The East Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC) is a regional Inter-governmental health organization that was established in 1974 to foster and promote regional cooperation in health in the region. In July 2019 ECSA-HC was awarded USD$ 4.5 million to continue supporting the Uganda SRL and other countries to improve TB Diagnosis in the region. This follows the successful implementation of the first phase of the ECSA Regional TB Laboratory strengthening project from November 2015 to June 2019. The Uganda Supranational Laboratory (USRL) is the Sub Recipient (SR) supporting all the other National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) in the project countries to improve the quality and capacity of TB diagnosis, strengthening Laboratory networks as well as building capacity towards accreditation certification. The three (3) year continuation grant is supporting National TB Reference Laboratories in 21 countries to improve TB diagnosis. The Countries are Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

In 2017, the project conducted its first Mid-Term Review, resulting in documentation of best practices for scaling up and making of recommendations to improve implementation. The recommendations also informed development of phase II of the project.

The objectives of the project are;

Objective 1: Strengthen the inter-state regional network of NRLs for improved TB management in the ECSA region.
Objective 2: Improved laboratory service provision for quality assured phenotypic 1st and 2nd line drug susceptibility testing.

Objective 3: Enhance the impact of rapid WHO recommended diagnostics in the region

Objective 4: Consolidate capacity of NRLs to undertake epidemiological/ national level-disease monitoring surveys such as DRS and TB disease prevalence.

2. Objectives of the End-term Review
This End Term Review (ETR) will focus on the period 1st December 2017 to 31st July 2021 implementation period. The ETR is forward looking and will capture effectively lessons learnt, best practices and provide information on the extent, potential impact and sustainability of the project. The following are major objectives:

a) To assess the extent of project implementation against stated outcome and outputs of the project from date of last MTR to date;

b) To assess the effectiveness of strategies deployed by the project to achieve the outcome and outputs and provide recommendations to further improve project implementation

c) To assess progress in implementing recommendations from previous MTR, 2017

d) To assess the extent and quality interstate collaboration and partnership collaboration

3. Scope of work
A baseline assessment was undertaken in all implementing countries and the objectives of the ETR is to measure progress made to date from that baseline. The ETR shall follow the baseline process for comparability of results. The ETR shall take into consideration Global Fund and ECSA-HC requirement and procedures. It is necessary that the successful Candidate for this ETR has in-depth knowledge of both ECSA-HC and Global Fund requirements and proven experience in conducting MTR/ETR and surveys. The ETR consultancy shall conduct a comprehensive review of the project to complete all objectives. This will include but not limited to;

a) A desk review of any relevant documents and reports

b) Review existing data stored at all levels

c) Conduct on-site validations and interviews in randomly sampled implementing countries

d) Conduct on-site validations and interviews at the ECSA-HC secretariat and the Uganda SRL

e) Conduct interviews with partners
f) An institutional capacity assessment to measure progress in strengthening Laboratory systems for TB

The areas of focus shall be on;

a) Relevance
b) Effectiveness
c) Efficiency
d) Network/linkages
e) Lessons learnt, recommendations and conclusions
f) Sustainability

4. Evaluation Questions
The evaluation should address the following questions, in addition to other questions which may be identified as critical by the ETR team;

a) What is the overall progress and achievements of the Global Fund TB project against expected results?
b) To what extent have previous MTR recommendations been implemented
c) What components of the Global Fund TB project have been most/least effective and what can be done to improve performance in project implementation?
d) How effective are the project’s approaches in achieving project outcomes?
e) To what extent has the project improved and strengthened TB diagnostics in the region?
f) To what extent has the GF project improved interstate collaboration?
g) To what extent has the COVID-19 pandemic affected TB diagnostics in the region?
h) What needs to be done to ensure sustainability of the project beyond GF funding and after phase II?

5. Composition of the ETR team
The consultant(s) must have proven experience in conducting projects evaluations and reviews, with proven expertise in TB and be comfortable with travelling to other countries. The consultant(s) may propose anytime an alternative team structure which they can justify. The consultant(s) will also be expected to train their own data collectors on data collection methods and instruments (where a need arises). The Consultant(s) work closely with the ECSA Knowledge Management Monitoring and Evaluation team, supported by the Family Health and Infectious Diseases cluster.

6. Timeline
The ETR is scheduled to take place between October 2021 and December 2021 and a tentative timeline will be provided, which can be reviewed by the PMU with prior consultations with the Global Fund.
7. Outputs
The following deliverables are to be submitted to ECSA-HC;

i. An inception report with a clear methodology
ii. ETR data collection tools
iii. Debriefing
iv. Draft ETR report
v. Detailed Final report with a minimum of;
   1. Table of contents
   2. Executive summary
   3. Introduction, objectives and methodology
   4. Process of conducting the ETR
   5. Findings of the review
   6. Recommendations and conclusions
   7. All reference documents annexed
vi. 3 full set of hardcopy reports
vii. 1 soft copy of report, with all attachments (datasets etc)
viii. A presentation for the Steering Committee Meeting

8. General terms and conditions

The consultant(s): They should submit all proper documents, curriculum vitae(s) and certified education certificates, and a copy of VAT registration certificate

The work: the consultant(s) shall complete the work on schedule as per the contract. The work shall be of good quality and performed according to appropriate and accepted standards. No poor work or performance will be accepted by ECSA-HC.

Relationship of consultant to ECSA-HC: The consulting individuals are not employees of ECSA-HC, thus not entitled to receive benefits usually afforded to ECSA-HC employees. Consultant(s) shall pay all taxes and fees related to the work, except those expected to be paid by ECSA-HC. Nothing in this agreement shall create employer/employee relationships or partnerships.

Ownership and confidentiality of the work: No other party except ECSA-HC shall have privy to any documents pertaining to this ETR. Consultant(s) may be requested to sign consent that ECSA-HC is the owner of the data generated by this ETR and under no conditions they (consultants) shall share information with any other person or organization. All obligations extend beyond the expiration or termination of contract. All confidential knowledge that is obtained during the consultancy should not be shared with anyone out the ECSA PMU.

9. Contact person
Once the contract is signed, the contact person at ECSA-HC for the ETR is Mr. Sibusiso Sibandze: s_sibandze@ecsahc.org

10. Background documents
- Project proposals submitted the Global fund for phase I & II
- Project Performance framework (phase I & 2)
- MTR report 2017
- Sub-recipient agreement
- M&E Plan
- Financial Reports
- PUDRs/PUUs
- Quarterly reports
- Mission Reports
- Baseline assessment reports
- MoUs