



Independent Contractor Solicitation:
***Technical Review of the Burkina Faso
Oxygen Systems Strengthening Impact
Evaluation Protocol***

Funded by: GiveWell

Date Issued: August 28, 2026

Terms

A. Background

The Clinton Health Access Initiative, Inc. (CHAI) is a global health organization committed to saving lives and improving health outcomes in low- and middle-income countries by enabling the government and private sector to strengthen and sustain quality health systems. For more information, please visit www.clintonhealthaccess.org

CHAI, in partnership with GiveWell, is implementing *Closing the Oxygen Gap*, a four-year program (2026-2030) to strengthen sustainable access to medical oxygen across 35 Centres Médicaux avec Antenne Chirurgicale (CMAs) in Burkina Faso, with the aim of reducing preventable child mortality from hypoxemia and pneumonia. The program is evaluating its effect on hypoxemia detection, oxygen provision, and pediatric mortality through a pre/post comparison across the 35 CMAs, drawing on a retrospective inpatient case note review, a retrospective outpatient register review, and a prospective inpatient quality-of-care observational cohort.

CHAI has developed a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Plan for the program, which is serving as the foundation for a detailed research protocol to be submitted to CHAI's Scientific and Ethics Review Committee (SERC).

CHAI is seeking an independent consultant to conduct a technical and organisational review of this protocol and its associated data collection tools, and to provide technical input on their design and implementation in collaboration with the CHAI team, to help ensure the final protocol and tools are methodologically rigorous and align with best practices in the field. Consistent with the program's data quality assurance plan, the consultant should not have been involved in developing the protocol or tools under review, and will not be engaged to implement the resulting evaluation. Individuals are invited to submit applications in response to this INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR SOLICITATION in accordance with Section D that provides Instructions for Preparation of Application and Submission to CHAI.

This INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR SOLICITATION does not obligate CHAI to make an award or fund an applicant, nor does it commit CHAI to reimburse for the costs incurred for application preparation. CHAI will accept no fee for the submission of these applications. CHAI makes no representations or warranties and will not incur any liability under any law as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the information contained in the INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR SOLICITATION.

B. Application Dates and Requirements

The below table summarizes key dates in the INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR SOLICITATION process. Applicants are expected to comply with these dates and deadlines. CHAI reserves the right to modify the dates at its discretion.

Milestone	Date and Time
INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR SOLICITATION Released	August 28 2026
Applications due	September 20, 2026
Estimated award of Agreement	Week of September 28, 2026

1. Application Submission and Validity

All responses to this INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR SOLICITATION must be submitted by the date above and must comply with the instructions and preparation of application and submission to CHAI available on section D. Offers must be submitted electronically only to gempurchase@clintonhealthaccess.org CHAI reserves the right to evaluate late offers at its discretion. By submitting this application, the applicant confirms that the application is valid for a period of 60 days.

2. Award

CHAI will examine the offers to determine if they are complete, comply with all the conditions of the INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR SOLICITATION, and are in general order. CHAI anticipates making one award to one individual; but reserves the right to make no award, or to make multiple awards.

3. Evaluation Criteria and Selection Process

CHAI will evaluate complete, compliant applications against the following criteria:

Evaluation Criteria	Weight
Relevant Experience (Section D.1.a)	25%
Review Approach (Section D.1.b)	25%
Work Sample (Section D.1.c)	25%
Rate (Section D.3)	25%
Total	100%

As part of the evaluation process, CHAI may request an interview with select applicants to discuss their application further.

C. Eligibility Requirements

Applicants are required to be eligible to work remotely, with reliable internet access required. They are expected to be available for scheduled calls with the CHAI team during standard business hours across relevant time zones. CHAI does not sponsor work authorization for Independent Contractors. Applicants may submit applications either as individuals or under an LLC or similar designation. These businesses must be legally registered. A valid copy of a business license and/or registration must be provided in the offer submission. All offers must be submitted using Annex A below and must be signed by cognizant officers of the organization. Applicants must not have participated in developing the study protocol or tools under review, and must not anticipate being engaged to implement the resulting evaluation.

D. Instructions for Preparation of Application

Applicants are required to use the form in Annex A, below, to reply to this INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR SOLICITATION. Failure to provide all the information required by the INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR SOLICITATION or submitting an offer that does not respond to the INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR SOLICITATION in all respects may result in the rejection or disqualification of the offer. The information that the respondent considers proprietary must be clearly marked as such. All such information will be treated confidentially and used by CHAI for evaluation purposes only.

1. Technical Application

Applicants are required to write a technical response to the scope of work in Section F, Scope of Work and Deliverables.

a. Relevant Experience: Briefly describe your experience with work similar to this scope – including experience designing, implementing, or reviewing monitoring and evaluation protocols for public health programs, ideally including pre/post or other quasi-experimental study designs.

b. Review Approach: Describe how you would approach reviewing a study protocol and data collection tools, including how you would assess methodological rigor and feasibility, and how you would structure your feedback so the CHAI team can act on it efficiently.

c. Work Sample: Submit at least one example of a protocol review, study design memo, or similar technical document you have authored or contributed to. If the sample was produced collaboratively, please note your specific contribution.

2. References

Applicants must complete the table in Annex A with references.

3. Rate

The resultant agreement will be an independent contractor agreement that is deliverables based with a fixed cost for each deliverable. We ask for rate quotations to be reflected as an hourly rate with the estimated number of hours required to complete each deliverable. Once the agreement is signed, no additional fees, taxes, or costs may be added post award. All rates must be made in USD.

4. Curriculum Vitae (CV)

Applicants must submit a complete CV as an attachment to the application.

E. Terms and Conditions of Independent Contractor Agreement

Any agreement that results from this solicitation will be subject to CHAI's standard agreement terms and conditions. A copy is available upon request. For the purpose of this solicitation, please note that the following terms apply:

I. Confidentiality: Information which the applicant considers to be confidential or proprietary must be clearly marked as such. All such information is treated as confidential by CHAI for assessment purposes only. Should the applicant anticipate submitting confidential or proprietary information to CHAI, please contact the POC for this solicitations to request a copy of CHAI's standard NDA.

II. Ethical Conduct and Conflicts of Interest: In accordance with CHAI's Global Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest policy, CHAI is committed to conducting IC solicitations with integrity and objectively selecting suppliers and vendors. CHAI maintains a zero-tolerance policy for acts including but not limited to collusion among vendors, submitting falsified bids, bribery, and/or other forms of fraud. Applicants engaging in such conduct will be disqualified from current and future opportunities. CHAI employees and others acting on CHAI's behalf are prohibited from accepting or asking for bribes, gifts, fees, or any other object of value or compensation related to doing business. Contact ethics@clintonhealthaccess.org with any questions or concerns or to report any violations, or the CHAI Whistleblower Hotline at chai@integritycounts.ca (+1 866-921-6714 [Toll-Free U.S.] or +1 604-922-5953 [International]).

F. Scope of Work and Deliverables

1. Scope of Work

Purpose: CHAI is seeking to hire an independent consultant to conduct a technical review of the study protocol and data collection tools developed to evaluate CHAI's Oxygen Systems Strengthening program across 35 district hospitals - Centres Médicaux avec Antenne Chirurgicale (CMAs) in Burkina Faso (*Closing the Oxygen Gap*), and to provide technical input on the design in collaboration with the CHAI team, to ensure the final protocol and tools are methodologically rigorous and align with best practices in the field in Burkina Faso.

Program Description: Closing the Oxygen Gap is a four-year program (2026-2030), funded by GiveWell, to strengthen sustained access to medical oxygen across 35 CMAs in Burkina Faso, through:

- (1) procurement and installation of oxygen concentrators, pulse oximeters, and backup power systems;
- (2) clinical and biomedical staff training;
- (3) a two-tier facility- and district-level maintenance system;
- (4) a monitoring, evaluation, and learning framework to assess the program's effect on hypoxemia detection, oxygen provision, and pediatric mortality.

Objective: the consultant will review the current draft study protocol and data collection tools, and provide written technical feedback and recommendations on the study design, data collection methods and instruments, and analysis plan. The consultant will work under the guidance of CHAI's Manager for M&E and Impact Evaluation on this program, in collaboration with CHAI's Global Essential Medicines (GEM) and Analytics and Research (AIR) teams.

Scope and Key Considerations

- Review the draft evaluation protocol's study design: a pre/post comparison across the 35 CMAs, with a primary outcome of change in the proportion of hypoxemic pediatric and neonatal inpatients receiving medical oxygen, and secondary outcomes including all-cause and respiratory infection mortality, pulse oximetry coverage, and oxygen therapy quality.
- Review the MEL Plan's theory of change and program indicator framework (the KPI series and supporting process indicators) for coherence with the study design and data collection tools.
- Assess the appropriateness of the three proposed data collection tools: (i) the retrospective inpatient case note review form, (ii) the retrospective outpatient register review form, and (iii) the prospective inpatient quality-of-care observational cohort tool.
- Review the proposed analysis plan, including the approach to adjusting for time-varying confounders (e.g., disease severity, referral patterns, age mix) and any planned regression modeling.
- Collaborate with CHAI to develop quality-of-care indicators related to oxygen therapy and methodology for measuring quality-of-care indicators
- Assess the data quality assurance plan, including planned spot checks, chart back-check audits, and supervision visit protocols, and recommend improvements where appropriate.
- Provide recommendations on alignment with best practices and comparable oxygen systems strengthening evaluations in similar contexts.
 - Participate in call, email exchanges or online workshops with the CHAI team to discuss findings and recommendations.
 - Deliver a written technical review memo summarizing findings and recommended revisions to the protocol and tools.
 - Participate in iterative development and improvements as needed.

Qualifications

- Advanced degree (Master's or PhD) in epidemiology, biostatistics, public health, or a related field.
- At least 7 years of experience designing and/or reviewing monitoring and evaluation protocols for public health programs, including quasi-experimental or pre/post study designs.
- Experience with facility-based clinical data collection in low- and middle-income countries.
 - Familiarity with pediatric respiratory illness, hypoxemia, or oxygen systems strengthening programs is an advantage.

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills and fluency in English; high intermediate French language skills is desired.
- Demonstrated ability to deliver clear, actionable technical feedback within short timelines.

2. Deliverables and Deliverables Schedule

Deliverable	Target Timeline	Payment
Kick-off call with CHAI's M&E and Impact Evaluation team to review background materials and confirm scope	Week 1	
Written technical review memo of the draft protocol and tools, with specific recommendations	Week 3	Payment 1
Validation call with the CHAI team (and GiveWell, as relevant) to discuss findings	Week 4	
Final review memo incorporating any additional feedback	Week 6	Payment 2

3. Period of Performance

Timeline: Starting October 2026 for approximately 6 weeks, though open to recommendations based on the consultant's understanding of the protocol and similar review engagements.

Annex A: Independent Contractor Application Form

To: gempurchasement@clintonhealthaccess.org
Reference: BFAOXY-IC-2026-001
Your Name: [Insert your name and LLC name if applicable]

General

I, the undersigned, hereby provide this offer to perform the work described in the referenced INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR SOLICITATION. I acknowledge and agree to all terms and conditions. I certify that I/my business entity is eligible to participate in this solicitation and that I am not debarred, nor on any watchlist or sanctions list. I further certify that, to the best of my knowledge, I have no close, familial, or financial relationships with CHAI staff or individuals representing CHAI; and that I have no close, familial, or financial relationships with any other individuals replying to this INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR SOLICITATION. I further certify that I was not involved in developing the study protocol or tools under review, and do not anticipate being engaged to implement the resulting evaluation. If I become aware of a potential conflict I will immediately notify ethics@clintonhealthaccess.org.

My application remains valid for 60 days from the date of submission.

General Information	
Name	
Address	
Phone Number	
Business registration information (name, RCCM, IFU)	

Past Performance

I hereby provide three references for similar work that I acknowledge may be contacted at any time by CHAI.

Past Performance	
Reference 1 - Company, Entity, or Individual Name - Contact Information - Brief description of work	
Reference 2 - Company, Entity, or Individual Name - Contact Information - Brief description of work	
Reference 3 - Company, Entity, or Individual Name - Contact Information - Brief description of work	

Technical Application

a. Relevant Experience: Briefly describe your experience with work similar to this scope – including experience designing, implementing, or reviewing monitoring and evaluation protocols for public health programs, ideally including pre/post or other quasi-experimental study designs.

b. Review Approach: Describe how you would approach reviewing a study protocol and data collection tools, including how you would assess methodological rigor and feasibility, and how you would structure your feedback so the CHAI team can act on it efficiently.

c. Work Sample: *(Required)* Submit at least one example of a protocol review, study design memo, or similar technical document you have authored or contributed to. If the sample was produced collaboratively, please note your specific contribution.

Rate

Please reflect the estimated costs associated with each deliverable as an hourly rate with the estimated number of hours required for completion along with any ancillary costs such as materials or subscriptions.

Signature

Name (Printed):

Title

Signature

Date

Attachment: CV