



WEST AFRICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
ORGANISATION OUEST AFRICAINE DE LA SANTE  
ORGANIZAÇÃO OESTE AFRICANA DA SAÚDE



**Job Title:** Government Relations Management Consultant within the Lassa Fever Coalition

**Level of Position or Services:** National and Regional

**Nature of Consultation:** Services

**Type of contract:** Individual consultation

**Type of assignment:** Home-Based. The recruited consultant will primarily work from home, with frequent visits to the headquarters of the West African Health Organization and other partner organisations of the Lassa Fever Coalition.

**Duration:** One year

**Estimated start date of the assignment:** Immediately

### **Project Background**

Lassa fever remains a public health threat in West Africa, causing recurrent outbreaks with high morbidity and mortality. The disease is endemic in several countries, including Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia and Benin, with an estimated 100,000 to 300,000 infections per year and a case fatality rate of up to 15% in severe cases. The lack of a licensed vaccine contributes to the persistence of Lassa fever outbreaks, making research, development and access to the vaccine a major priority for health regional and global health stakeholders.

To accelerate the development of and access to the Lassa fever vaccine, the West African Health Organization, with the support of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), has launched the Lassa Fever Vaccine Coalition, a multi-stakeholder initiative to advance vaccine R&D efforts to ensure the development of a safe and effective vaccine to strengthen regulatory and policy frameworks to facilitate vaccine approval and deployment, and to improve regional coordination and country preparedness for vaccine introduction.

The West African Health Organization (WAHO) serves as the secretariat for the coalition, providing leadership and coordination among governments, regulatory agencies, public health institutions, and vaccine development partners. To ensure that WAHO has the necessary means to support vaccine preparedness, a consortium led by Corona Management Systems (CMS), in partnership with Bloom Public Health and Nigeria Health Watch, is providing technical assistance, advocacy support, knowledge generation and capacity building for WAHO, and of its Member States.

This technical partnership aims to support to address key barriers that impede Lassa fever vaccine development and deployment, including regulatory bottlenecks that delay vaccine approval and market entry, vaccine hesitancy and low-risk perception among affected communities, operational challenges related to vaccine trial implementation and roll-out, and limited evidence on financing strategies for sustainable vaccine introduction.

Given the complexity of vaccine development, regulatory approval, and policy integration, it is essential to establish strong government engagement mechanisms that facilitate alignment between national health authorities, regulatory bodies, and regional frameworks. Effective government relations will ensure that Lassa fever vaccination initiatives are prioritized in national health programs, regulatory pathways are streamlined, and multi-stakeholder collaboration is strengthened. To do this, the consortium intends to engage a Government



Relations Specialist (consultant) who will lead strategic engagement with government stakeholders, advocate for policy alignment, and facilitate high-level dialogues to advance the development and introduction of the Lassa fever vaccine.

The consultant will lead government engagement and policy alignment efforts to ensure that Lassa fever vaccine development and deployment activities are aligned with national and regional public health frameworks. The consultant will act as the primary liaison between the Lassa Fever Vaccine Coalition, WAHO, and national governments, ensuring that policy decisions and regulatory processes support timely and effective vaccine introduction.

Some specific responsibilities will include:

### **1. Government Engagement and Advocacy**

- Establish and maintain strong relationships with government stakeholders, including ministries of health, national public health institutes, and regulatory agencies.
- Represent the coalition in high-level government meetings and policy discussions to promote alignment with the project's goals.
- Advocate for the prioritisation of Lassa fever vaccine development and introduction in national health agendas.

### **2. Policy alignment and support**

- Analyse and monitor government policies, regulations, and frameworks related to vaccine research, development, and introduction.
- Support alignment of coalition activities with national health strategies and regional frameworks, such as WAHO's epidemic preparedness plans.
- Provide technical assistance to government stakeholders to enhance their capacity to implement coalition recommendations.

### **3. Coordination and collaboration**

- Act as the primary liaison between the coalition and government bodies, ensuring consistent communication and collaboration.
- Facilitate multi-stakeholder consultations, workshops, and meetings with government representatives to align efforts and resolve challenges.
- Work with country managers to address country-specific issues and ensure localised engagement strategies.

### **4. Resource mobilisation**

- Support governments in mobilising financial, technical, and human resources for Lassa fever vaccine initiatives.
- Collaborate with coalition partners to develop and present proposals that align with government funding priorities.

### **5. Risk Management**

- Identify potential risks and barriers to government engagement, such as policy misalignment or policy challenges, and propose mitigation strategies.
- Mediate disputes and foster an environment of collaboration between the coalition and government entities.

### **6. Monitoring and Reporting**

- Track and document government engagement activities, including the outcomes of meetings and agreements reached.



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- Provide regular updates to the coalition on progress, challenges, and opportunities in government relations.

### **Qualifications and experience of consultants**

#### **Required expertise:**

- Advanced degree in Public Health, Political Science, International Relations, or related field.
- Minimum of 7 years of experience in government relations, public health policy, or regulatory affairs.
- Proven ability to engage high-level government officials and navigate policy environments.
- Strong expertise in regulatory and policy frameworks for vaccine R&D and public health interventions

#### **Desirable skills:**

- Experience working with WAHO, CEPI, WHO, or other public health agencies.
- Knowledge of regional health regulations, outbreak preparedness, and vaccine rollout strategies.
- Strong negotiation, diplomacy and relationship management skills.

#### **Duration and remuneration structure**

- Duration of consultation: One year (subject to periodic review and availability of funds).
- Terms of Payment: Payments will be based on milestones and aligned with approved deliverables.
- Type of contract: Fixed-term consultancy.

#### **Reporting line**

The Government Relations Specialist will report to the Lassa Fever Project Manager and work closely with consortium partners, country managers and WAHO representatives

#### **How to Apply**

Qualified candidates should submit their CV, cover letter, and one writing sample, all sent by email to [hr@coronams.com](mailto:hr@coronams.com) using the position "Government Relationship Management Specialist" as the subject of the email.