
EAST, CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN
AFRICA HEALTH COMMUNITY
(ECSA-HC)



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Ref:

Date: 3rd/04/2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

PS: Malawi

RE: Request for authorization to conduct a 5 days meeting with Malawi's EBS focal technical persons regarding the development of a national Digital EBS platform and execution of the meeting resolutions and recommendation.

The East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC) presents its compliments to the Republic of Malawi and wishes to seek permission from your esteemed Ministry to conduct a meeting in Malawi as well as allowing the support to Malawi to develop digital Event-Based Disease Surveillance (EBS) system.

ECSA-HC is a regional inter-governmental health organization that aims to improve health services' efficiency and effectiveness in East, Central and Southern Africa. The organization is collaborating with member states and partners to promote the highest standards of health for individuals, families, and communities. In furtherance of this objective, the Strengthening Pandemic Preparedness in the Eastern, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (SPP) project was launched on March 11th, 2022, through a collaboration between the Ministry of Health, Republic of Mozambique, and ECSA-HC. This project aimed to improve epidemic preparedness in the project countries of Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Zambia.

In Malawi, transitioning from a manual, paper-based Event-Based Surveillance (EBS) system to a digital one is a significant and important step. The current manual system may present challenges in early detection and response to health events and public health emergencies. Acknowledging the potential benefits of this transition, ECSA-HC, through the SPP, is eager to offer support to Malawi in adopting a modern digital EBS system that leverages mobile, web, and data analytics applications.

As a proactive step towards realizing this vision, ECSA-HC has arranged a five-day meeting in Malawi, proposed for April 24th to 28th, 2023. The primary objective of this meeting is to engage and collaborate with Malawi's technical EBS and ICT teams to lay the foundation for a new digital EBS system. By incorporating essential functionalities from the ground up, the aim is to create a fully operational EBS system that significantly reduces paper/manual processes and facilitates swift detection and response to

health events. The objectives of this meeting are to develop a comprehensive plan for establishing a digital EBS system in Malawi that addresses all the national requirements and EBS guidelines adopted by Malawi and enhance the country's capacity to detect and respond to disease outbreaks and other health emergencies in a timely and effective manner. The meeting will bring together experts and stakeholders from different sectors to discuss and engage in activities that support the development of the digital EBS system.

ECSA-HC humbly requests the esteemed Ministry of Health's authorization to conduct a meeting focused on the development of a digital EBS system. We believe that collaborating closely with Malawi's experts will lead to a successful and sustainable outcome. The specific objectives of this meeting will include establishing the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the digital EBS system, deliberating on software development methodologies, and developing system design conceptual documents. Furthermore, we will review user requirements for the digital EBS system.

In addition, we plan to explore sustainability plans and maintenance strategies for the system, determine execution timelines, address system deployment and testing strategies, and identify user training and capacity-building needs. We would be deeply honored to receive your support and guidance as we work together to enhance public health management in Malawi. ECSA-HC appreciates the Ministry's continued support and cooperation in strengthening the health systems in Malawi and the region

Accept Permanent Secretary.....

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Yoswa Dambisya

Director General