



**Elizabeth Glaser  
Pediatric AIDS Foundation**  
Fighting for an AIDS-free generation

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS #S030869**

**Consultant for STI and Viral hepatitis screening and management services**

in support of

ELIZABETH GLASER PEDIATRIC AIDS FOUNDATION (EGPAF)

Maseru

**(EGPAF Lesotho | LCA Office Complex, 30 Princess Margaret Road | Ground Floor | Maseru,  
Maseru, Lesotho)**

**Firm Deadline: Friday, March 10, 2023**

The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, a non-profit organization, is the world leader in the fight to eliminate pediatric AIDS. Our mission is to prevent pediatric HIV infection and to eliminate pediatric AIDS through research, advocacy, and prevention and treatment programs. For more information, please visit <http://www.pedaids.org>.

**BACKGROUND**

The Government of Lesotho since 2004 has worked tirelessly to scale up access to comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment and care services to all Basotho through a nurse driven service delivery model in public facilities. Over the past 15 years, the HIV response has demonstrated resilience through key shifts in policy, strategy and innovation. Lesotho has consistently adopted guidance that supported local efforts to meet global UNAIDS 90 90 90 targets and attained HIV epidemic control in 2020. The successful adoption and implementation of option B+ for the prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV in 2013, Test and Treat for all in 2016, and differentiated HIV testing services in 2018, coupled with the scale up of improved advanced HIV disease management, differentiated service delivery, ART optimization, HIV drug resistance monitoring and management have been instrumental in propelling the country towards HIV epidemic control.

However, despite this progress in the response, new HIV infections remain unacceptably high, with high rates of HIV related stigma, discrimination and inequalities remaining prevalent especially among young people, women and key populations. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exposed and compounded these inequalities, threatening the gains made in the HIV response in Lesotho.

**SCOPE OF WORK AND CONTRACTOR DELIVERABLES**

Please refer to attached ToR for detailed information

**FOUNDATION RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Please refer to attached ToR for detailed information



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**LOGISTICS:**

Please refer to attached ToR for detailed information

**KEY CONTRACT TERMS:**

The anticipated contract type is Cost Reimbursable Contract. Unless stated otherwise in the statement of the work, the Contractor is responsible for providing equipment and/or supplies required to perform the services.

**OPTIONAL WORK:**

The Foundation also anticipates a need to potentially extend this scope of work for an additional 3 option periods. The anticipated duration of each option period is 12 months. Please indicate any pricing changes for the option periods in response to this RFP.

In the event that additional services of similar scope are required by the Foundation for the same individuals identified in this Contract, the daily rates will not increase by more than 5% in subsequent option periods, assuming those periods correspond with the following calendar year.

**EVALUATION CRITERIA AND SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:**

The Foundation will accept the proposal that presents the best value. All proposals will be evaluated against the following Evaluation Criteria. Each proposal must contain the items listed in the Submission Requirements column in the following chart. Please submit your Submission Requirements in the order that they appear below.

<b>Evaluation Criteria</b>	<b>Submission Requirements</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Qualifications of proposed individuals and past performance on similar work.	CV/Resume of proposed individual(s) to work on this project and 2 reference letters per individual. 3 professional reference letters from similar past projects with phone and email contact information	25.00 %
Timeframe of implementation	Estimated hours, timeframe with deliverables, final delivery date	15.00 %
Contractor's proposed process and approach to meet our needs efficiently	A maximum 5-page written proposal explaining the process and timeline for implementation	40.00 %
Cost Reimbursable contract price	A detailed budget including all anticipated applicable costs required to complete this project.	20.00 %
Total		100.00%



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All applicants are required to be registered and authorized to perform the scope of work in the place of performance. A copy of valid registration must be submitted with each proposal.

**Penalty:**

Should the agreed delivery or completion dates not be met in the case of fault of the Contractor, the Foundation shall be entitled to demand payment of late delivery penalties amounting to 1 % of the value of the late deliveries/services per started week of delay up to a maximum amount of 5% of the entire value of the contract.

**PROPOSED TIMELINE:**

DATE	ACTIVITY
2/23/2023	Release of RFP
3/6/2023	Submission of Inquiries directed to: Boithatelo Ratsoane, Procurement Manager, tenders-ls@pedaids.org Any form of canvassing will lead to automatic disqualification of the firm  No phone calls please.
3/7/2023	Question and Answer Response Document posted on EGPAF website at <a href="http://www.pedaids.org/pages/contracting-opportunities">http://www.pedaids.org/pages/contracting-opportunities</a>
3/10/2023	Completed proposals must be delivered electronically by the deadline mentioned on page one to: Boithatelo Ratsoane, Procurement Manager, tenders- ls@pedaids.org
3/24/2023	Final decision announced and Offerors notified
3/27/2023	Contract executed and Services begin.

Please note it is our best intent to comply with the above timeline but unavoidable delays may occur.

**KEY SOLICITATION TERMS AND CONDITIONS**



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The following terms and conditions apply to this solicitation. Preference will be given to bidders who can meet EGPAF terms. Any exceptions to the requirements or terms of the solicitation must be noted in your submission.

1. All submissions and/or communications should be identified by the unique RFQ or RFP Reference Number reflected on the first page of the solicitation document. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in non-consideration of your submission. Late quotes/proposals may be rejected without being considered.
2. Participation in this solicitation is open to all legal vendors that are registered and comply with the laws of doing business in the applicable country where services will be rendered. To be eligible for participation in the bidding procedure, bidders must prove to the satisfaction of EGPAF that they comply with necessary legal, commercial, technical, and financial requirements and are able to carry out the resulting work effectively. EGPAF may, at its discretion, require the presumed winner of the procurement to provide a copy of a valid registration certification and/or tax compliance (i.e. VAT) prior to awarding of the final procurement. Failure to provide this information at that time may automatically disqualify a bidder from selection.
3. EGPAF shall use its best endeavors to ensure that funds provided under this solicitation do not provide direct or indirect support or resources to organizations and individuals that are associated with terrorism, promote or advocate the legalization or practice of prostitution or sex trafficking, or provide assistance to drug traffickers. If, during the course of this solicitation, EGPAF discovers any link whatsoever with any organization or individual associated with any or all of these, they shall be excluded or disqualified from the bidding process.
4. EGPAF reserves the right to terminate the final contract should the selected bidder be unable to fulfill its expected obligations.
5. By submitting a bid, you certify that the person(s) involved in the preparation and collation of quotes/proposals were or are in no way associated or have any Conflict of Interests with the initial preparation of the solicitation, the tender documentation, or the subsequent evaluation, assessment, analysis, management, and decision-making process of this solicitation.
6. The solicitation is not an offer to enter into agreement with any party, but rather a request to receive proposals or quotations from person(s) interested in providing the goods/services outlined in the released solicitation document. Such submissions shall be considered and treated by EGPAF as offers to enter into an agreement.
7. Any quotations or proposals not addressing each of the submission requirements listed in the solicitation may be considered non-responsive and disqualify the applicant from final selection. Any exceptions to the requirements or terms of the solicitation must be noted in the final submission. EGPAF reserves the right to consider any exceptions to be non-responsive. EGPAF reserves the right to reject all submissions, in whole or in part, enter into negotiations with any party, and/or award multiple contracts.
8. EGPAF shall not be obligated for the payment of any sums whatsoever to any recipient of the solicitation until and unless a written contract between the parties is executed.
9. Equal Opportunity Notice. The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS EGPAF is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer and represents that all qualified bidders will receive consideration without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.



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10. All items or deliverables provided to EGPAF must be furnished for the use of EGPAF without royalties or any additional fees. All Materials will be owned exclusively by EGPAF. Bidder will not use or allow the use of the Materials for any purpose other than bidder's performance of the Contract without the prior written consent of EGPAF.
11. **ETHICAL BEHAVIOR:** As a core value to help achieve our mission, EGPAF embraces a culture of honesty, integrity, and ethical business practices and expects its business partners to do the same. Specifically, our procurement processes are fair and open and allow all vendors/consultants equal opportunity to win our business. We will not tolerate fraud or corruption, including kickbacks, bribes, undisclosed familial or close personal relationships between vendors and EGPAF employees, or other unethical practices. If you experience or suspect unethical behavior by an EGPAF employee, please contact our Fraud Investigations team at [fraud@pedaids.org](mailto:fraud@pedaids.org) or EGPAF's Ethics Hotline at [www.reportlineweb.com/PedAids](http://www.reportlineweb.com/PedAids). Any vendor or consultant who attempts to engage, or engages, in corrupt practices with EGPAF will have their bid disqualified and will not be solicited for future work.
12. **Prohibition on Contracting for Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment:** In accordance with Section 889 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, supplier understands and agrees that if awarded a contract as result of this solicitation, it will not procure or use any equipment, system, or service that uses "covered telecommunications equipment or services" as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system under the resulting contract. "Covered telecommunications equipment or services" includes telecommunications or video surveillance equipment or services (including, but not limited to, cell phones, security cameras, network switches, and routers) manufactured by or with components from these Chinese companies or their subsidiaries or affiliates: (1) Huawei Technologies Company; (2) ZTE Corporation; (3) Hytera Communications Corporation; (4) Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company; or (5) Dahua Technology Company. In the event the supplier identifies covered telecommunications equipment or services used as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system, for performance of this agreement for EGPAF, the supplier will notify EGPAF immediately and will be guided to provide the information required by FAR 52.204-25. The supplier agrees to insert the substance of this clause in all of its subcontracts or purchase orders funded by EGPAF.
13. **Prohibition on the use of Kaspersky Lab.** In accordance with Section 1634 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018, supplier understands and agrees that if awarded a contract as result of this solicitation, it will not provide any "covered article" to EGPAF or use any "covered article" in the development of data or deliverables first produced in the performance of a resulting contract or order. "Covered article" means any hardware, software, or service that: (1) Is developed or provided by a "covered entity"; (2) Includes any hardware, software, or service developed or provided in whole or in part by a "covered entity"; or (3) Contains components using any hardware or software developed in whole or in part by a "covered entity". "Covered entity" means (1) Kaspersky Lab; (2) Any successor entity to Kaspersky Lab; (3) Any entity that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with Kaspersky Lab; or (4) Any entity of which Kaspersky Lab has a majority ownership.



## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### **Individual Consultant – STI and viral hepatitis screening and management services for the Ministry of Health Lesotho (Health Sector HIV/TB Strategic Plan 2023 – 2028)**

The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing pediatric HIV infection and eliminating pediatric AIDS through research, advocacy, and prevention, care, and treatment programs. Founded in 1988, EGPAF works in 19 countries globally.

EGPAF Lesotho country office is one of the major HIV service partners of the Lesotho Ministry of Health (MOH), since 2004. EGPAF first opened doors in Lesotho in 2006. To support the Lesotho Program, EGPAF has received funding from several Donors to implement different projects in collaboration with the MOH. The EGPAF program support has been in the areas of pediatric & adult HIV care & treatment, Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT), tuberculosis (TB) services, TB/HIV integration; strategic information and evaluation, quality Improvement, operational research and health systems strengthening. In 2015/2016 the Foundation received an award through Providing Universal Service for HIV and AIDS in Lesotho (PUSH), a mechanism under United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Strengthening the TB and AIDS Response in Lesotho (STAR-L), a mechanism under Centre for Disease Control (CDC) which ended in 2020, and was then followed on by the Accelerating Lesotho's Progress to Epidemic Control (ALPEC) through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

This award has facilitated the implementation of the services outlined above. For more information, please visit the Foundation's website at: <http://www.pedaids.org>

#### **Overview:**

The Government of Lesotho since 2004 has worked tirelessly to scale up access to comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment and care services to all Basotho through a nurse driven service delivery model in public facilities. Over the past 15 years, the HIV response has demonstrated resilience through key shifts in policy, strategy and innovation. Lesotho has consistently adopted guidance that supported local efforts to meet global UNAIDS 90 90 90 targets and attained HIV epidemic control in 2020. The successful adoption and implementation of option B+ for the prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV in 2013, Test and Treat for all in 2016, and differentiated HIV testing services in 2018, coupled with the scale up of improved advanced HIV disease management, differentiated service delivery, ART optimization, HIV drug resistance monitoring and management have been instrumental in propelling the country towards HIV epidemic control.

The adoption of the Test and Treat policy has resulted in significant progress in HIV response as demonstrated by the Lesotho Population-based HIV Impact Assessment (LePHIA) which revealed that Lesotho has:

- ✓ Reduced new HIV infections (incidence) by 50% from approximately 10,000 new infections in 2016 (HIV incidence of 1.1%) to 5,000 new infections (HIV incidence of 0.45%) in 2020.

- ✓ Surpassed the Global UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets by 2020! 90% of people living with HIV now know their HIV status, 97% of those who know their HIV status are on life saving antiretroviral therapy (ART), and 92% of those on ART are virologically suppressed.

However, despite this progress in the response, new HIV infections remain unacceptably high, with high rates of HIV related stigma, discrimination and inequalities remaining prevalent especially among young people, women and key populations. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exposed and compounded these inequalities, threatening the gains made in the HIV response in Lesotho.

Therefore, in line with the Global AIDS strategy 2021-26 and continuing all possible efforts to END AIDS as public health threat by 2030, the Ministry of Health Lesotho will be developing a 5-year joint health sector HIV/TB strategic plan 2023/28. The strategic focus of this plan will be, but not limited to;

- ✓ Prevention and reduction of new HIV infections; by deploying a comprehensive mix of HIV prevention interventions.
- ✓ Improving HIV case identification, linkage, retention and psychosocial support among all ages groups and sub-populations in all geographic locations.
- ✓ Improve differentiated HIV service delivery and advanced HIV disease management.
- ✓ Integrate management of communicable/non-communicable diseases such hypertension, diabetes, cancers, TB, STI and Mental Health services into the HIV program.
- ✓ HIV response health sector sustainability planning, programming and implementation.

#### **Overall Objective:**

The aim of the assignment is to develop the STI and chronic viral hepatitis screening and management service component of the Lesotho Health Sector HIV/TB Strategic Plan 2023 – 2028 (HSHTSP). The Ministry of Health Lesotho seeks to engage a consultant to work closely with the Lead Consultant, Expert Consultants to ensure the production of a clear logical HSHTSP for HIV, TB and STIs 2023 – 2028.

The Consultant will lead the development and finalisation of the STI and chronic viral hepatitis screening and management component of the (HSHTSP) through bringing programme design processes and previous experience from developing and writing successful integrated, proposals involving several stakeholders and donors.

Under the supervision and overall guidance of the Lead consultant and the Ministry of Health HIV Manager with the oversight of EGPAF Technical Director towards progress of deliverables the consultant will:

#### **Activities:**

- ✓ Lead the development and finalisation of the STI and chronic viral hepatitis (including HBV and HCV) screening and management component of the HSHTSP through bringing programme design processes and previous experience from developing and writing successful integrated proposals involving several stakeholders and donors.
- ✓ Lead the development of finalisation of a risk- and symptom- based testing approach for HBV and HCV, with linkage to treatment and care. Diagnostic services should include additional tests for liver function, fibrosis and cirrhosis, and hepatocellular carcinoma. The approach should ensure that people are diagnosed early so that they can receive treatment to prevent any liver damage occurring.
- ✓ Lead the development and finalisation of the management approach for those testing positive for HBV or HCV, including partner, children and other close-contact notification and follow-

up. Clinical care should include WHO-recommended treatments and interventions for those affected (infection with HCV is curable while HBV infection requires lifelong management).

- ✓ Lead the development and finalisation of the integrated testing approach for HIV, syphilis and HBV for pregnant and breast-feeding women to support triple EMTCT. Note that while antibody rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) suffice for HIV and syphilis (and dual HIV/syphilis RDTs are available), HBV testing requires both a HBsAg RDT for screening followed by a HBV viral load test for those testing positive to assess the need for tenofovir prophylaxis during pregnancy.
- ✓ Lead the development and finalisation of the management approach for those testing positive for HIV, syphilis and/or HBV with linkage to care and prophylaxis or treatment for both the woman and infant, as needed, along with partner notification and linkage to care.
- ✓ Capture the use of GeneXpert for diagnosis of STI with special emphasis on Xpert CT/NG and Xpert HBV (or similar tests) for adoption by the country and inclusion in the strategic plan and related national guidelines.
- ✓ Strategies and technical assistance to strengthen in-country technical capacity to implement more accurate STI screening and testing approaches
- ✓ Assuring that Lesotho guidelines are aligned with the current WHO STI guidelines.
- ✓ To ensure that the priority populations i.e Adolescent Girls and Young women are well captured as those at greatest risk for STIs and HIV.
- ✓ Lead the development and finalisation of the STI testing approach for curable STIs (chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis and trichomoniasis), including the aetiological diagnosis of both asymptomatic and symptomatic STIs for linkage to appropriate treatment and partner notification and follow-up, and ensuring that the STI testing approach is integrated with HIV services.
- ✓ Lead the development and finalisation of the management approach for those testing positive for one or more STIs, using WHO-recommended treatments.
- ✓ Ensure the chronic hepatitis, triple EMTCT, and STI testing components of the HSHSP are aligned with the latest WHO testing guidance.
- ✓ Support the consulting team in the development of situation analyses for all areas, as relevant:
  - Conduct desk review of relevant local documentation.
  - Conduct SWOT (strength, weakness, threats, opportunities) analysis for the STI and chronic viral hepatitis program.
  - Analyse the current STI and chronic viral hepatitis health sector response, identifying gaps in availability, access, utilization, and coverage of services. Identify prevention, diagnostic and treatment interventions that need to be scale up or introduced to improve case identification across of all populations along with essential diagnostic, treatment and other products that require procurement (and therefore budgeting) to align programs with the latest WHO guidelines. This should include vaccinations like the hepatitis B birth dose vaccine.
  - Analyse behavioural, access, structural, and policy barriers influencing uptake and coverage of STI and chronic viral hepatitis services.
- ✓ Identify differentiated and innovative testing modalities for reaching people still missing, such as those focused on men, adolescents, key populations (including within subpopulations like people who use drugs), displaced and people on the move and also by geographical location (rural and urban).
- ✓ Define strategies on index testing, assisted partner notification, community level testing, repeat testing for higher risk groups, etc. Effectively linking testing to treatment and care services for those testing positive and to prevention services for those testing negative.
- ✓ Define specific access barriers to services and implementable strategies to address them.



- ✓ Collaborate with the HIV testing program to inform the testing algorithm with regards to dual testing for PBFW
- ✓ Work closely with the lead technical team including the health finance and costing consultant to ensure the essential services and products are captured and expressed concisely and accurately in the relevant parts of the draft and final HSHTSP e.g. Costing Budget, Monitoring and Evaluation Plan.
- ✓ Work as a member of the lead technical team to develop formats for collection, collation, and analysis of data to ensure optimum contribution from all stakeholders and development of the NSP for HIV, TB and STIs 2023 – 2028 as a full document with the necessary attachments
- ✓ Assist the lead writer to maintain a complete and accurate reference list.
- ✓ Contribute to communication pieces and presentation to be used for various stakeholders throughout the development of the HSHTSP.
- ✓ Support the development of a costed operational plan and M&E framework for the STI and chronic viral hepatitis services in the HSHTSP.
- ✓ Draft sections of the final strategy and revise drafts based on feedback.
- ✓ Develop a presentation and shortened report that summarises all the above in an easy-to-read format and present this to the relevant stakeholders.

**Key deliverables from this assignment will include:**

- ✓ An inception report which outlines a clear plan of how the consultant will approach the scope work with timelines for data gathering and analysis (to be approved before analysis begins), key informant interviews, workshops/technical working groups, validation meeting to be conducted, and submission of final draft of the STI and chronic viral hepatitis component of HSHTSP.
- ✓ A report and PowerPoint deck presenting findings of the situation analysis, STI and chronic viral hepatitis program SWOT analysis, sections of the HIV prevention component of the HSHSP strategy and including lists of persons interviewed (with contact information and interview notes) and documents reviewed (with citations and/or links).
- ✓ Workshop guides and brief technical meeting reports
- ✓ Draft sections of the STI and chronic viral hepatitis component of the HSHTSP with revisions based on feed-back.
- ✓ Final costed draft sections of the STI and chronic viral hepatitis component of the HSHTSP with an M&E framework.

**Duty station and duration of the assignment**

- ✓ The duty station for the consultant will be HIV program office Maseru, Lesotho, and available for remote support.
- ✓ The expected duration of the assignment for period of (42 days)

**Consultant Experience and Qualifications**

- ✓ Master's degree in medicine, public health or any other health science related masters.
- ✓ At least 10 years of working experience in HIV/AIDS, chronic hepatitis and STIs with demonstrated knowledge of the local and global response.
- ✓ At least 10 years working experience in HIV/AIDS, chronic hepatitis and STIs programming.
- ✓ Proven experience undertaking a similar assignment (development of national HIV/AIDS, chronic hepatitis and/or STIs strategic documents) in the region.

- ✓ Experience working with key and vulnerable populations and people living or affected by HIV, chronic hepatitis or STIs will be an added advantage.
- ✓ Demonstrated experience organizing and facilitating stakeholder consultations. Experience in leading or being a major contributor to the writing of HIV/AIDS, chronic hepatitis and/or STIs related programme documents under tight deadlines.
- ✓ Research experience in the HIV/AIDS, chronic hepatitis and/or STIs field will be an added advantage.
- ✓ Sound understanding of human rights and gender approaches to the HIV/AIDS, chronic hepatitis and STIs response.
- ✓ Excellent analytical skills and report writing skills.
- ✓ Experience supporting the development of costed plans.
- ✓ Strong oral, presentation and written communication skills in English.
- ✓ Expert knowledge on HIV/AIDS, chronic hepatitis and STIs service areas, including diagnosis, prevention and treatment services.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTIES**

### **EGPAF Responsibilities**

The following will be the responsibilities of EGPAF Lesotho to ensure an effective and efficient implementation of this assignment;

- ✓ Coordinate with MOH to provide office accommodation to the Consulting Firm at its Headquarters;
- ✓ Coordinate with MOH to ensure all key stakeholders are available for consultation in development of vital strategic documents;
- ✓ Be responsible for ensuring all key deliverables under this assignment are received in accordance with the agreed-upon Deliverable Schedule and reviewed by MOH, donors, and key stakeholders within ten (10) days of receipt of the deliverable;
- ✓ Ensure payment for support provided to the MOH for the duration of the contract;
- ✓ Continue to identify programmatic gaps within the MOH which may need support; and
- ✓ EGPAF program unit shall serve as a complimentary support if/when a need arises during the course of the assignment.

### **Consultants Responsibilities**

In fulfilling the objectives of providing effective, efficient technical assistance to the MOH, the responsibilities of the consultant are as follows:

- ✓ Work under the supervision and overall guidance of the Lead consultant at the MoH
- ✓ Submission of key deliverables in line with the approved deliverable schedule;
- ✓ Provide own communication costs; voice and data communication;
- ✓ Provide own transport services in the execution of the assignment; and
- ✓ Provide training materials and related participant training costs.

### **Reporting Requirements**

The Consultant shall report directly to the MOH HIV manager in pursuance of the SOW under this Assignment.

To ensure effective administration of the respective contract pursuant to the consulting services, the EGPAF Technical Director shall serve as the Project Manager and point of contact for all matters

pertaining to the respective contract. All deliverables shall be submitted to the MOH HIV manager and Technical Director or his/her delegate in line with the approved Deliverable Schedule.

**Proprietary rights:**

Outputs delivered under this consultancy contract will remain the property of the Ministry of Health Lesotho