

ASSIGNMENT: CONSULTANT FOR BIOLOGICAL THREAT REDUCTION AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (advanced proficiency in French is mandatory)

Context

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) is a leading intergovernmental organisation representing 183 Members worldwide. Through its activities, WOAH makes a decisive contribution to improving animal health, protecting animal welfare and strengthening Veterinary Services. The Organisation provides transparent information on world's animal health situation, and promotes international standards, particularly in terms of the safety of trade in live animals and animal products. More information can be found on [WOAH's website](#).

Joining WOAH means taking part in the development of one of the leading international organisations, recognised and associated with other multilateral institutions, in the field of worldwide health. It means helping to build a global approach to health, combining animal and human health in a "One Health" approach.

To support its work, WOAH may use consultants to provide ad hoc support for tasks that cannot be carried out by members of its staff. The consultant(s) works in their own name, for the duration of their assignment at WOAH, to the exclusion of any other principal and without being attached to any employer.

WOAH's headquarters are based in Paris. The Organisation is present on every continent through 13 Regional or Sub-regional Representations. WOAH has 250 staff members, two-thirds of whom are based at headquarters. The consultancy will be linked to the Nairobi office, but remote work may be considered.

In meeting its mandate, the WOAH takes the threat posed by accidental and deliberate release of animal pathogens very seriously. The 2015 WOAH's Strategy for biological threat reduction (BTR) focuses on strengthening, enhancing, and developing cross-links between existing health systems. Through the adoption of Resolution No 31 at the 2021 WOAH General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates, the WOAH also recommends an all-hazards approach to emergency management and regularly exercise their emergency plans, involving other sectors, to test them for fitness for purpose.

The Consultant will contribute to WOAH's BTR Strategy by supporting the implementation of the Africa-centric activities of the Fortifying institutional resilience against biological threats project (FIRABioT), funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC), in support of the G7 Global Partnership's Signature Initiative to Mitigate Biological Threats in Africa (SIMBA).

Description of the assignment

Reporting

Under the authority of the Director General, the Consultant will be directly answerable to the Project Officer for Biological Threat Reduction and work under the direct supervision of the WOAH Sub-Regional Representative for Eastern Africa. The Consultant will collaborate closely with the *Preparedness and Resilience Department* (PRD) and the *Engagement and Investment Department* (EID, World Fund) at WOAH Headquarters in Paris, as well as with other Regional Representatives and staff involved in similar activities.

Mission objectives

The consultant will work with the project officer to deliver an ambitious programme of work within a 6-month period. This will involve planning, running and reporting on 12 technical workshops, and reviewing technical guidance on the following topics; contingency planning, risk communication, laboratory biological risk management, and management of high consequence agents and toxins. The consultant is expected to coordinate (lead and supervise the planning and execution of) 12 technical workshops in 4 French-speaking African countries between March and August 2026. The consultant will be expected to travel to and physically attend the workshops. The participants of the workshops will include

representatives of national Veterinary Services, Law Enforcement officials and laboratory experts. Products must be delivered to a high quality within this timeframe.

Project implementation

- Lead and supervise the planning, coordination, and execution of 8 technical workshops across 4 French-speaking African countries (Algeria, Congo Republic, Madagascar, and Morocco) between March and August 2026, covering: Stakeholder workshops for developing a contingency plan for anthrax; national laboratory biological risk management manual; and Inventory and management of high-consequence agents and toxins.
- Ensure all workshops and outputs from the workshops are delivered on time, within scope, and to a high standard.
- Develop technical material for workshops (concept note, agenda, background material), targeting national Veterinary Services, Law Enforcement Officials, and laboratory experts.
- Contribute to the preparation and review of technical materials and guidance related to contingency planning, risk communication, laboratory biological risk management, and management of high-consequence agents and toxins.
- Produce high-quality reports summarizing workshop outputs, technical reviews, and recommendations for strengthening emergency preparedness and response capacities.
- Design and implement monitoring and evaluation strategies to assess the effectiveness and impact of workshops and related technical activities.
- Prepare consolidated reports highlighting progress, challenges, and lessons learned.
- Identify and manage risks related to technical implementation and propose mitigation measures to ensure timely delivery of activities.
- Contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of the workshops executed and to the production of the final report of the project.

Coordination

- Liaise with national Veterinary Services, veterinary laboratories, training institutions and other relevant stakeholders such as law enforcement in the region during technical activities;
- Coordinate with (WOAH and local) administrative officers regarding workshop logistical arrangements including accommodation, conferencing, travel, and interpretation services.
- Coordinating with WOAHC consultants leading the various activities.
- Coordinate with WOAHC staff from the Africa Region and Headquarters regarding technical preparations for workshops and review of documents.

Communication

- Contribute to the development of technical and scientific papers, posters, website articles, and other informative materials to promote the project's objectives, and collaborate with the Communications Department and the Regional Communications Officer (Africa) to ensure accurate technical content for communication purposes. The deliverables may include
 - Scientific papers
 - Posters
 - Website articles
 - Information materials

Requirements

Qualifications and experience*Qualifications required*

- Advanced degree in health sciences, biological sciences, veterinary sciences or other relevant field;
- At least 5 years of experience working for national Veterinary or Public Health Services, the private sector, emergency services or non-governmental organisations in an area relevant to emergency management and biological threat reduction e.g. simulation exercises, contingency planning, epidemic intelligence, biosafety and biosecurity in laboratories;
- At least 2 years of experience in project or programme management at national or regional level.
- Experience working in Africa

Expected skills*Technical skills*

- Good project management skills
- Good monitoring and evaluation skills
- Good knowledge of Microsoft Office, in particular Word and Excel
- Good knowledge of digital tools for online collaboration
- Excellent writing skills and ability to summarise complex technical discussions into clear and concise reports
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English and French, with the ability to work fluently in both languages; **French proficiency is required for this position.**
- Knowledge of international frameworks for emergency management and biological threat reduction such as SENDAI, UNISDR, the Biological Weapons Convention, United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540, UN Secretary General's mechanism
- Knowledge or experience of international standards and guidelines pertaining to laboratory biosafety and biosecurity levels, as well as the International Air Transport Association (IATA) regulations for the transport of biological materials
- Knowledge of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the World Customs Organization (WCO), INTERPOL, and the World Health Organization (WHO), along with the One Health concept, the various tools and instruments of the Quadripartite Agreement between WHO, WOA, FAO, and UNEP and the corresponding relevant African Union instruments (Africa CDC and the Department of Peace and Security), are added advantages.
- Knowledge of WOA standards, processes, and technical frameworks related to biosecurity, emergency preparedness, and capacity-building will be considered an asset.

Personal and interpersonal skills

- Highly motivated and results-oriented
- Excellent communication skills
- Advanced proficiency in French (technical, reading, writing and conversational)
- Ability to establish and maintain good working relationships in a multinational and multicultural environment
- Ability to work in a team with members in headquarters and regional offices
- Capacity to learn and a self-motivated worker
- Excellent organisation skills and ability to meet specific deadlines
- Demonstrated initiative, including ability to think operationally and achieve results
- Adaptable and flexible
- Demonstrated capacity to communicate to larger audiences, using supports such as power-point presentations and social media channels
- To be highly organised, independent, and a diplomatic professional.

Additional information

Working conditions

- Remuneration: Commensurate with qualifications and experience
- Duration: 9 months
- Location: Remote. The consultant must be available for travel within Africa to deliver workshops and related activities.
- This role involves a significant amount of international travel and long hours in a seated position at a computer.

General information

WOAH places high value on a multicultural and positive work environment.

WOAH is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes all qualified candidates, irrespective of their origin, gender, opinions or beliefs.

If you are interested in the position, please complete your application [online here](#) at the latest by the **14th of February**; as part of your electronic submission, please submit also your cv (2 pages max), motivation letter (1 page) and the list of relevant publications (technical reports, scientific papers) from the last 5 years.

Any questions, please contact i.busuulwa@woah.org

Expected date for start of position: **2nd March 2026**