

Independent Contractor Vaccine Wastage Assessment

Background

Immunization is regarded as one of the most cost-effective public health interventions and has saved millions of lives. An analysis undertaken in 2019 by the Decade of Vaccines Economics (DOVE), found that between the years 2021 – 2030, the estimated return on investment for vaccines and immunization programs to be above \$20 against a \$1 investment. As noted by the World Health Organization (WHO), immunization prevents 3.5 – 5 million deaths every year, helping people of all ages live longer, healthier lives. Immunization therefore plays a critical role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly goal 3.

To maintain a healthy population and strive towards meeting health-related SDGs, routine immunization services are offered at no cost across Government, Christian Health Association of Lesotho (CHAL), and Lesotho Red Cross health facilities. The Ministry of Health, through the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), is mandated to ensure that vaccines are available in the right quantities and the right time for all age eligible populace. For this to be possible, there is need that the end-to-end supply chain operations, from forecasting and procurement, to monitoring of utilization and wastage across all vaccine storage and service delivery points is adequate and effective.

With population growth and the introduction of new vaccines, the budgetary requirement for vaccine procurement has increased over the years. Resources must, therefore, be efficiently utilized to guarantee sustained delivery of immunization and other primary healthcare services in the country. One way of achieving efficient use of resources is to reduce avoidable vaccine wastage by optimizing the forecasting and procurement process, purchasing vaccines with optimal vial presentation, and ensuring proper stock management, including appropriate documentation.

Rationale for conducting a vaccine wastage assessment and development of an improvement plan.

One of the largest impediments of efficient vaccine management is the wastage of vaccines. WHO defines vaccine wastage as the sum of vaccines discarded, lost, damaged, or destroyed. It further recommends that since vaccines account for a significant portion of immunization programme costs, ensuring that vaccine wastage is minimized, without jeopardizing on vaccine coverage, is key. Furthermore, monitoring vaccine wastage helps to improve vaccine forecasting and in turn minimize wastage. As the costs of vaccination increases, better vaccine management is essential.

Terms of reference

The terms of reference are for providing technical assistance to the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) in conducting a vaccine wastage assessment to determine open and closed vial wastage rates, determine the effectiveness of systems that are in place to record vaccine wastage at the national, district, and health facility level, determine health worker capacity in

documenting of vaccine wastage, and development of an improvement plan. The terms of reference are as follows:

- Develop a roadmap for conducting the Lesotho vaccine wastage assessment and present the inception report to EPI and relevant stakeholders,
- Conduct desk review on available vaccine supply chain management functioning in Lesotho, and regional and global vaccine management documents, guidelines, and standards,
- Develop questionnaire for district level assessments (4 districts – and 3 facilities each district - will be visited with a good representation of high, medium, and low volume vaccination service delivery points)
- Develop data collection protocol for vaccine wastage calculation for 4 districts. Districts to be decided upon by EPI and stakeholders,
- Conduct data triangulation of EPI routine data, vaccine stock distribution, and stock status using DHIS2 and stock ledgers for selected health facilities, and develop report thereof,
- Development of draft report and PPT deck for presentation in stakeholders' consultation meeting at the national level
- Conduct a report and vaccine wastage management improvement plan validation meeting,
- Finalization of Lesotho vaccine wastage report and improvement plan

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in one or more of the following areas: Data analytics, Statistics, M&E, Information Technology, Supply Chain Management, Business Administration, Public Health, or other relevant fields.
- Minimum of five years of progressively responsible relevant work experience in information management, M&E, Statistics, Immunization logistics and Supply Chain management.
- Fluent in English

How to apply:

Interested candidates must submit their educational certificates and writing sample or list of publications or portfolio of their works that is in line with the assignment described in TORs.

For submission of application, please send to lesothoprocurement@clintonhealthaccess.org

The deadline for the submission is **June 3, 2024, 11:59 pm CAT.**