

ToR Job vacancy at VSF Italy

Expert in animal health and transboundary animal diseases in conflict zones

- Job title: Expert in animal health and transboundary animal diseases in conflict zones
- Location: home based (50% FTE), with 1 mission/semester to study areas and participation to regular meetings and briefing to VSF managers to be held via web conference or at VSF HQ in Legnaro (Padua, Italy) or other convenient locations.
- Starting date: January 2019
- Duration of the contract: 1 year, renewable
- Monthly Gross Salary Range: 1,000 - 1,300 EUR (50% FTE) according to the expertise and profile of the candidate
- Application deadline: 30th September 2018

Application procedure

Send your CV and motivation letter to job@veterinarisenzafrontiere.it. Only preselected candidates will be contacted.

Project Description

The overall objective of the Horizon 2020 Project “Addressing the dual emerging threats of African Swine Fever and Lumpy Skin Disease in Europe” (DEFEND) is to control the growing Lumpy skin disease (LSD) and African swine fever (ASF) epidemics in Europe and neighbouring countries by understanding the drivers of viruses emergence, and by generating research outputs which underpin novel diagnostic tools and vaccines, and authenticate appropriate and rapid responses by decision-makers.

Veterinari Senza Frontiere Italia (SIVtro VSF Italia), in collaboration with the Migration Policy Centre (MPC) of the European University Institute, leads the DEFEND workpackage 3 (WP3) “Conflict, migration and virus spread”, aiming at understanding how conflict impacts the spread of transboundary animal diseases, in the Middle East, Eastern Europe and the Caucasus.

In the framework of DEFEND WP3, three target areas have been identified:

- border zones between Syria and Turkey/Lebanon
- border zones in the Balkans - Bulgaria/Greece
- border zones between Ukraine and Moldavia

Main tasks to be carried out by the expert in the DEFEND WP3:

- Literature review on conflict and the emergence of animal diseases, disease control systems used in conflict zones;
- Development of locally-tailored fieldwork methodology for each of the three target areas, utilising Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) techniques;
- Identification of key issues through the organization of seminars and stakeholders’ consultations at country level;
- Development of focus groups and /or survey questionnaire and analysis of the results;

- Establishment of field networks;
- Data and information collection on the defined PRA methodology;
- Supervision and monitoring of fieldwork activities with one mission per semester in each target area;
- Analysis of gathered data and provide DEFEND partners with information, tools and data for implementation, including a report of fieldwork experiences, maps, routes, types of transboundary movements, risk factors, and a methodological report on the implementation techniques of fieldwork activities in a comparative perspective;
- Validate and verify the project outcomes to assess if/how the methodology, information, tools and data have been instrumental in policies and strategies devised
- Participation to local workshops for Restitution, Validation and Verification
- Preparation of internal and external reports to ensure an effective information flow and external reporting deadlines are met;
- Participation to coordination meetings and other working groups or meetings as required;
- Drafting of final reports containing recommendations for strategies to control LSD and ASF spread in conflict zones.

Your key responsibilities:

1. To guarantee that all above mentioned tasks assigned to VSF Italy included in WP3 are successfully performed, in collaboration with social scientists at the MPC;
2. To generate sound and consistent data/knowledge on how human and animal migration routes and dynamics are affected by conflict;
3. To identify and analyse risk factors for the spread of animal diseases related to conflict-associated changes in mobility and trade patterns around conflict zones;
4. To tailor and test a methodology for data and info collection on disease emergence and spreading in conflict areas;
5. To establish local networks for data/info collection and for potential verification and monitoring of livestock/products movements, with a view to support rapid response decision-making in target areas.

The work will be carried out under coordination with the DEFEND Project Manager. The Expert will coordinate and supervise the work of any other Expert contracted under WP3 for field missions in the target areas.

Selection criteria and requirements

Professional experience:

- Minimum 5 years of relevant working experience in related fields;
- Previous work experience with NGOs in project management, preferably in conflict areas and/or with refugees;
- Previous work experience in target areas will be considered an asset.

Education and skills:

- At least 3 years attested by a Degree in Veterinary Medicine, or other animal health related topic

- Advanced university degree or equivalent in the field of Transboundary Animal Diseases and/or veterinary epidemiology;
- Fluent written and spoken English; other languages of the target areas will be considered as an asset;
- Good reporting skills;
- Statistical analysis and data management;
- Familiarity with socio-political dynamics in conflict areas and anthropological aspects of conflict-affected people, refugee and displaced people
- Familiarity with food security issues in conflict areas, especially related to rural livelihoods and livestock related issues
- Strong interpersonal relationships;
- Good communication and leadership skills;
- Ability to perform under pressure and stress condition, in particular in relation to conflict areas;
- Capacity to work autonomously and in problems prevention/resolution;
- Good adaptability to difficult field situations.