

CALLING APPLICATIONS FOR A NATIONAL CONSULTANT

PUBLIC HEALTH SPECIALIST – TB EPIDEMIOLOGY AND SURVEILLANCE REVIEW

Mid-Term Review of the National Tuberculosis Programme – 2026

1. Background

The National Programme for Tuberculosis Control and Chest Diseases (NPTCCD) will undertake the National Tuberculosis Epidemiological Review in 2026 to assess the current TB epidemiological situation, review progress since the 2023 Epidemiological Review, identify persistent and emerging gaps, and inform strategic priorities for TB control and elimination in Sri Lanka.

The broader epidemiological analysis will be undertaken with international technical support. NPTCCD seeks a National Consultant in Public Health/Epidemiology to support the in-country component of the review, working closely with the international epidemiology/surveillance expert and the NPTCCD Monitoring and Evaluation team. The in-country mission will be coordinated with the TB Mid-Term Review mission to maximize efficiency and facilitate triangulation of programmatic and surveillance findings.

2. Purpose of the Consultancy

To provide national technical expertise during the in-country mission of the 2026 TB Epidemiological Review, with particular emphasis on implementation of passive and active TB case finding, surveillance system performance and data quality, digital surveillance including ePIMS, TB mortality surveillance, and case-finding activities among key and vulnerable populations including prison populations.

3. Scope of Work / Key Responsibilities

- Review relevant findings and recommendations from the 2023 TB Epidemiological Review and available national programme, surveillance and case-finding documents in preparation for the in-country mission.
- Participate throughout the in-country mission and field visits to selected District Chest Clinics, hospitals, primary healthcare institutions, laboratories, private-sector facilities, prisons and other high-risk settings as relevant.
- Assess implementation and effectiveness of passive TB case finding, including identification of presumptive TB, referral for diagnosis, completion of diagnostic evaluation, notification and linkage to treatment.
- Assess implementation and effectiveness of active case-finding approaches, including targeted screening of key and vulnerable populations, contact investigation, referral pathways, diagnostic completion and follow-up of persons identified through screening.
- Review implementation of TB screening and case-finding activities in prisons and other relevant high-risk settings, including referral, diagnostic linkage, notification, continuity of care and recording/reporting.
- Assess the TB surveillance system against relevant WHO TB surveillance standards and benchmarks, with emphasis on implementation at national and subnational levels.
- Assess completeness, timeliness, consistency and validity of TB recording and reporting, including verification of selected data between source records, registers, ePIMS and other relevant reporting systems.

- Review the functionality and utilization of ePIMS, including data capture, reporting, user workflows, access controls, auditability, data quality checks, system use at national and subnational levels, and use of information for programme decision-making.
- Review relevant ePIMS interoperability/API arrangements and data exchange with other systems, including data integrity, validation, access authorization and confidentiality/data-security safeguards. This will be a programme and information-governance assessment and will not constitute a specialist cybersecurity penetration test.
- Assess linkages between TB surveillance, and mortality/vital-registration systems, and review mechanisms used to identify, reconcile and validate TB deaths.
- Review data-quality assurance, validation, supportive supervision, feedback and corrective-action mechanisms within the TB surveillance system.
- Conduct and support key informant interviews, direct observations, record reviews and selected data-quality verification exercises during field visits.
- Triangulate findings from surveillance, case-finding, mortality, laboratory and programme information and identify practical system and implementation gaps requiring programme action.
- Contribute to the end-of-mission debriefing and prepare concise findings, recommendations and relevant technical inputs for incorporation into the Epidemiological Review report and priority action matrix.

4. Expected Deliverables

- Contribution to the inception briefing and finalization of the in-country assessment plan/tools.
- Completed field-assessment notes and data-quality/surveillance assessment findings from selected sites.
- Consolidated assessment of passive and active case finding, including prison/high-risk-setting activities.
- Consolidated assessment of TB surveillance, ePIMS, data quality/validation, mortality-data linkages and relevant information-governance issues.
- Contribution to the end-of-mission presentation of preliminary findings and recommendations.
- Written technical inputs for the draft Epidemiological Review report and priority action matrix, including feasible short-, medium- and long-term recommendations.
- Revision of assigned sections/technical inputs following feedback from NPTCCD and the international review expert.

5. Duration and Working Arrangements

The consultancy will primarily support preparation for and participation in the in-country mission (12-18 Oct 2026) and subsequent synthesis of mission findings, in accordance with the approved Epidemiological Review schedule. The consultant will work under the overall coordination of the Director, NPTCCD, in close collaboration with the international epidemiology/surveillance expert, CCP-Monitoring & Evaluation/NPTCCD, other NPTCCD technical officers and members of the combined review mission.

6. Essential Qualifications and Experience

- Medical degree from a recognized university.
- Board certification/specialist qualification in Community Medicine or an equivalent postgraduate specialist qualification in Public Health.
- At least eight (8) years of relevant professional experience in public health following postgraduate specialist training/qualification, or equivalent relevant experience acceptable to NPTCCD.

- Demonstrated experience in epidemiology, disease surveillance, monitoring and evaluation and/or health information systems.
- Experience in tuberculosis control or communicable-disease surveillance/programme implementation, preferably including work with the National TB Programme at national and/or district level.
- Experience in data-quality assessment, validation, programme monitoring, surveillance review or similar technical assignments.
- Ability to interpret surveillance and programme data and translate findings into practical programme recommendations.
- Strong analytical, synthesis and technical report-writing skills in English.
- Good computer literacy and ability to work with electronic information systems, spreadsheets and programme datasets.
- Ability to work effectively with national and international experts and multidisciplinary field teams.

7. Evaluation Criteria

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

No.	Criterion	Assessment considerations	Maximum marks
1	Relevant professional public-health experience after Board Certification	Experience beyond the minimum requirement; relevance to epidemiology, surveillance, M&E or communicable-disease programmes	10
2	Experience in TB control/National TB Programme	Depth and duration of TB programme/surveillance experience at national and/or district level	10
3	Experience in conducting TB epidemiological Review	Number of reviews conducted	10
4	Experience in epidemiology, surveillance, M&E and data-quality assessment	Surveillance assessments, data validation/verification, monitoring systems, epidemiological reviews or similar assignments	15
5	Experience with electronic surveillance/health-information systems	ePIMS or comparable systems; digital data flows, interoperability/API, data quality, access controls and data governance	10
6	Experience in providing technical assistance or undertaking consultancies related to TB and/or public health	Relevant national or international technical-assistance/consultancy assignments, with priority given to TB, epidemiology, surveillance, M&E, programme review or health-information systems	15
7	Experience with mortality surveillance/data linkage and triangulation	Mortality/vital-registration data, record linkage, reconciliation or triangulation of multiple data sources	10
8	Analytical, synthesis and technical report-writing experience	Quality and relevance of epidemiological/surveillance/programme reports authored or substantially contributed to	10
9	Research/publications relevant to TB, epidemiology, surveillance or public health	Relevant peer-reviewed publications and/or operational research	10
TOTAL			100

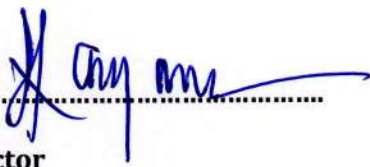
Technical threshold: A minimum technical score of 70/100 is recommended for consideration for appointment, subject to applicable NPTCCD/Global Fund recruitment and procurement procedures.

9. Documents to be Submitted

- Cover letter expressing interest in the consultancy.
- Detailed curriculum vitae.
- List of relevant epidemiological reviews, surveillance assessments, programme evaluations, data-quality assessments and major technical assignments, indicating the applicant's role.
- List of relevant publications, research, surveillance/technical reports, guidelines or other major technical contributions, where applicable.

10. 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

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