



**REGIONAL DISEASE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS ENHANCEMENT  
PROJECT IN WEST AFRICA  
(REDISSE)**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Developing a Community Directive for the  
Harmonization of Regulations on Sustainable  
Management of Healthcare Waste in West Africa**

**August 2019**

## 1. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

The West African Health Organisation, (WAHO), the ECOWAS specialised institution for health matters based in Bobo-Dioulasso, BURKINA FASO has a political mandate, which is “the attainment of the highest possible standard and protection of health for the peoples in the sub-region through the harmonization of the policies of Member States, pooling of resources, cooperation with one another and with others for a collective and strategic combat against the health problems of the ECOWAS region”.

As part of this objective, WAHO organised a regional workshop in November 2018 to discuss the operationalization of sustainable management of health-care waste in West Africa. The regional roadmap resulting from the workshop defined the priorities for intervention over the next five (5) years: 2019-2023.

Among other priorities, strengthening of the regulatory framework appeared key to ensuring sustainable management of healthcare waste. Indeed, the management of healthcare waste in the ECOWAS region is characterized by heterogeneous legislation. Depending on the country, regulatory frameworks for sustainable management of healthcare waste are either insufficient, non-binding or not enforced where they exist. As a result, the majority of structures generating waste from healthcare activities do not properly manage them, which represents a risk of contamination for both people and the environment.

The brief situational analysis conducted at the November 2018 workshop highlighted some of these gaps. In some countries, the regulations do not explicitly and exhaustively specify the sources of production of healthcare waste, the packaging, storage, transport, traceability and disposal of such waste. For other countries, the regulatory framework does not mention the conditions for approval or authorization for the running and operation of equipment for treatment of healthcare waste (disinfection or incineration equipment). Finally, some legal documents conceal the necessary criminal provisions and sanctions relating to the disposal of healthcare waste under conditions contrary to legal requirements. These gaps are likely to prevent the appropriate management of healthcare waste.

Measures for the sustainable management of healthcare waste will only be viable if they are governed by special binding and applicable legislation that integrates the methods of managing such waste (sorting and collection, packaging, storage, transport, possible pre-treatment, treatment), the implementation of traceability, control, motivation and sanctions mechanisms. This legislation must be inclusive and apply to all public or private structures generating waste from healthcare activities.

To help address these regulatory gaps and help West African countries have an appropriate legal framework for sustainable management of health care waste, WAHO, with the support of a consultant, intends to conduct a regional study with a view to developing a regional directive for the harmonization of health care waste regulations in ECOWAS member States. The aim will be to harmonize the legal framework stating the main obligations and prohibitions, the regulatory framework defining the practical arrangements and the technical framework defining the guidelines for sustainable management of healthcare waste.

The development of the Regional Directive for the Harmonization of Regulation on Healthcare Waste fits into the Regional Disease Surveillance Systems Enhancement (REDISSE) Project in West Africa funded by the World Bank and implemented by WAHO. The aim of the Project is to strengthen disease surveillance and response systems at regional level and within the ECOWAS Member States.

The Regulatory Harmonization Directive should help to achieve the common objective of operationalizing the sustainable management of healthcare waste in the ECOWAS region.

## **2. MISSION OBJECTIVE**

The main objective of the mission is to develop a regional directive for the harmonization of regulation on sustainable management of healthcare waste in West Africa.

## **3. TASKS TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE CONSULTANT**

WAHO Professional Officers will assist the consultant (firm) to carry out the mission. He will work in close collaboration with all Mission Stakeholders. He will have to:

- Carry out an exhaustive analysis of the laws and regulations relating to the management of healthcare waste in the various ECOWAS countries and Mauritania,
- Identify the strengths and weaknesses of countries' legal frameworks,
- List the various areas to be strengthened,
- Propose a draft ECOWAS Directive on sustainable management of healthcare waste,
- Support WAHO in the organisation of the regional workshop to validate the Directive.

The consultant shall propose a methodological approach including a broad involvement of stakeholders and partners, a pre-validation meeting of the draft Harmonization Directives and a regional validation workshop.

## **4. DELIVERABLES**

At the end of the consultancy assignment, the deliverables shall be as follows:

- A detailed list of laws and regulations relating to the management of healthcare waste in the various ECOWAS countries and Mauritania,
- A final report after validation of the mission's results by all stakeholders. The final report shall be available in the three official languages of ECOWAS (French, English and Portuguese),
- A draft Community Directive for the harmonization of regulations on sustainable management of healthcare waste in the ECOWAS region. The draft directive shall be available in the three official languages of ECOWAS (French, English and Portuguese).

## **5. DURATION OF ASSIGNMENT**

The maximum duration of the consulting period shall be four man-months.

## **6. QUALIFICATION AND SKILLS**

This involves recruiting one (01) individual consultant who will be assisted by a junior expert whose profile is indicated in these TOR.

The lead expert should have the following qualifications and skills:

### **Qualifications of Expert N°1 (Lead Expert):**

- Must hold a Master's degree in law (public law or international law),
- Must have experience in the field of environmental law,
- Must have sound knowledge of environmental legislation and in particular the legal framework relating to the management of healthcare waste,

- Must have sound knowledge of the health system in the countries of the ECOWAS region,
- Must have participated in at least two (2) legislative harmonization processes in West Africa in the field of health /environment,
- Must have experience in drafting legislative and regulatory texts,
- Must have excellent capacity for analysis and synthesis and reports writing skills,
- Must have knowledge of the countries in the region,
- Must have mastery of one out of the three official ECOWAS languages (English, French and Portuguese and speak one of the other two languages,
- Must have sound knowledge of computer for data processing and data analysis.

The lead expert will propose an expert with the profile below:

#### **Qualifications of Expert N°2:**

- Must hold at least a Master's degree in environmental sciences or medicine with a specialization in public health;
- Must have sound knowledge of the health system in the countries of the ECOWAS region,
- Must have sound knowledge of environmental legislation and in particular the legal framework relating to the management of healthcare waste,
- Must have taken part in at least two (2) similar evaluations in the field of health-care waste.
- Must have participated in at least one (1) legislative harmonization process in West Africa in the field of environment,
- Must have excellent capacity for analysis and synthesis and reports writing skills,
- Must have knowledge of the countries in the region,
- Must have mastery of one out of the three official ECOWAS languages (English, French and Portuguese and speak one of the other two languages,
- Must have sound knowledge of computer for data processing and data analysis.

## **7. DOCUMENTATION TO BE SUBMITTED**

The West African Health Organisation (WAHO) invites qualified individual consultants to express their interest in providing the aforementioned services.

Interested individual consultants must provide:

- A letter of expression of interest,
- A detailed, dated and signed Curriculum Vitae, highlighting qualifications and experience in carrying out similar assignments, as well as references for possible checks. Similarly, the lead expert will propose an expert with the qualifications indicated for expert N°2;
- Signed financial proposal for carrying out the mission (including the fees for the expert N°2).

Expressions of interest will be sent to the following address:

**West African Health Organisation**  
**175 Avenue Dr. Ouezzin Coulibaly**  
**01 BP 153 Bobo-Dioulasso 01**  
**Burkina Faso**  
**Telephone: (226) 20 97 57 75/ 20 97 00 97**  
**Fax: (226) 20 97 57 72**  
**Email address: [offres@wahooas.org](mailto:offres@wahooas.org)**  
**Web site: [w3.wahooas.org](http://w3.wahooas.org)**

## **8. TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT**

A consultancy contract will be signed between WAHO and the selected lead consultant, who will be fully responsible to Expert N°2, in line with the World Bank's guidelines.

## **9. CONDITIONS FOR CARRYING OUT THE MISSION**

WAHO will cover the costs related to the consultant's travel to the countries (airfare, daily subsistence allowances).

WAHO will make available to the consultant any documentation that may facilitate the successful completion of the mission.

## **10. BUDGET**

The mission will be financed by the West African Health Organisation (WAHO) from the REDISSE funds.