



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

**RECRUITMENT OF ONE (1) ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAMME  
OFFICER FROM THE REGIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH CENTRE  
(RAHC) IN BAMAKO**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

## **PREAMBLE:**

Over the past decade, the West African region has faced major acute public health events with high morbidity and mortality, including social disruption with negative economic impacts. Recent research and data confirm these results, indicating that approximately 75% of emerging diseases that have affected humans over the past ten (10) years have been caused by pathogens from animals or animal products.

The cross-border nature of epidemics, the lack of infrastructure and the lack of capacity to control epidemics in the West African region create an immediate need to promote resilient systems to address the causes of this trend. Intensive, inter-sectoral and multinational collaboration is needed to mitigate the risk of the spread of zoonotic diseases in humans and the devastating socio-economic consequences of pandemics. One way of achieving this is to use the "One Health" approach. The importance of this approach has been further demonstrated by the outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) and recent outbreaks of avian influenza in West Africa.

ECOWAS, cognizant of the need to equip itself with an adequate tool for the management of animal health actions, established through the Additional Act A/SA.20/02/12, the Regional Animal Health Centre (RAHC) in Bamako in February 2012. The RAHC serves as a specialised technical entity of the Community on animal health issues. The decision was formalised by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Abuja from 16 to 17 February 2012. A headquarters agreement between the ECOWAS Commission and the Republic of Mali was signed on 16 January 2016.

In keeping with the "One Health" approach, the mission assigned to the RAHC complements that of the West African Health Organisation (WAHO), the ECOWAS specialised institution in human health founded in 1987 and operational since 2000.

It is in this context that ECOWAS requested and received funding from the World Bank to implement the Regional Disease Surveillance Systems Enhancement Project in West Africa (REDISSE). The main objective of the project, which covers the fifteen ECOWAS States and Mauritania, is to strengthen national and regional inter-sectoral capacity to ensure better collaboration on disease surveillance and epidemic preparedness in West Africa by addressing weaknesses in human and animal health systems that hinder surveillance and effective disease response.

In accordance with the Project Appraisal Document (PAD) of the project, the West African Health Organisation (WAHO) is responsible for coordinating the project at the regional level through the implementation of regional activities and daily supervision of the project and the Regional Animal Health Centre (RAHC) is responsible for animal health interventions with the support of the World Animal Health Organization (OIE). A Memorandum of Collaboration between WAHO and the RAHC, was signed in February 2018 as part of the implementation of the REDISSE project. The MOU, between the two (2) signatories, Director General of WAHO and the ECOWAS Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources, specified and solidified WAHO's support for the operationalization of the RAHC and the latter's role in supporting countries in the implementation of the project.

WAHO therefore solicits applications from qualified and experienced people for the position of Programme Officer at the Regional Animal Health Centre (RAHC) in Bamako, Mali.

## **MISSION OBJECTIVE**

To accomplish the missions assigned to the RAHC, the RAHC Animal Health Programme Officer shall ensure the technical implementation of the centre's activities in the field of Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) and Zoonosis. He/she will be under the supervision of the Executive Director of the RAHC.

## **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Under the supervision of the Executive Director of the RAHC, the Animal Health Programme Officer's main function and responsibility will be to ensure that the following missions assigned to the RAHC are implemented to achieve the set objectives:

- Improve the animal disease and zoonotic disease reporting system in accordance with ECOWAS, OIE and WHO standards,
- Strengthen epidemiological surveillance of Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) and zoonosis through technical and logistical support to national disease surveillance networks,
- Inform Member States about the regional situation and the risk of incursion and/or spread of MATs and zoonosis,
- Build capacities of national and regional diagnostic laboratories and monitor regional laboratory networks,
- Strengthen the capacities of national epidemiological units and monitor national and regional epidemiological surveillance networks,
- Harmonize national emergency response plans for the control of MATs and zoonosis,
- Monitor, evaluate and enforce animal disease and zoonotic control measures ( culling, vaccination campaigns) to prevent their spread to humans,
- Monitor the sub-regional mechanism for the prevention and control of MATs and zoonotic diseases in close collaboration with other partners
- Implement REDISSE project activities by the RAHAC as well as prepare quarterly reports.

## **QUALIFICATIONS:**

Have the following Qualifications:

- Veterinary Medical certificate (VMC) or any other equivalent degree in veterinary epidemiology or veterinary public health.
- Have at least 10 years' experience in the above areas.
- The candidate should have an adequate written and spoken command of English and French. A working knowledge of Portuguese will be an added advantage.

## **EXPERIENCE**

- Have proven professional experience in national and regional institutions dealing with MATs and zoonosis,
- A sound knowledge of animal health in the ECOWAS region would be highly recommended,
- Have a solid knowledge of the institutional environment of ECOWAS countries in the field of animal health policies, strategies and legislation,
- Have in-depth knowledge of ECOWAS policy and operations;
- Have the requisite skills to be a team leader, trainer and facilitator within the REDISSE project.

## **QUALITIES**

### **Professionalism:**

- Have established expertise in the animal health sciences,
- Have in-depth technical knowledge and analytical skills (including descriptive) in issues related to animal and human epidemiology,
- Excellent interpersonal skills including the ability to lead and manage staff from different cultural backgrounds and disciplines.

### **Planning and Organisational:**

- Have established skills in planning and organising work within a project/programme.

### **Communication:**

- Have proven written and oral communication skills,
- Ability to present information accurately and concisely,
- Have the ability to build consensus between people with different opinions.

### **Team Work:**

- Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to establish and maintain good working relationships with people of diverse nationalities and cultural backgrounds. Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to establish and maintain good working relationships with people of diverse nationalities and cultural backgrounds.

### **Discernment/Decision-making:**

- Good judgment and sense of initiative, imagination and resourcefulness, energy and discernment.

### **Language Requirements:**

- Have a written and oral command of one of the three official languages of ECOWAS (French, English or Portuguese). Additional knowledge of one or two of the three languages would be an asset.

**Other Asset:**

- Solid computer skills including word processing, spreadsheets and the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT),
- Publication in a high-level peer-reviewed Scientific Journals demonstrating this knowledge in animal and human epidemiology.

## **DURATION, DUTY STATION AND NATURE OF APPOINTMENT**

This is a consultancy position at the Regional Animal Health Centre in Bamako (RAHC/Bamako). The appointment will be for one 1 year subject to initial three (3) months' probation. The contract may be renewed depending on performance, for the duration of the project which is five (5) years and subject to availability of funds. The incumbent shall enjoy an attractive consolidated remuneration. The Programme Officer in charge of Animal Health will be based at the RAHC Headquarters in Bamako. He or She will travel across the ECOWAS region as required.

Duly qualified Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

Interested persons are invited to apply. They should provide information that they have the required qualifications and relevant skills to deliver on the job (Cover letter indicating the position applied for, detailed Curriculum Vitae - including description of past similar assignments, and experience - and copies of supporting documents).

The consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures for the selection of individual consultants set out in existing Guidelines: [Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, \(January 2011, revised version in July 2014,\)](#) which is available on the Bank's website at <http://www.worldbank.org>.

Additional information can be obtained at the following times:

**Monday-Friday 08:00 - 16:00 GMT** with the contact person at WAHO at the address stated below:

**Mme Lalaisa AMOUKOU**

**E-mail: [lamoukou@wahooas.org](mailto:lamoukou@wahooas.org)**

Interested and qualified individual Consultants should express their interest by submitting their detailed application by email to the address: [wahooas-tenders@ecowas.int](mailto:wahooas-tenders@ecowas.int)

The subject of the email must indicate the position applied for. The deadline for receipt of applications is **30 July 2020 at 12:00 hours GMT**.

WAHO or the World Bank shall not be responsible for any cost or expenses incurred by the individual consultant in connection with the preparation or submission of the EOI.