

Request for Proposals Health Economist

Terms: Consultancy
Location: Flexible with potential international travel

Summary

NALA is searching for a Health Economist to analyze the cost effectiveness of a Minimum Package for the prevention of neglected tropical diseases through behavioral change and WASH interventions. The Package will be tested in 20 districts in Ethiopia between 2024-2025. The Health Economist will be responsible for developing the research methodology and for training and supporting the NALA Ethiopia team in data collection, for analyzing the data and drafting reports, focusing on the cost and outcomes of NALA's behavioral change interventions for NTD elimination. Most importantly, the Health Economist will assist the organization in designing a cost-effectiveness model for its Behavioral Change activities.

About NALA

NALA is an internationally recognized expert in the fight to eliminate neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). NTDs impact more than 1.5 billion people worldwide, disproportionately affecting rural and high-poverty populations with the least access to clean water and sanitation. Our innovative and community-based solutions have led to a sustainable reduction in the burden of disease in project areas. Our model complements drug administration campaigns with a focus on promoting healthy behavior change, strengthening the capacity of the local community to improve public health, and increasing their access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).

About the Minimum Package

Ethiopia carries one of the highest burdens of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) in Africa and has the highest prevalence of active trachoma globally. Despite a decade of regular mass drug administration (MDA) campaigns, the prevalence of NTDs has remained high in many areas, showing that sustained control of NTDs cannot be achieved by MDA alone. For this reason, the Ethiopian Ministry of Health (MoH) has promoted a multi-faceted approach in its NTD Master Plan, including investment in preventive elements such as behavior change and improvements to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure.

However, unlike MDA, there are no standardized protocols for behavior change, which makes success harder to track. At the request of the Ethiopian MoH, NALA created a Standard Minimum Package to support government actors as well as NGO partners in planning and implementing behavior change interventions in NTD-endemic areas, specifically trachoma, schistosomiasis, and soil-transmitted helminthiasis.

The package aims to:

- Include minimum, feasible actions related to behavior change and WASH improvements for NTD control and elimination
- Provide a framework for implementation with tools that are adaptable to multiple contexts

During the next 12 months the package will be tested in 20 districts in 2 regions in Ethiopia. After the testing is done, the package will be finalized and integrated into the Ethiopian Ministry of Health NTD Program as a standard of practice.

The minimum package is available [here](#).



About the Consultancy

The aims of the cost-effectiveness evaluation process are to evaluate the impact of the minimum package compared with its cost, for country level scale up, as well to serve as an advocacy tool for sectoral partners to invest in prevention on top of treatment of neglected tropical diseases.

The role includes research design, data analysis and report writing, and requires strong collaboration with different units at the organization. Considering NALA's focus on behavioral change and community-based initiatives, the role requires working in a mixed-methods approach, through both quantitative and qualitative research methods. The Health Economist will be expected to guide NALA's staff in Ethiopia and improve their capacities in various aspects of research planning, data collection and analysis.

Expected Outputs

1. A clear Research Protocol:

- Identify, together with the NALA team, the main research questions and opportunities to influence the public health sector.
- Work closely with the NALA team to identify relevant indicators and research methodologies.
- Prepare a research protocol including objectives, study design, data management and analysis, expected outcomes, and ethical considerations.
- Coordinate all research efforts and ensure high research quality is maintained with minimum burden on operational teams.
- Translate Research Outcomes to lessons learned to be submitted to the Ethiopian MoH.

2. Capacity building and Training:

- Draft tools for data collection, including informed consent forms.
- Provide a training on the research methodology and tools to the project team.
- Support the project team with data collection and adjust tools as necessary.

3. Reports and outputs:

- Research protocol
- Biweekly progress reports and meetings
- Training materials
- Data analysis and presentation of high-level initial findings
- Final report of the findings, including recommendations

Requirements

1. Master's degree in Economics/Public Health with a specialization in Health Economics (PhD is an advantage)
2. At least 5 years' experience in Health Economics' related research
3. Proven record of research involving mixed methods/ or with relation to behavioral change
4. Understanding of the WASH or NTD field is an advantage

Application Process

Interested consultants are invited to send their CVs, a short proposal of maximum 3 pages (including research design and main indicators for analysis), sample of previous work, and an indicative budget to hr@nalafoundation.org by August 4, 2024. Please include the following text in the subject line: 'Health Economist RFP'. Please forward any questions to the same address. Shortlisted proposals will be invited for interviews.

