



MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SANITATION

National Medical Supplies Agency (NMSA)

31 Murray Town Road, Freetown, Sierra Leone

Operations Office: Central Medical Stores, Off Jomo Kenyatta Road, New England Ville



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

27TH SEPTEMBER 2021

A Public–Private Partnership (PPP) for the Lease, Management, and Operation of the Pharmacy of Four (4) Regional Hospitals in Sierra Leone.

Procurement No.: NMSA/DPS/PPP/CRP/RFP/2021/001

The Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) introduced a cost recovery system for drugs in the 1980s. The scheme was implemented largely successfully until the break-out of the civil war in the early '90s. After the war, the cost recovery system was re-introduced in 2006, but failed to recover enough costs to make it sustainable. In 2010, the Free Health Care Initiative (FHCI) was launched by GoSL to cater for vulnerable population groups: pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children under the age of 5 years; the group was later extended in 2018 to include Ebola survivors and persons with disability. The FHCI has its own separate drugs and medical supply system that was initially fully donor financed through the United Kingdom's Department for Foreign International Development (DFID), now the Foreign Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO), but is currently substantially co-funded by GoSL up to the tune of 35% of the total investment of 5 million British Pound Sterling. Eventually, in 2013, the cost recovery system was stopped, mainly due to low recovery rates of around 5% that was viewed as unsustainable.

The Ministry of Health and Sanitation is looking at plausible options to re-introduce a kind of cost recovery system that guarantees the availability of affordable, safe, effective, and high-quality drugs to the population not covered under the FHCI. It has been credibly reported that public hospitals and health facilities in Sierra Leone are regularly experiencing stock-outs of drugs and medical supplies. The situation is exacerbated by the fact that there has not been any central procurement for cost recovery drugs since 2013, and the funding available for Free Health Care (FHC) drugs only covers 20% of the total cost of drug and medical supply needs per year. Distribution of drugs, an activity designed to happen on a quarterly basis is at best carried out three times a year. Hospitals therefore have either designed their own drug revolving funds in collaboration with private pharmacies and/or local councils, or nurses and health practitioners are selling drugs purchased out of their pockets to patients for profit. Due to the centralized human resource management system, and a lack of adequate monitoring mechanisms it has not been possible to specifically target the problem or even discipline those health practitioners identified with such practice.

In 2017, an act to establish the National Medical Supplies Agency (NMSA) was passed into law, given the exclusive responsibility to procure, distribute and warehouse drugs for all public entities in Sierra Leone to the new public service agency. The Ministry of Health & Sanitation (MoHS) on the other hand is in the process of rolling out a pilot cost recovery program as part of its long-term financial sustainability plan, focusing on tertiary and secondary care facilities.

LOT 1: BO GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL

LOT 2: KENEMA GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL

LOT 3: PORT LOKO GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL

LOT 4: MAKENI GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL

The proposed approach from MOHS is to seek multiple high performing private partner(s) through a competitive bidding process, that can finance proposed upgrades to the hospital pharmacies at the four regional hospitals and then, lease, manage and operate these pharmacies through a PPP concession-type arrangement.

1. This Request for Proposal (RFP) is for a PPP arrangement for the lease, management and operation of the pharmacy at regional Hospitals (“the Hospital Pharmacy”).
2. The Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS) via the National Medical Supplies Agency (NMSA) now calls for the submission of prequalification documents and bids on the PPP for the lease, management, and operation of the Hospital Pharmacy. Eligibility screening shall cover the firm’s qualifications to perform the services as evidenced by business registration documents, permits, experience in similar contracts, financial statements and other documents specified in the Terms of Reference (TOR).
3. The bidding documents shall be made available to the bidder only after submission of proof of payment in the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Leones (Le 500,000.00) into the National Public Procurement Authority – Revenue Account Number 0111-0039-81 held at the Bank of Sierra Leone. Note: BBAN is 000001011100398165.
4. A bid security in the amount of Le 25,000,000 (Twenty-Five Million Leones) in the form of a Bank Guarantee issued by a Local commercial Bank is required.
5. MOHS, NMSA and the PPP Unit will organize a pre-bid conference on Wednesday 20th October 2021 at the Conference Room of NMSA at 31 Murray Town Road, Freetown. This conference will be open to all interested parties, including those who have purchased bidding documents.
6. Interested firms must submit their pre-qualification documents and bids on or before 13:00 Hours GMT on Wednesday 3rd November 2021 to the following address:

**Director of Procurement
National Medical Supplies Agency (NMSA)
31 Murray Town Road
Freetown - Sierra Leone.**

It MUST be noted that late bids shall not be accepted.

7. The procurement will be conducted through an open competitive process as guided by the Public Procurement Act of 2016.
8. Contract duration shall not be more than three years, with an opportunity for extension based on performance and prerogative of the Contracting Authority.
9. The procuring agency reserves the right to reject bids and/or annul the bidding process at any time prior to the award of contracts, without incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

For further information, please refer to:

**Director of Procurement
National Medical Supplies Agency (NMSA)
31 Murray Town Road
Freetown
Sierra Leone**

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Mobile: +232-78-523827

Date Issued: 27th September 2021

Name and Signature of the MD, NMSA: