

PRESS RELEASE

ZIKV diagnostics Request for Proposal launched; \$10 million Advance Purchase Commitment created

Copenhagen, 28 February 2017 – UNICEF has launched a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the supply of Zika virus (ZIKV) diagnostics for testing at point-of-care (POC) during 2017 through 2019. The goal of the RFP is to ensure access and availability of quality assured, diagnostic testing by supporting the accelerated development of novel devices. There is currently no ZIKV diagnostics testing at point-of-care available. The successful development of affordable products will help create a healthy and sustainable market for these types of tests.

A \$10 million investment by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is enabling UNICEF to create an Advance Purchase Commitment (APC), which aims to reduce demand uncertainty for manufacturers who invest in research and development (R&D) in new products. An RFP for suppliers to respond to this APC has been issued in February, 2017.

“Through this \$10 million advance purchase commitment, we will be able to make commitments to suppliers guaranteeing purchasing of diagnostic devices that meets target performance characteristics, even before those products are commercially available. This will help further motivate companies to accelerate appropriate product development and scale-up of manufacturing capacity to meet this emerging need, while also offering the product at an affordable price,” says Shanelle Hall, Director UNICEF Supply Division.

70 countries and territories have reported evidence of mosquito-borne ZIKV transmission since 2015 of which 29 are experiencing cases of microcephaly or other congenital disorders, attributable to ZIKV. According to the WHO, the spread of the virus remains a major public health and child rights concern.

ZIKV is one of the disease areas included in UNICEF’s Health Emergency Preparedness Initiative. UNICEF is engaged in efforts to enable development of both diagnostics and vaccines. It is working with industry and partners to develop and make commercially available point-of-care diagnostics for ZIKV.

In April 2016, after a consultation process, WHO, PAHO and UNICEF published Target Product Profiles (TPPs) which define the desired characteristics of diagnostic tests for ZIKV, and summarize additional considerations such as technical challenges to test development and the limits of the current scientific understanding of the virus.

UNICEF Supply Division hosted an industry consultation in Copenhagen in May 2016 and convened partners and diagnostics and vaccine manufacturers to encourage the acceleration of R&D and to advance the commercial environment to address gaps in vaccine and ZIKV diagnostics. UNICEF also convened a ZIKV diagnostics webinar in August 2016 as a follow-up on the industry consultation to update industry and partners on current

developments, revised demand profiles, including UNICEF's procurement approach and timelines for a ZIKV diagnostics tender.

UNICEF has worked with USAID to develop the APC which is included in the RFP now issued. The deadline for the RFP is 7 March, 2017.

Notes to editors

The Request for Proposal (RFP) can be found here https://www.unicef.org/supply/index_94874.html

The Target Product Profile (TPP) can be found here https://www.unicef.org/supply/index_91816.html

More on this innovation project can be found here: https://www.unicef.org/innovation/innovation_94566.html

About UNICEF

UNICEF promotes the rights and wellbeing of every child, in everything we do. Together with our partners, we work in 190 countries and territories to translate that commitment into practical action, focusing special effort on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded children, to the benefit of all children, everywhere.

For more information about UNICEF and its work for children, visit www.unicef.org

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