



## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

# **Regional Study on Healthcare Waste Management in West Africa and Development of 2019-2023 Regional Strategic Plan**

**August 2019**

## 1 BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

The West African Health Organisation, (WAHO), 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 for the next five (5) years: 2019-2023.

Waste from health-care activities includes waste from diagnostic, monitoring and preventive, curative or palliative treatment activities in the fields of human and veterinary medicine. Waste from research, laboratory and pharmaceutical activities shall be treated as waste from health-care activities.

This waste presents a risk of contamination for both people and the environment. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimated in 2000 that, across the world, accidents with sharps waste caused 66,000 cases of hepatitis B virus infection, 16,000 cases of hepatitis C virus infection and 200 to 5,000 cases of HIV infection among health-care workers.

In 2015, a joint WHO/UNICEF evaluation of 52 674 health facilities in 24 countries in the African region, including 10 ECOWAS countries, found that just over half of the health facilities surveyed had adequate systems in place to safely dispose of health-care waste.

The management of health-care waste is a current concern in West Africa. The majority of hospitals, health centres and other structures generating waste from health-care activities do not properly manage them. It is common to find this waste mixed with household waste. Many systems for the disposal of waste from health-care activities are unsafe and pose a health risk due to the high levels of hazardous fumes released. In addition to these risks, there is the issue of liquid waste, waste water from health facilities, to which little attention is paid.

The sharing of experiences by participants at the regional workshop on the operationalization of sustainable waste management in West Africa painted a dire picture of the management of health-care waste. The management of health-care waste is characterised, among other things, by an eclectic typology in the designation of health-care waste at regional level, disparities between countries in terms of key levers (institutional and legislative framework, financing, equipment and infrastructure, staff training, behaviour change communication), poor sharing of good practices at regional level, poor collaboration with the public and private sectors to promote their involvement, and weak sustainable financing mechanisms in the form of Public-Private Partnerships.

These weaknesses have led to several initiatives by donors aimed at helping countries adopt good health-care waste management practices. These, amongst others, are: Preparatory studies, assistance to draft national plans, guides and management tools, training and awareness creation sessions as well as donation of incinerators.

Despite these efforts and the growing awareness of the threat they pose, health-care waste management remains a challenge in West Africa. Faced with this bleak prospect, WAHO realised the need to work towards operationalizing the sustainable management of health-care waste in West Africa.

This operationalization process, which was initiated at the behest of the West African Health Organisation (WAHO) in partnership with the World Bank, is part of the roll-out of the West Africa Regional Diseases Surveillance System Enhancement (REDISSE) project.

It is within this framework that WAHO intends to carry out, with the support of an external consultant, a regional study on the management of health-care waste and develop the regional strategic plan for the next five years: 2019-2023.

## **2 OBJECTIVES**

### **2.1 Overall Objective**

Provide WAHO with a regional strategic plan to enhance the management of health care waste.

### **2.2 Specific Objectives**

- Take stock of the current situation in terms of health-care waste management in the ECOWAS region,
- Determine regional priorities for strengthening health-care waste management programmes,
- Develop a draft regional strategic plan: 2019-2023 for the operationalization of sustainable health-care waste management in West Africa.

## **3 METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH**

### **3.1 Scope of the Consultancy:**

The consultancy will cover two aspects:

#### **3.1.1 Study on the management of health-care waste in the ECOWAS region**

The purpose of the study is to conduct a situational analysis of management of health-care waste in West Africa. The study should focus on all waste from health-care activities, including infectious, chemical, toxic and radioactive waste.

This is a cross-sectional and observational descriptive study that will evaluate the following areas:

- Legislation and institutional framework,
- Financing mechanisms,
- Equipment and infrastructure,
- Waste management practices (sorting, collection, transport, storage, disposal),
- Staff training,
- Behavioural Change Communication,
- Management, coordination and control bodies,
- Perceptions and knowledge of the various actors involved in the issue of this type of waste and its management
- Monitoring & Evaluation

The study will also identify best practices in the management of health-care waste in ECOWAS member countries. Field missions will be organised in five countries, including two English-speaking countries, two French-speaking countries and one Portuguese-speaking country. The following countries have been proposed for the study: Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Guinea and Cabo Verde.

The consultant will propose the most appropriate methodological approach to better understand the study theme. The consultant, in agreement with WAHO, will identify the stakeholders to be met.

The results of the regional study on sustainable health-care waste management will enable the consultant to develop the draft regional strategic plan for the operationalization of sustainable health-care waste management in West Africa.

### 3.1.2 Develop the 2019-2023 regional strategic plan for the operationalization of sustainable health-care waste management in West Africa

The regional strategic plan for the operationalization of sustainable health-care waste management in West Africa is the key instrument for the effective implementation of the regional roadmap and country policies. It must be in line with WAHO's objective and in tune with countries' health policies and strategies. The development of the regional strategic plan should be based on the results of the situation analysis and the review of national strategic plans, where they exist.

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

A pre-validation will be carried out by the Scientific and Technical Committee set up when drawing up the regional roadmap. The regional validation workshop will include representatives from the fifteen (15) ECOWAS member countries and Mauritania.

### 3.2 Duties and Responsibilities of the Consultant

The mission will be carried out by a consultant who will be selected according to the World Bank's guidelines for recruiting individual consultants. He will be assisted by WAHO professionals and, if necessary, by technical partners and resource persons from ECOWAS countries. He will be responsible for:

- Proposing a work plan and a clear methodology for the conduct of the mission to be validated by WAHO,
- Proposing questionnaires for data collection,
- Collecting and analysing primary and secondary data and information,
- Writing the report of the situational analysis of health-care waste management in West Africa and submitting it to WAHO for comments,
- Presenting the results of the situational analysis to stakeholders, including WAHO staff,
- Drafting the regional strategic plan and submitting it to the Scientific and Technical Committee,
- Getting the regional strategic plan validated at a regional validation workshop,
- Finalising and submitting the consultancy mission report.

## 4 DELIVERABLES

The report of the situational analysis of health-care waste management in West Africa is available and the 2019-2023 regional strategic plan for the operationalization of sustainable health-care waste management in West Africa is validated.

## 5 PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE OF THE MISSION

Tasks	Schedule						To be carried out by
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	
1. Data/information compilation and analysis							Consultant
2. Drafting and submission of the situational analysis report							Consultant
3. Drafting the regional strategic plan and submitting it to the Scientific and Technical Committee							Consultant
4. Regional Strategic Plan Validation Workshop							Consultant
5. Finalisation and reporting back on the final report of the consultancy							Consultant

## **6 CONSULTING PERIOD**

The maximum duration of the consulting period shall be **60 days**.

## **7 BUDGET**

The consulting activity shall be financed by WAHO. WAHO shall also cover the costs of transportation and daily subsistence allowances.

## **8 QUALIFICATION AND SKILLS**

- Must have a post-graduate degree in environmental sciences or medicine with specialisation in public health or have at least five years' training or equivalent practice in planning, monitoring and evaluation in the field of health or environment,
- Must have knowledge of the health system in the countries of the ECOWAS region,
- Must have taken part in at least three (3) similar evaluations in the field of health-care waste.
- Must have taken part in at least three (3) similar strategic planning processes in the field of health /environment,
- Must have excellent capacity for analysis and synthesis and ability to draft evaluation reports,
- 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.

## **9 DOCUMENTS TO BE PROVIDED BY CANDIDATES**

- 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.
- A financial proposal for carrying out the mission.

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