

MSF R&D PRINCIPLES ENABLING FRAMEWORK CONSULTANCY

Contract: Short-term contract or consultancy
Duration: 3 months at 100%
Starting date: December 2018
Reports to: International Medical Secretary
Deadline for applications: 18th November 2018
Location: In any MSF office able to establish a contract

I. MSF INTERNATIONAL

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international, independent, medical humanitarian organisation that delivers emergency aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, healthcare exclusion and natural disasters. MSF offers assistance to people based only on need and irrespective of race, religion, gender or political affiliation.

MSF International is the legal entity that binds MSF's 21 sections, 24 associations and other offices together. Based in Geneva, MSF International provides coordination, information and support to the MSF Movement, as well as implementing international projects and initiatives as requested. MSF International also provides administrative support to the MSF Access Campaign.

II. POSITION BACKGROUND

MSF has become increasingly involved in medical research and development over the last two decades, including more recently the implementation of clinical trials, co-development and field-testing of new diagnostics and research involving field implementation of new medicines and vaccines. MSF's key initiating role in the founding of DNDi in 2003 and work by the Access Campaign on intellectual property, market access etc., also reflect the level of MSF's interest and investment in finding new tools and medicines to meet our operational field needs. The Ebola outbreak in West Africa in 2014/15 stimulated further attention, but also questions, about MSF's role in R&D.

The International Board (IB) and the Core ExCom thus requested an international meeting to debate the key issues regarding MSF's investments to date and identify the key challenges, critical issues and gaps in the MSF response. In addition, there was an ambition to determine MSF's positioning towards, and further investment in R&D. This consultation took place in 2015/16, along with a two-day workshop in early 2016. One of the main recommendations from this workshop was to develop an "enabling framework" for R&D within the MSF movement, with a scope that included the continuum from innovation to access to new products:

"This framework should propose fields of intervention in innovation for access. It should include principles of interventions, guidance on ethical/legal/commercial and access principles (...) it should provide guiding principles and criteria for [MSF] engagement in innovation and R&D (...). The project should propose ways of improving the interactions and the sharing of information, tools and lessons (...) and a watchdog (accountability mechanism)."

This consultancy will build upon the [Mapping of MSF R&D Projects Report](#) delivered in October 2018 meant to develop a “report card” from recent experiences helping to identify the strengths, weaknesses and gaps in MSF R&D projects oriented around 5 pillars: scientific, ethical, operational, legal and access issues.

The mapping and case studies, in addition to the earlier consultations, have helped identify the key areas that need to be considered in developing the proposed R&D framework.

III. PLACE IN THE ORGANISATION

The R&D Enabling Framework consultant reports to the International Medical Secretary (IMS) as chair of the MedOp platform, member of the Full Excom and of the IB Medical Standing Committee. A project advisory committee mandated by the MedOp composed by the International Medical Secretary, the OCP Medical Director, the MSF Access Campaign Executive Director and Medical Coordinator, and the Epicentre Director would support the project.

IV. OBJECTIVES OF THE POSITION

The objective of this consultancy is to develop an enabling framework and principles to guide future MSF choices in innovation and R&D projects. The final document drafted of this enabling framework will be presented to the relevant MSF international platforms for discussion and approval, initially to the MedOps and escalated further for endorsement by the Full ExCom and International Board.

The final document shall outline:

- The objectives for MSF’s engagement in R&D and innovation
- The principles that MSF should consider in making decisions/choices in investing in R&D
- Identification of key areas of challenge and risk: bioethics, legal, operational, scientific, access, reputational risk etc.

V. MAIN TASKS

The consultant will:

- Review the outcomes of the first phase mapping and consultation
- Define a plan of action with IMS and the project committee:
 - Review and further refine the objectives, process and methodology of this project
 - Define any further need for consultation/identify key stakeholders
- Produce a written framework document which includes:
 - Key objectives of the MSF enabling framework in R&D
 - A set of principles for MSF engagement and choices in R&D
 - Principles for MSF R&D collaborations/partnerships
 - Key areas of risk and challenges for MSF to consider when investing in R&D and innovation
 - Mechanisms for priority setting and governance/accountability in R&D in MSF
 - A guidance tool/check-list of questions to be mandatorily thought through when engaging into an MSF R&D venture
- Perform other tasks as needed, in agreement with the IMS and project committee, in order to ensure the success of the project.

VI. PROFILE REQUIREMENTS

- Health or scientific background with experience in research/R&D in/outside MSF essential
- Excellent written English skills (spoken French an asset)
- Strong interest and knowledge of MSF R&D experience
- Knowledge of MSF structures and key persons an advantage, MSF R&D projects experience a plus
- Strong organizational skills, multi-tasking ability and flexibility with changing priorities
- Able to work independently and willing to be flexible with hours and days of work.
- Available to travel in Europe

[APPLY HERE](#)

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted

***MSF is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender,
nationality and culture. Individuals with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply.***