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LOCAL HEALTH SYSTEM SUSTAINABILITY (LHSS) PROJECT IN VIETNAM

National Consultant to conduct a budget impact assessment of adding dolutegravir to the Social Health Insurance drug list in Vietnam

1. Background of the assignment

The global USAID LHSS Activity helps low- and middle-income countries transition to sustainable, self-funded health finance systems that support high-performing overall health systems. The LHSS activity in Vietnam will work with the Government of Vietnam (GVN) to advance greater local ownership of HIV and TB prevention and control. Led by Abt Associates, the four-year activity supports Vietnam in increasing its domestic financing for HIV and TB services in the context of declining donor funding, in using government resources more efficiently, and in assuming local ownership of HIV and TB prevention and control activities. Specific objectives are: (1) Support the GVN to strengthen its public financial management systems for public sector health and find greater efficiencies in social health insurance (SHI), (2) Increase and improve the efficiency of domestic financing of HIV prevention and treatment services; (3) Strengthen the capacity of Vietnam's supply chain management system; and (4) Integrate TB services into SHI.

Context of the assignment

LHSS has been strengthening the GVN capacity in the supply chain management system by supporting Vietnam to transition essential and recommended ARV drugs to the Social Health Insurance (SHI) scheme. Starting in 2019, the transition of tenofovir disoproxil fumarate-lamivudine-dolutegravir (TLD) and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate-lamivudine-efavirenz (TLE400) to SHI in the country has facilitated the access of patients to optimal HIV treatment regimens. By 2022, SHI has covered 78% of total ARV procurement costs and addressed the treatment needs of over 90% of all patients on ARVs¹. Optimization of current antiretroviral drug regimens is a critical component in supporting country efforts to achieve the 95/95/95 targets and epidemic control.

In 2018, The World Health Organization provided guidance on the transition to dolutegravir (DTG) based ART, and DTG became part of the preferred first-line pediatric treatment regimens for all HIV children ≥ 4 weeks and ≥ 3 kilograms. According to WHO guidance, all newly initiating children with HIV on ARV and existing virally suppressed first-line children ≥ 4 weeks and from 3 to < 20 kg should be transitioned to DTG². As a result, the Vietnam MOH recommended transfer to DTG-based regimens for children under 10 years old and less than 30 kg of weight in its latest guidance for HIV treatment.

DTG is a drug that is more effective, easier to take, and has fewer side effects than alternative drugs that are currently used. DTG also has a high genetic barrier to acquiring drug resistance, which is important given the rising trend of resistance to efavirenz and nevirapine-based regimens³. In Vietnam, dolutegravir 10mg and dolutegravir 50 mg – single doses have been first used for pediatric treatment starting in December 2022.

To facilitate the accessibility of this drug and ensure the sustainability of the HIV treatment to the preferred regimens, adding DTG to the SHI drug list, it is essential to prepare pharmaco-economic reports including the reports on efficacy, cost-effectiveness, from that, the budget impact when adding the drug into SHI drug

¹ VSS-eLMIS

² <https://clintonhealth.app.box.com/s/6sh87qaaxhya9nvorubst6j8b7k4bhso>

³

list is analyzed. In this context, LHSS will engage a national consultant to conduct a budget impact analysis (BIA) on the SHI fund in case of adding dolutegravir to the SHI scheme.

2. Objectives

The general objective of the consultancies is to generate and provide evidence on the budget impact analysis (BIA) of dolutegravir 10mg and dolutegravir 50mg on the SHI fund when adding these drugs to the SHI scheme. The specific objectives are to:

- Conduct a budget impact assessment (BIA) on the SHI fund provided that dolutegravir is added to the SHI drug list.
- Support to prepare necessary deliverables as required for pharmacoeconomic reports to facilitate the procedures of adding a pharmaceutical product to the SHI drug list.

3. Specific tasks and deliverables

To address the objectives, the consultant is expected to cover the below specific tasks and deliverables:

Specific tasks:

- With the support from the national consultant on conducting a systematic review of dolutegravir drug efficacy and cost-effectiveness analysis, summarize the systematic review of dolutegravir drug efficacy and cost-effectiveness analysis and other related assessments.
- Conduct a budget impact assessment (BIA) of dolutegravir 10mg and dolutegravir 50mg on the SHI fund when adding the drugs to the SHI drug list.
- Write a draft and full report on the assessment under the MOH guidance on pharmaco-economic report writing.
- Participate in technical meetings and workshops related to the process of preparing drug pharmaco-economic reports.
- Prepare and present key findings in the relevant meetings, seminars, workshops, and conferences upon the project request
- On a monthly basis, submit to the project a written report on the progress of task performance as required.

Deliverables and timeline

Deliverable & Sub-deliverables	Deadline
• Inception report of the consultancy	May 19, 2023
• Preliminary report of budget impact assessment (BIA)	June 19, 2023
• Draft summary and full report for review	July 30, 2023
• Final summary and full report of budget impact analysis	August 31, 2023
• Presentation/slide decks of the report	September 15, 2023
• Monthly consultant progress report	Monthly

Number of working days: 50



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4. Location and timing

The work will be carried out in Hanoi traveling to the provinces if needed. The consultancy will be conducted from April 2023 through July 2023 with a total of up to 50 working days.

5. Management of the assignment

The national consultant will report to the Technical Director. The consultant will work closely with LHSS Supply Chain Specialist - Procurement, MOH/ DHI, VAAC, NCDPC, VSS, and other key government agencies as needed to fulfill the tasks.

6. Qualification requirements

The consultant should satisfy the following requirements:

- An advanced degree in medicine/ pharmaco-economics / health economics or relevant disciplines.
- More than 5 years of relevant work experience in the pharmaceutical area and social health insurance.
- Strong understanding and knowledge of SHI policies and processes for the inclusion of new drugs into SHI.
- Previous experience in preparing and reviewing dossiers for including new drugs in the SHI list.
- Strong understanding and experience in conducting and reporting systematic reviews of pharmaceutical products.
- Strong experience and skills in conducting and reporting on budget impact analysis of pharmaceutical products.
- Adequate knowledge and understanding of HIV/AIDS care and treatment programs in Vietnam.
- Demonstrate ability to work effectively with government agencies including health and social security sectors and health facilities.
- Proficient in English particularly reading and writing.

To apply, please send your application documents to the following email:

LHSS_Vietnam_Procurement@abtassoc.com

Deadline: 10 April 2023

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interviews.