# Terms of Reference

## Training workshop for front-line disease reporters on the use of mobile phone technology for disease reporting in Uganda

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| **Duty station:** | Home country and Uganda |
| **Dateline for applications:** | 15th July 2016 |
| **Type of contract:** | Individual |
| **Contract post level:** | Short term |
| **Starting date:** | 30th July, 2016 |
| **Duration:** | 30 days |

**Introduction**

In a bid to address challenges posed by transboundary animal diseases (TADs) and zoonoses in the IGAD region, the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), in partnership with Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and with financial support from the European Union (EU), has developed a regional project, “Improving animal disease surveillance in support of trade in IGAD member states” or, in short, “surveillance of trade-sensitive diseases (STSD)".

The overall objective of the STSD project is to reduce the impact of TADs and zoonoses on food security, trade and resilience of livestock farmers. The two result areas of the project include (1) systems for animal identification, traceability and health certification improved, and (2) surveillance systems and disease control strategies, at national and regional levels improved. Under result area two, the IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) is responsible of ensuring effective disease reporting in the region that includes introduction of modern disease reporting technologies.

Based on recommendations from the validation workshop of the consultancy report on Inventory Assessment of the Mobile Phone Applications for Animal Disease Reporting in the IGAD Region, July 2015, phone frameworks with good functionalities and better options or open-source software platforms such as Open Data Kit (ODK) and EpiCollect Plus were recommended for piloting in selected MS. ODK and EpiCollect Plus are software with desired level of interoperability to easily transfer data and outputs to various systems and dashboards; with good adaptability, extensibility, deployment and interoperability with external systems such as ARIS II that support data exchange standards to share data within their own bodies and with external system and stakeholders.

During the same consultancy, a need for standard mobile-based animal disease reporting framework for surveillance and information sharing to reduce the impact of TADs and zoonoses on food security, trade and resilience of livestock farmers was felt. For this purpose, a number of mobile phone applications were evaluated with focus on two open-source frameworks, which were critically evaluated against each criterion developed for the study purpose. Based on the evaluation, the Open Data Kit (ODK) was found to be the most competent and suitable. Subsequently, the consultative technical meeting recommended its adoption and up-scaling in the IGAD region for capturing and notification of epidemiological data and information. The integration of ODK in the animal health information system of the IGAD MS will improve early detection of disease events for subsequently rapid response measures against animal health emergencies. For this purpose, IGAD is looking for an experienced consultant who will undertake the training on the use of the recommended mobile phone application for disease reporting in Uganda with an objective to later up-scale it to the IGAD region using the already identified software that are technologically adaptable and financially feasible.

This necessitated selection of one member state in the region for a training of front-line reporting actors on the use of mobile phone technology for reporting of disease events to ensure applicability, interoperability and compatibility of the chosen mobile phone software for animal disease reporting in the IGAD region..

One of the key interventions of the STSD project is improving disease reporting in the member states of the IGAD region, which will enable national governments and regional agencies to capture data and information necessary for development of informed and responsive disease control plans in order to prevent and reduce devastation often caused by the highly contagious animal diseases.

Disease reporting involves a chain of public and private sector actors that include, among others, producers, community animal health workers (CAHWs), animal health technicians, community based organizations (CBO's), public and private service providers, meat inspectors, quarantine operators, provincial veterinary officers, diagnostic laboratories and national epidemiology units. The methods and tools used by these stakeholders to report disease incidences vary widely and range from oral communication to high-tech Internet-based information systems. Grass-roots disease reporting agents that include producers, CAHWs and para-vets mostly use oral communication and hand-written reports to notify occurrence of diseases. However, these methods and tools used by the front-line reporting agents often lead to delayed

notifications that are not real time to evoke required rapid responses and avoid devastations.

In order to improve reporting of disease incidences by the grass-roots reporting agents, STSD project is piloting the use of mobile phone technology in Uganda. This will involve training of front-line disease reporters and testing of the chosen mobile phone applications. The lessons learnt during the pilot phase will enable ICPALD to make informed decision on the feasibility of wide-scale use of these mobile phone technologies (applications) for disease reporting and notifications in the region.

**Overall Objective**

The overall objective of the training is to design training materials and conduct the training to a number of trainees, as a pilot activity, on the use of mobile phone technology and application in Uganda, using the identified mobile phone software and applications for disease reporting

**Specific Objectives**

The specific objectives of the consultancy is as follows:

- To train front-line and grass-root disease reporters on the use of mobile phone technology;
- To identify and recommend, for purchase and test in the field, mobile phone software that have a degree of extensibility, interoperability and compatibility with external systems such as ARIS II, in addition to those meeting minimum data exchange standards for potential effective data sharing within IGAD region and among governments, local or non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for disease reporting;
- To document the conducted field experiments/trials and results of this pilot activity in Uganda for future up-scaling of the mobile phone applications in the IGAD region.

**Expected trainees**

About 30 front-line reporting actors, from the National Animal Disease Diagnostic and Epidemiology Centre, Regional Veterinary Centres, districts and sub counties, will be identified by the Director of Animal Resources in Uganda.

**Training methodology**

Methodology of the training will run as follows:

- Training materials will be designed together with training plan by the consultant who will be out-sourced by ICPALD before the training commences;
- The consultant will closely work with the STSD focal person in Uganda;

- Training materials will be prepared/developed, based on requirements analysis and forms designed;
- The assignment will take maximum 30 days
- An appropriate training venue will be identified by the National Animal Disease Diagnostic and Epidemiology Centre in Uganda and STSD focal person;
- Appropriate phone sets and software recommended by the consultant will be procured by ICPALD and made available to the trainees for field work.

**Expected Results and deliverables**

The expected deliverables of the training will be:

- Designed training materials and phones shared ;
- Training conducted
- Training Report on the software applicability, extensibility, compatibility and interoperability; including feedback from the DVS and relevant stakeholders

**Duration of the assignment**

The total duration of the assignment will be 30 days starting from 30th July 2016. and spread over September 30; 2016. The consultant, in consultation with key stakeholders in Uganda and ICPALD, is expected to prepare relevant methodology for training, together with the proposed time table of activities for discussion and approval by ICPALD, prior to undertaking of the assignment.

**Remuneration**

The trainer will be paid a lump sum of U$9000, in addition to DSA and return air tickets for travelling to Uganda

**Qualification and experience required**

(a) **Required qualifications**: The trainer should possess a degree with relevant experience and knowledge of the mobile phone technologies and software being applied for disease reporting in the region and elsewhere. Knowledge of common TADs in the region will be an advantage.

(b) **Work experience**:

- At least 10 years of experience in using of mobile phone technologies and their applications for disease reporting in the IGAD region;
- Strong background in design of training materials and conducting of training on the mobile phone technologies intended for animal disease reporting;
- Previous experience in undertaking similar training in the region;

- Good training and report writing skills.

**Duty station**

The trainer will be based at his/her home country during the first one week for preparation of training materials; and in Uganda during the three (3) weeks of training and field experiments.

**How to apply**

Please submit your application letter, together with a detailed CV, including three (3) references, by latest June 17th, 2016 to rose.tsuma@igad.int , copied to agol.kwai@igad.int and ameha.sebsibe@igad.int , and only the short-listed applicants will be notified.