

Laboratory Services for Community Screening and Diagnosis Optimisation

1. Background

The Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) through the Centre for Community Based Research are implementing the TB and Advanced HIV related screening and diagnosis studies in Umgungundlovu District.

Our community-based study will explore approaches to improve the diagnosis of TB, COVID, HIV and STIs in community settings to optimise screening and diagnosis of these conditions. The requested services will be required for a research studying implemented in a rural context.

The proposed sample is 500 participants. Anticipated completion is expected by 31 March 2023.

2. Objective: To provide laboratory service to the HSRC for community based screening and diagnosis research in a rural setting.

Laboratory services are required to provide screening and diagnosis testing for TB, HIV and STIs as follows:

Table 1. List of Assays and Consumables

Lab Assays		
Description	Required Assay Platform	Quantity
SARS COV PCR Test	Thermofisher Quant Studio	500
TB Culture	MGIT	500
STI Panel PCR (Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, Trichomonas Vaginalis)	Thermofisher Quant Studio	200
STI Gonorrhea Confirmatory GenXpert	GenXpert	20
Syphilis/TPHA	TPHA Manual	200
CD4 assay	AQUIOS Beckmann	500
HIV ELISA 4th Generation	Roche/Abbott	50
HIV Viral Load	Ilex Panther/Roche	500
Creatinine	Beckmann	500

HSRC Board: Dr Reginald Cassius Lubisi (Chairperson), Dr Kgomoitso William Kasonkola, Dr Deenadayalen Konar, Prof. Ibbo Day Joseph Mandaza, Ms Shameme Manjoo, Dr Alex Mohubetswane Mashilo, Prof. Zerish Zethu Nkosi, Adv Faith Dikeledi Pansy Tlakula, Prof. Fiona Tregenna, Prof. Leickness Simbayi (Acting CEO)

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Consumables/Logistics		
Basic specimen collection kit (project specific lab requisition form, 8 x barcodes, ziplock specimen bag with outer form pouch)		600
Nasopharyngeal swabs (dacron or synthetic equivalent)		600
Vaginal/Penile swabs (dacron or synthetic equivalent)		600
Urine bottles		600
EDTA tubes 4ml		600
SST Tubes 4ml		600
Capillary Tubes EDTA		600
Microtainer 500 microlitres		600
DBS cards - Whatman 903 Protein Saver with Wax Paper Packaging and Ziplock Sachet		600
Sputum container		600
Case Management/Resulting/Reporting		500
Daily courier collection		75

The service provider will be responsible for:

1. Providing training related to the lab procedures related to this study. Training should include venous blood collection and all aspects of specimen handling in the field as well as labelling and packaging for transportation to the laboratory
2. Providing the pre-packed kits and all other materials required for venous specimen collection in the field.
3. Ensuring appropriate courier of samples to the testing laboratory from our offices in Sweetwaters, Umgungundlovu District
4. Capture and or import participant test results on an appropriate laboratory information management system.
5. Providing regular progress reports/communication to HSRC at specified intervals namely;
 - a) Individual participant test results (electronically).
 - b) Monthly lab result exports (electronically) in CSV or XLSX format.
6. Storage of specimens in accordance with storage regulations as regulated by **SANAS** or other recognized accreditation body. Specimens are to be stored for a period of 5 years after testing at -20c.
7. Must provide SANAS accreditation certificate

CRITERIA	WEIGHT
<p>1. Capacity and track record</p> <p>i. CV/Profiles of personnel assigned to this service: Senior laboratory technician Laboratory Director</p> <p>0= No response; 1= Less than 1 years experience, no qualification (4 pts) 2= minimum 3 years experience, no qualification (8 pts) 3= 3 years experience, relevant qualification, molecular lab experience (12 pts) 4= 5 years experience, relevant qualification, molecular lab experience (16 pts) 5= 5 years experience, relevant qualification, molecular lab experience, research study experience (20 pts)</p> <p>ii. Evidence of previously completed tasks of a similar scope</p> <p>a. List of recently completed/current projects (provide summary of project, scope and volume) with contactable references (include name, designation, contact email and telephone details)</p> <p>0= No response (0 pts) 1= on-going projects, not completed, non-research (4pts) 2= minimum 2 completed projects, non-research (8pts) 3= minimum 2 completed projects, non-research (12 pts) 4= minimum 4 completed projects, research context (16 pts) 5= minimum 4 completed projects, COVID/TB/HIV/STIs community/rural research context (20 pts)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>20</p>
<p>2. Provide a table of applicable Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) or working practice documents (WPDs) for following elements;</p> <p>2.1 Dried Blood Spot Specimen handling 2.2 Whole Blood Specimen handling 2.3 Specimen processing, tracking and storage 2.4 Data (results) storage and reporting</p> <p>For each element provide the date when the document was last reviewed or revised, relevant document must be available to view if requested. Provide SOP coverage.</p> <p>0= No response (0 pts) 1= Does not address requirements (6 pts) 2= Addresses some of the requirements (12 pts) 3= Satisfactory response to the requirements adequate to achieve end results (20 pts) 4= Above average response to requirements (24 pts) 5= Comprehensive response with all requested information, review in last 12 months (30 pts)</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>3. Turnaround time and processing capacity:</p> <p>a) Give clear turn-around time from when specimen are received at the lab to resulting for each assay.</p> <p>0= No response (0 pts) 1= Does not address requirements (3 pts) 2= Addresses some of the requirements (6 pts) 3= Satisfactory response to the requirements adequate to achieve end results (10 pts) 4= Above average response to requirements (12 pts)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>15</p>

5= Exceeds expected understanding of the deliverables, evidence of similar experience (15 pts) b) Indicate maximum number of tests possible in a 24 hour period. 0= No response (0 pts) 1= Does not address requirements (3 pts) 2= Addresses some of the requirements (6 pts) 3= Satisfactory response to the requirements adequate to achieve end results (10 pts) 4= Above average response to requirements (12 pts) 5= Exceeds expected understanding of the deliverables, evidence of similar experience (15 pts)	
TOTAL	100

NB: The minimum threshold of functionality is 70% to qualify for further evaluation process.

Supply Chain Management Compliance

- Completion of the attached Standard Bidding documents SBD 4 & SBD 6.1
- Valid BEE Certificate
- CSD (Central supplier database)
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Kindly submit proposal (soft copy) to : Mr Yanga Nondlazi
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