1. Background
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 November 2015 ECSA-HC received a Global Fund grant to support countries in the region improve TB diagnosis. This grant supports 18 countries in the region; Botswana, Burundi, Eritrea, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The Uganda Supranational Laboratory (USRL) was identified as the Sub-recipient, supporting all the other National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) in the project countries to improve the quality and capacity of TB diagnosis, strengthening of TB Laboratory networks in the region as well as building capacity towards accreditation certification.

The specific goals of the project are;
SO1: Build a regional network of NRLs for inter-state laboratory quality assurance and management in the project countries;

SO2: Improve Laboratory service provision for quality assured 1st and 2nd line Drug susceptibility testing accessible to people in need;

SO3: Build capacity of NRLs to undertake epidemiological/national level disease monitoring surveys such as Drug Resistance Survey (DRS) and TB disease prevalence.

As the project comes to mid-term, ECSA-HC will conduct a midterm review to assess progress towards achieving results. This will be done through external consultancy engagement who will work very closely with the Monitoring and Evaluation and project Management team at ECSA.

2. Objectives of the Mid-term Review
The Mid Term Review (MTR) has the following major objectives
a) To assess progress of the project against stated outputs of the project as of November 2015 to date;
b) To assess the effectiveness of strategies and implementation of interventions and provide recommendations to further improve the project
c) To assess the quality of lab services in producing precise and accurate results possible and procedures conducted by the 18 NRLs.
d) To project, with its current momentum, how effectively the Global Fund TB project will reach its targets and objectives by the end of the program
e) To assess the quality of the partnership within implementing countries.
f) To assess the status of Laboratory Management Information Systems (LMIS) in participating countries.

The MTR is undertaken mid-point of project implementation and will pave the way for improved project delivery for the remaining project duration and propose mid-course correction (if any) required in project design, implementation and institutional arrangements in order to maximize impact.

3. **Scope of Work (SoW)**

A baseline assessment was undertaken in all implementing countries and the objectives of the MTR is to measure progress made to date and document project support in improvement of lab services. The MTR shall follow the baseline process for comparability of results. The MTR shall take into consideration Global Fund and ECSA-HC requirement and procedures. It is necessary that the successful Candidate for this MTR has in-depth knowledge of both ECSA-HC and Global Fund requirements and proven experience in conducting MTR and surveys. The MTR 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 and all levels
c) Conduct on-site validations and interviews in randomly sampled implementing countries
d) Conduct on-site validations and interviews at the Uganda SRL
e) Conduct validations at the ECSA-HC office.
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

4. **Evaluation Questions**

The evaluation should address the following questions, in addition to other questions which may be identified as critical by the MTR team;

a) What is the overall progress and achievements of the Global Fund TB project against expected results
b) To what extent has the project improved the capacity of laboratories to produce accurate and precise results (Quality improvement).

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 the achieving project outcomes;

e) To what extent has the project improved and strengthened TB diagnostics in the region

f) To what extent has the LMIS improved in the countries attributable to the project support?

g) Which project areas need to be improved or adjusted

5. Composition of the MTR team
The team is expected to consist of a team leader, an assistant and a logistics manager. The team shall be supported by the ECSA-HC Knowledge Management, Monitoring and Evaluation cluster and the Project Management Unit (PMU), throughout, from development of MTR tools to finalization of the MTR report. The Global Fund Country Team for the regional project will also participate in the review process. The team must have proven experience in conducting evaluations, reviews using research methods. Also the team must have expertise in TB and be comfortable with travelling to other countries. The team may propose anytime an alternative team structure which they can justify. The team will also be expected to train their own data collectors on data collection methods and instruments (where a need arises).

6. Timeline
The MTR is scheduled to take place in August 2017 for a maximum period of 45 days and a tentative timeline will be provided, which can be reviewed by the MTR consultant with prior consultations with ECSA-HC PMU. Necessary adjustment on project organization, technical and impact monitoring systems and internal coordination. Necessary adjustment of project budgets and inputs for the remaining project period and strategic focus of project implementation

7. Outputs
The following deliverables are to be submitted to ECSA-HC;

   i. An inception report with detailed methodology
   ii. All MTR data collection tools
   iii. Debriefing
   iv. Draft MTR 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 MTR
      5. Findings of the review
      6. Recommendations and conclusions
      7. All reference documents annexed
   vi. 3 full set of hard copy reports
   vii. 1 soft copy of report, with all attachments (datasets etc)
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 MTR. Consultant(s) may be requested to sign consent that ECSA-HC is the owner of the data generated by this MTR 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 MTR is Dr. Stephen Muleshe: s_muleshe@ecsa.or.tz

10. Background documents

- Project documents
- Project proposal submitted the Global fund
- Sub-recipient agreement
- M&E project plan
- Financial records
- Semi-annual PUDRs
- Quarterly reports
- Project Performance framework

11. Submission of applications
Interested applicants are invited to submit their application by e-mail to the address below by 31 May 2017:
Director General
ECSA Health Community Secretariat
P. O. Box 1009,
Arusha, Tanzania
Fax: 255 27 254 9392
Tel: 255 27 254 9362/5/6