



Request for Consultant Services Proposal (RFP)

Solicitation Title:	Diagnostic and Genomic Sequencing Specialist
Solicitation Number:	FY26-EpiC-Georgia-2026-07-002
Submit Proposal to:	Omari Jones - ojones@fhi360.org and Bermet Dosaaly - BDosaaly@fhi360.org
Date of Issue of RFP:	Monday 27 July 2026
Date Proposal Due:	Monday, 10 August 2026
Approximate Timeframe Consultant Agreement Issued to Successful Candidate(s):	Mid-August 2026
Method of Submittal:	
Respond via e-mail with attached document in MS Word / pdf format. Pricing should be provided in Excel format unless otherwise specified. Please note "Diagnostic and Genomic Sequencing Specialist" in the subject line of the email.	
Quote Validity:	
The Consultant agrees to hold the prices in its offer firm for 90 days from the date specified for the receipt of offers unless another time is specified in the addendum of the RFP.	

Background

FHI 360 is a non-profit human development organization dedicated to improving lives in lasting ways by advancing integrated, locally driven solutions. Our staff includes experts in Health, Education, Nutrition, Environment, Economic Development, Civil Society, Gender, Youth, Research and Technology, creating a unique mix of capabilities to address today's interrelated development challenges. FHI 360 serves more than 60 countries, all 50 U.S. states and all U.S. territories. We are currently seeking qualified candidates for several consultancy positions supporting online and virtual Global Health Security technical areas.

Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) is an FHI 360-implemented global health initiative funded by the U.S. Government for the period 2019–2027. The

project receives Global Health Security (GHS) funding to strengthen global, regional, and local public health systems, building on broad experience and existing capabilities that align with GHS priorities, National Action Plans for Health Security (NAPHS), and U.S. Government goals.

A core objective of the U.S. GHS strategy in Georgia is to establish and broaden the national expertise and institutional capacity for genomic surveillance across the public health, animal health, and private sectors. This work aims to complement and position Georgia as a regional Center of Excellence and training hub for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA). Achieving this vision requires transitioning beyond disjointed, short-term projects toward a coordinated, long-term workforce and institutional capacity development approach that embeds expertise across all sectors. To support this objective, EpiC seeks consultancy support to assess Georgia's genomic sequencing capacity across the public, animal, and private sectors and develop recommendations for a National Genomic Sequencing Strategy, including a sustainable regional support model that positions Georgia as a genomic surveillance and training hub for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA).

Scope of Work

The Diagnostic and Genomic Sequencing Specialist will work closely with the NCDC, MEPA, EpiC project partners, and other members of Georgia's Laboratory Technical Working Group to conduct a series of national and regional genomic sequencing capacity assessments. The results of these assessments will be presented to the Technical Working Group and will be used to inform the development of Georgia's National Genomic Sequencing Strategy.

Key duties include:

- **Laboratory Capacity and Readiness Assessment**

In collaboration with NCDC, MEPA and other relevant partners, conduct a comprehensive assessment of Georgia's and two relevant partner countries genomic sequencing capacity across the public health, animal health, and private sectors, including laboratory infrastructure, workforce, bioinformatics, quality systems, governance, and data management. Identify strengths, gaps, and priority investments to inform the National Genomic Sequencing Strategy. and identify priority investments for sustainable capacity strengthening.

- **Multisectoral Laboratory TWG Re-Operationalization (Activity 2.1.1):** Provide technical support to the Laboratory Technical Working Group by presenting assessment findings, facilitating multisectoral discussions, and building consensus on strategic priorities for strengthening Georgia's national laboratory and genomic sequencing capacities. Support the development of Georgia's National Genomic

Sequencing Strategy, including recommendations for governance, implementation, and a sustainable regional support model for EECA countries.

- **Pathogen Pilot Validations (Activity 2.1.4):** In collaboration with EpiC in-country partners, provide technical oversight for pilot validation studies to establish analytical limitations, specificity, sensitivity reproducibility, and performance characteristics of diagnostic metrics for high-consequence pathogens including HPAI, Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF), and *Salmonella*. Document validation results and develop recommendations for routine implementation, laboratory accreditation, and integration into national surveillance and outbreak response systems.
- **Technical Coordination and Knowledge Transfer**
Provide ad-hoc technical guidance and mentorship to national laboratory partners to strengthen multisectoral collaboration, promote interoperability between human and animal health laboratories, and facilitate integration of laboratory and genomic data into national surveillance systems, emergency operations, and public health decision-making.

Deliverables & Timeline

To comply with the performance window, all final outputs must be approved before project closure:

Deliverable 1: National Laboratory Capacity and Readiness Assessment Report	Comprehensive assessment report covering genomic sequencing capacity across four Georgian laboratories, two national (NCDC/Richard Lugar Center and SLA) and two private or university laboratories, summarizing key strengths, gaps, and priority recommendations	August 30, 2026
Deliverable 2: Regional Laboratory Capacity and Readiness Assessment Report	Two assessment reports summarizing genomic sequencing capacity across two regional EECA countries, including two national laboratories per country, identifying key strengths, gaps, and priority recommendations for improvement.	September 30, 2026
Deliverable 3: TWG Findings Presentation and Validation Workshop:	A workshop and presentation of assessment findings delivered to the Laboratory Technical Working Group. Presentation will document key findings, stakeholder inputs, and agreed priority actions to inform the development of Georgia's	October 30, 2026

	National Genomic Sequencing Strategy and future capacity support to EECA countries.	
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Location of Work: Remote

Travel: Up to 2 trips of max two weeks each trip.

Qualifications

- University degree in Molecular Biology, Genomics, Bioinformatics, Laboratory Science, Public Health, Veterinary Medicine, Microbiology, or related field (master's degree or higher preferred).
- Minimum of 10 years of relevant experience in molecular diagnostics, genomic sequencing, laboratory systems strengthening, or infectious disease surveillance.
- Experience conducting laboratory and genomic sequencing capacity assessments, including evaluation of laboratory infrastructure, sequencing platforms, workforce capacity, bioinformatics capabilities and pipelines, quality systems, and data management.
- Experience providing technical assistance in the design, implementation, and improvement of SOPs, quality assurance processes, and workflows
- Ability to work with a wide range of experts and stakeholders at different levels from a variety of sectors and disciplines on policies, programs and projects.
- Demonstrated ability to prepare, organize and monitor consultative multi-stakeholder processes and/or inter-governmental and/or technical meetings.
- Proven ability to prepare high-quality technical reports, assessment findings, strategic recommendations, and presentations for technical and policy audiences.

Evaluation Criteria: Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the following criteria:

- Award will be based upon the best value (a combination of qualifications and proposed daily rate).
- Payment will be based upon the Level of Effort (LOE) with reimbursement for approved related budgeted expenses.

Required Documentation: Proposals must include the following components:

- CV
- Cover Letter which includes:
 - Consultant's relevant experience aligned with the work and deliverables described in this RFP. Specifically, the applicant should address:
 - Experience leading engagement with USG and other Government stakeholders
 - Experience managing projects, preferably health projects
 - Technical expertise to successfully complete the deliverables outlined above.

- Consultant's availability through November 2026, ability to travel to the Georgia, if applicant is not located within Georgia, and any potential conflicts of interest.
- Proposed hourly or daily rate of pay.

FHI 360 Disclaimers

- FHI 360 may perform a background check on any selected Consultant candidates.
- FHI 360 may cancel the solicitation and not award
- FHI 360 may reject any or all responses received
- Issuance of the solicitation does not constitute an award commitment by FHI 360
- FHI 360 reserves the right to disqualify any offer based on failure of the offeror to follow solicitation instructions
- FHI 360 will not compensate any offeror for responding to solicitation
- FHI 360 reserves the right to issue award based on initial evaluation of offers without further discussion
- FHI 360 may choose to award only part of the activities in the solicitation, or issue multiple awards based on the solicitation activities
- FHI 360 reserves the right to waive minor proposal deficiencies that can be corrected prior to award determination to promote competition
- FHI 360's supplier terms and conditions can be found [here](#) while our consultant terms and conditions can be found [here](#)