

CALLING APPLICATIONS FOR A NATIONAL CONSULTANT

CONSULTANT MICROBIOLOGIST – TB LABORATORY AND DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES REVIEW

Mid-Term Review of the National Tuberculosis Programme – 2026

1. Background

Sri Lanka is implementing the National Strategic Plan for Tuberculosis Control to accelerate progress towards national and End TB targets. The National Programme for Tuberculosis Control and Chest Diseases (NPTCCD) will conduct a Mid-Term Review (MTR) to assess programme implementation and performance, identify achievements, implementation gaps and operational bottlenecks, and develop prioritized recommendations to strengthen programme performance.

The review will be undertaken by a multidisciplinary team comprising international and national technical experts. An international laboratory expert will lead the review of TB laboratory and diagnostic services. NPTCCD therefore seeks a National Consultant Microbiologist to provide national technical expertise, support the international laboratory consultant during the in-country mission, and contribute to synthesis of findings and preparation of the laboratory and diagnostic services component of the Mid-Term Review report.

2. Purpose of the Consultancy

To provide national microbiology and laboratory expertise to support the international laboratory consultant in assessing the accessibility, quality, functionality and performance of the TB laboratory and diagnostic network and in developing evidence-based recommendations for strengthening TB diagnostic services in Sri Lanka.

3. Scope of Work / Key Responsibilities

- Assist the international laboratory consultant in reviewing relevant national policies, guidelines, laboratory reports, diagnostic algorithms, quality-assurance information and other documents relevant to TB laboratory and diagnostic services.
- Support preparation and refinement of laboratory review tools, assessment questions and the field-visit plan.
- Participate throughout the in-country mission, including visits to the National TB Reference Laboratory, relevant regional/peripheral laboratories, District Chest Clinics, hospitals and other diagnostic and service-delivery settings.
- Assess the organization, accessibility, functionality and capacity of the TB laboratory network at different levels of the health system.
- Review access to and appropriate utilization of sputum microscopy, rapid molecular diagnostics, culture and drug-susceptibility testing and other relevant TB diagnostic technologies.
- Assess laboratory workflows, specimen collection and referral/transport mechanisms, specimen quality, testing processes, turnaround times and reporting of results.
- Review implementation of laboratory quality assurance and quality-management systems, including internal quality control, external quality assessment and relevant laboratory standards.
- Assess laboratory biosafety and infection-prevention measures relevant to TB diagnostic services.

- Review availability, functionality, maintenance and appropriate utilization of laboratory equipment and diagnostic platforms.
- Review availability and management of laboratory reagents, consumables and other essential commodities, including risks of stock-outs, expiry or wastage.
- Assess laboratory information management, recording and reporting, laboratory connectivity with ePIMS and other relevant systems, and linkage of diagnostic results to clinical and programme management.
- Review the contribution of the laboratory network to drug-resistant TB detection and universal drug-susceptibility testing.
- Identify gaps affecting decentralization and equitable access to rapid TB diagnostics and opportunities for strengthening the diagnostic network.
- Conduct and support interviews, direct observations and discussions with laboratory personnel, clinicians, programme staff and other relevant stakeholders.
- Assist the international laboratory consultant in synthesizing findings and preparing the end-of-mission presentation.
- Contribute substantially to drafting and finalization of the laboratory and diagnostic services section of the MTR report, including prioritized, feasible and time-bound recommendations.

4. Expected Deliverables

- Contribution to the desk review and laboratory assessment plan/tools.
- Completed laboratory field-assessment findings from the in-country mission.
- Contribution to the end-of-mission debriefing and presentation of preliminary laboratory findings.
- Consolidated findings on TB laboratory and diagnostic services, including major strengths, gaps and bottlenecks.
- Draft laboratory and diagnostic services section for incorporation into the MTR report.
- Prioritized recommendations for strengthening the TB laboratory and diagnostic network.
- Revised technical inputs following feedback and support to finalization of the MTR report.

5. Duration and Working Arrangements

The consultancy will be undertaken in accordance with the MTR schedule (05.10.2026 -01.11.2026) and will include: (i) desk review and preparation (5-11 Oct); (ii) participation in the in-country mission and field visits (12-18 Oct); and (iii) synthesis and report writing (19 Oct – 8 Nov). The consultant will work under the overall coordination of the Director, NPTCCD, and in close collaboration with the international laboratory consultant, NPTCCD technical officers and other members of the multidisciplinary review team.

6. Essential Qualifications and Experience

- Medical degree from a recognized university.
- Board Certification/Specialist Qualification in Medical Microbiology or an equivalent specialist qualification recognized in Sri Lanka.
- At least eight (8) years of relevant professional experience following postgraduate specialist qualification, or equivalent relevant experience acceptable to NPTCCD.
- Demonstrated experience in clinical/public-health microbiology and laboratory services.
- Experience in laboratory quality assurance, quality-management systems and biosafety.
- Strong analytical, synthesis and technical report-writing skills in English.

- Ability to work effectively within multidisciplinary teams and with national and international experts and stakeholders.
- Good computer literacy and ability to review and interpret laboratory and programme data.

7. Evaluation Criteria

Essential eligibility requirements will be assessed before technical scoring. Only applicants meeting the required medical and specialist microbiology qualifications and minimum professional experience will proceed to technical evaluation.

No.	Criterion	Assessment considerations	Maximum marks
1	Relevant professional experience after Board Certification	Duration and relevance of microbiology/laboratory experience beyond the minimum requirement	10
2	Experience in microbiology and laboratory services	Depth, duration and seniority of laboratory service experience	15
3	Experience working in TB laboratory services	Experience in NTRL/TB laboratories or laboratories undertaking microscopy, molecular testing, culture/DST or other TB diagnostics	20
4	Laboratory quality management, quality assurance and biosafety experience	QA/QC, EQA, quality-management systems, biosafety, accreditation or laboratory assessment	15
5	Experience in technical assistance, consultancies, laboratory reviews or assessments	National/international assignments relevant to laboratory services, TB or public health	10
6	Technical contribution to laboratory/TB programmes	Guidelines, SOPs, diagnostic algorithms, manuals, strategic plans, training materials or technical working groups	10
7	Analytical and technical report-writing experience	Laboratory assessments, programme reviews, technical reports or similar outputs authored or substantially contributed to	10
8	Research/publications relevant to microbiology, laboratory services or TB	Relevant research and publications, with particular consideration for TB-specific publications	10
	TOTAL		100

Technical threshold: A minimum technical score of 70/100 is recommended for consideration for appointment, subject to applicable NPTCCD/Global Fund recruitment and procurement procedures.

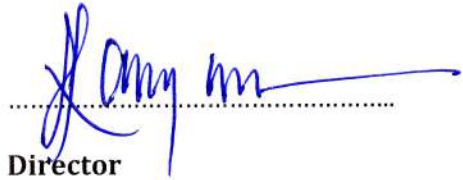
8. Documents to be Submitted

- Cover letter expressing interest in the consultancy.
- Detailed curriculum vitae.
- List of relevant laboratory reviews, assessments, technical-assistance/consultancy assignments and major technical contributions, indicating the applicant's role.

- List of relevant publications, research, guidelines, SOPs, manuals or other major technical contributions, where applicable.

9. Application Procedure

Eligible specialists are invited to submit the above documents to the Director, National Programme for Tuberculosis Control and Chest Diseases (NPTCCD), Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka **on or before 25th of September 2026** via email, nptccddirector@gmail.com. to Director NPTCCD.



Director

National Programme for Tuberculosis Control and Chest Diseases
Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka

Dr. Kapila B. Kannangara
Director
National Programme for Tuberculosis Control
& Chest Diseases
No. 555/5, 4th Floor, Elvitigala Mawatha,
Narapepita, Colombo 05.