMU
   o Advise EMU lead and staff on TOR development and review
   o Act as advisor to EMU Lead in establishing EMU team, including development of back-end process and on-boarding of new staff
   o Support EMU Lead to identify priorities and workplan for EMU, including developing system for implementation and tracking
   o Advise EMU Lead on developing a system to collate and coordinate reports on progress for the SC across the GPS groups
   o Review and advise on submissions and reports from across GPEI groups prior to their presentation to SC for completeness, ensuring relevant GPS groups have reviewed and their input is included
   o Support EMU operations while permanent staffing is brought on.

3. Qualifications, experience, skills and languages

Educational and work background:
   • Master’s in public health or equivalent

Essential experience:
   • At least 10 years of experience at national and international level in public health, of which at least five years must be within immunization and vaccines. Previous experience working with the private sector preferred.
   • Previous work experience within GPEI structure
   • Strong knowledge of the UN system, including WHO country, regional and global offices and UNICEF program and supply division.
   • Previous experience drafting briefing notes and presentations for heads of agencies
   • Previous experience developing strategic plans with multiple stakeholders
   • Strong experience and working relationships with key immunization partners, the NGO and CSO community
   • Previous experience working with WHO governing bodies processes
   • Knowledge of and experience working with immunization, emergencies and polio eradication activities
   • Experience managing projects within a variety of sectors including academia and private sector companies, multi-nationals and development agencies
   • Experience working directly with ministries of health and immunization programs in low and middle income countries; experience working in the field on immunization/ polio campaigns
   • Experience working on vaccine development and licensure processes, along with roll out of new vaccines at country level

Skills:
   • Proven writing, presentation and project management skills
   • Excellent interpersonal negotiating and consultative skills
   • Ability to coordinate or manage diverse groups of stakeholders

Languages:
- Excellent knowledge of English with a good working knowledge of another UN language, preferably French.

4. **Technical Supervision**

Director Polio Eradication WHO/HQ

5. **Location**

Please specify where the consultant will work:
The consultant will be working from his/her home location.

6. **Travel** - If travel is involved, full medical clearance is required

Short travels may be required within the consultancy period. Medical certificate of fitness for work will be required.

7. **Remuneration and budget (travel costs excluded)**

Rate: Band C

Work hours: The consultant has a flexible work schedule but expected to be available from Monday through Friday to participate in meetings (virtual) that are scheduled during European and USA time zones.

8. **Application Process**

Interested candidates should submit their CV by close of business on Sunday 5th December to aguete@who.int.

Only those candidates considered for the position will be contacted.