

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST **CONSULTING SERVICES**

Selection # as assigned by e-Tool: RG-T3704-P004

Selection Method: Open Competition

Country: Regional

Sector: Social Protection and Health

Funding – TC #: RG-T3704

Project #: ATN/KP-18135-RG

TC name: Innovative COVID-19 Response Using ICT Tools: Knowledge sharing between LAC and Korea in Public Health Emergency Preparedness

Description of Services: The selected firm will conduct a study to develop a typology of digital response systems during Public Health Emergency for Latin American countries, depending on their level of readiness.

Link to TC document: <https://www.iadb.org/en/project/RG-T3704>

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is executing the above mentioned operation. For this operation, the IDB intends to contract consulting services described in this Request for Expressions of Interest.

Expressions of interest must be delivered using the IDB Portal for Bank Executed Operations (<http://beo-procurement.iadb.org/home>) by: *Feb 15,2021*, 5:00 P.M. (Washington D.C. Time).

The consulting services (“the Services”) include analyzing digital tools that have proven to be effective in the fight of Public Health Emergency including COVID 19 and reviewing the level of readiness of countries in the region. The firm will also describe the theoretical framework of digital information systems to fight pandemics and typology of systems that need to be in place to be ready for a Public Health Emergency. The typology will include a readiness assessment tool for countries that will help place them in different levels. Depending on the level a country is in, the consultancy will recommend a series of digital tools to be in place to face Public Health Emergency.

Eligible consulting firms will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: [Policy for the Selection and Contracting of Consulting firms for Bank-executed Operational Work](#) - GN-2765-1. All eligible consulting firms, as defined in the Policy may express an interest. If the Consulting Firm is presented in a Consortium, it will designate one of them as a representative, and the latter will be responsible for the communications, the registration in the portal and for submitting the corresponding documents.

The IDB now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the services described above in the [draft summary](#) of the intended Terms of Reference for the assignment. Interested consulting firms must provide information establishing that they are qualified to perform the Services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Eligible consulting firms may associate in a form of a Joint Venture or a sub-consultancy agreement to enhance their qualifications. Such association or Joint Venture shall appoint one of the firms as the representative.

Interested eligible consulting firms may obtain further information during office hours, 09:00 AM to 05:00 PM, (Washington D.C. Time) by sending an email to: Luis Tejerina, luist@iadb.org

Inter-American Development Bank

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Attached: Terms of Reference Typology of digital response systems during and after public health emergencies

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Typology of digital response systems during and after public health emergencies

Regional

ATN/KP-18135-RG

RG-T3704

<https://www.iadb.org/en/project/RG-T3704>

Innovative COVID-19 Response Using ICT Tools: Knowledge Sharing Between LAC and Korea in Public Health Emergency Preparedness

1. Background and Justification

- 1.1. When COVID 19 hit the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, few countries were ready with information systems in place to react and produce the necessary data to help authorities face the crisis. Countries like Uruguay, Argentina have developed chatbots to answer questions and provide information on COVID-19 to citizens. Colombia launched an informative platform to follow up with the evolution of COVID-19 in the country and launched an app to track COVID-19. Peru and Costa Rica developed dashboards and analytics to monitor the spread of the disease. However, use of digital tools in the LAC region in general was limited due to lack of infrastructure, governance structures for a scenario like this one and policies to back the use of digital technologies during pandemics. Furthermore, responses from various countries were heterogeneous and, in some cases, not led by the Ministries of health. Digital solutions were imported from other regions and implemented in a rush to respond to the challenge without vetting their applicability in the region or strategic planning regarding the role they played in the overall health system response to the pandemic.
- 1.2. Digital health interventions are commonly used tools to improve efficiency and quality of health care (Nelson et al. 2019) and they are also proven to be effective during public health emergencies (Allen at al. 2019). According to a recent IDB's publication, in times of public health emergencies, stronger information systems are important, and digital tools were used to serve as emergency response systems, client communication systems, public health and disease surveillance systems and so on. The report also emphasized the importance of non-digital factors such as institutional capacity, and legal framework to maximize the effectiveness of the digital tools in times of public health emergencies (Park et al. 2020)

2. Objectives

- 2.1. The objective of this consultancy is to conduct a study to develop a typology of digital response systems during Public Health Emergency for Latin American countries, depending on their level of readiness.

3. Scope of Services

- 3.1. The consulting firm will analyze digital tools that have proven to be effective in the fight of Public Health Emergency including COVID 19. It will also review the level of readiness of countries in the region and then will describe the theoretical framework of digital information systems to fight pandemics and typology of systems that need to be in place to be ready for a Public Health Emergency.

- 3.2. The typology will include a readiness assessment tool for countries that will help place them in different levels. Depending on the level a country is in, the consultancy will recommend a series of digital tools to be in place to face Public Health Emergency.
- 3.3. This should include a theoretical discussion, for example, to avoid the use of certain technologies if the country is not ready to use them (digital contact tracing for example).
- 3.4. The typology should include all the software systems required to fight a health emergency but also habilitating factors such as mandates for the use of international standards for reporting information, vaccine information systems (surveillance of vaccine preventable diseases, supply chains, adverse effects, surveillance of vaccine preventable diseases) and innovations, such as the use of available data such as the case of Israel in the use of data as a way to obtain vaccines for COVID 19.

4. Key Activities

The selected firm will:

- 4.1. Review digital tools that have proven to be useful in pandemics and other existing efforts to develop a typology of digital systems against public health emergency to ensure existing knowledge is incorporated into the tool.
- 4.2. Review the level of readiness of countries in the region (26 Bank member countries) at a high level (availability of information systems for example) by reviewing existing documentation and interviews with key personnel.
- 4.3. Develop a typology of countries in the region according to their enabling factors in place to use digital tools to face pandemics including all the factors included in the scope section of these terms of reference.
- 4.4. Develop a report including data for all Bank member countries with available information. A classification based on the tool developed under 4.3 and recommendations for digital tools to be used in each case. The firm will also develop learning material and 3 to 5-minute video on main recommendations following the format of the Bank's series on digital health (<https://socialdigital.iadb.org/en/resources/health/research-publications/838>)

5. Expected Outcome and Deliverables

- 5.1. Product 1: Workplan and proposed methodology.
- 5.2. Product 2: Report on the level of readiness of countries in the region.
- 5.3. Product 3: Proposed classification and digital tools to be used in each case.
- 5.4. Product 4: Final report including material collected under 4.2 and 4.3
- 5.5. Product 5: Learning material, video ad presentation of conclusions.

6. Project Schedule and Milestones

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Product 1									
Product 2									
Product 3									
Product 4									
Product 5									

7. Reporting Requirements

7.1. The firm will be required to send progress reports every 15 days with progress of products and plans for the remainder of the project.

8. Acceptance Criteria

8.1. Responsible person: Luis Tejerina, Sector Lead Specialist of Economics in Social Protection and Health Division

9. Other Requirements

9.1. The consulting firm demonstrates a minimum of 5 years of experience working with digital health projects in times of public health emergencies, with experience working in at least three countries in the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

9.2. Additionally, the firm must demonstrate regional positioning and the projects carried out must involve joint work with national and local health entities.

9.3. The team should include at least specialists in:

1) epidemiology: specialist at the master's level or higher and with at least 10 years of experience in managing pandemic response using digital health solutions.

2) use of digital tools for health: economist(s) or engineer(s) with at least 5 years of experience in the management and analysis of digital solutions in health, particularly in times of public health emergencies.

3) legal expert: specialized in national and international regulation related to information systems and information used during public health emergencies (laws regarding the sharing of sensitive information during emergencies, normative related to mandates related to international standards for sharing information during public health emergencies) with at least 5 years of experience in the field.

10. Supervision and Reporting

10.1. Responsible person: Luis Tejerina, Sector Lead Specialist of Economics in Social Protection and Health Division/ Social Sector, will accept the products.

11. Schedule of Payments

11.1. Payment terms will be based on project milestones or deliverables. The Bank does not expect to make advance payments under consulting contracts unless a significant amount of travel is required. The Bank wishes to receive the most competitive cost proposal for the services described herein.

11.2. The IDB Official Exchange Rate indicated in the RFP will be applied for necessary conversions of local currency payments.

Payment Schedule	
Deliverable	%
Product 1	10
Product 2	20
Product 3	30
Product 4	20
Product 5	20
TOTAL	100%