Request for Proposals (RFP) from digital health solution providers to enable COVID RDT data capture

BACKGROUND

The ACT-Accelerator (ACT-A), announced by the WHO Director General and world leaders on 24 April 2020, is a ground-breaking global collaboration to accelerate development, production, and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines.

The Diagnostics Pillar of ACT-A is jointly co-convened by FIND and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. It brings together partners around a shared agenda to ensure the right diagnostic test is available for all who need it by spurring innovation in new diagnostic tests and digital solutions, creating effective and efficient markets, ensuring supply and expanding capacity to deliver tests to communities.

As part of its role as co-convener, FIND is working towards supporting countries in implementing an effective test-trace-isolate response using digital tools. To this end, FIND is looking to partner with leading digital solution providers to accelerate the development and deployment of a set of minimum functionalities for the collection of COVID rapid diagnostic test (RDT) data and supporting incorporation of these functionalities into existing digital tools for use in low- and middle-income country (LMIC) settings.

This effort is aimed at supporting LMIC partners in easy collection of data from COVID antigen RDT results at a decentralized level for use in patient care, disease surveillance, and supply chain management, as well as for relevant use cases to support pandemic response.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to identify and work with **developers of existing digital health solutions** already in use in LMICs at community level who will undertake the development and inclusion of a minimum set of functionalities for COVID-19 RDT data capture.

The development of these solutions will follow a design thinking and co-creation approach (including end-user testing and collection of feedback from users and implementing partners in LMICs). Depending on provider performance and usability feedback, there is potential for further collaboration with partners selected under this RFP for broader RDT-related diagnostic data collection platforms.

This scope of work is expected to be undertaken in line with the Principles for Digital Development[1] and will build on the existing work undertaken on developing common data

[1] https://digitalprinciples.org/

exchange formats for COVID-19. It is imperative that end users are able to use exiting digital solutions currently deployed in their countries or programmes (not forced to use alternative digital solutions) to collect RDT data relating to COVID-19, so we are keen to work with partners who can demonstrate the repurposing of existing digital data collection tools.

Data collection and usage should follow the Framework for the governance of personal data for the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator. Additionally, for partners who are looking to develop their own digital health solutions for RDT data collection, the characteristics specified in Appendices 1 and 2 can inform product design.

WHO IS INVITED TO RESPOND TO THIS RFP?

Any organization, institution or entity who specializes in the development and implementation of digital health solutions for healthcare data collection in LMICs.

ADVANTAGES

- Access to funding
- Benefitting from FIND's technical and global health experience
- Collaborations with LMIC partners

TIMELINES

It is anticipated that the RDT data collection functionalities and workflows should be available for deployment by the end of Q2 2021.

HOW TO APPLY

Submit proposals via the FIND technology scouting submission webform. Please select '**ACT-A Dx: COVID-19 RDT Data Capture**' as the 'Disease Area' on the form and upload the completed submission template along with any supporting materials.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

The RFP timeline is indicated in the table below; the deadline for full proposal reception is **28 April 2021 by 18h00 Central European Time (CET).** Proposals received after the deadline shall be considered invalid.

Activity	Date
RFP published	07/04/2021
Deadline for RFP questions	14/04/2021
RFP Closing time [18h00 Geneva time]	28/04/2021

Any questions should be submitted in writing to act-a-rdt-data-capture@finddx.org no later than **14 April 2021**.

EVALUATION AND AWARD PROCESS

Proposals will be assessed, and partners selected, through a systematic process. The process is designed to be an objective, independent and transparent way to ensure that the most suitable technologies are supported, potential conflicts of interest are avoided, and the global community understands and has access to the selection process and its outputs. The responses will be assessed on the criteria listed below by a panel of reviewers selected from the ACT-Accelerator R&D and Digital Health working group. A particular focus in the assessment will be put on:

- Current capability with respect to delivering on the RFP requirements as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2
- Organizational assessment
- Cost of the project

CONFIDENTIALITY

If required, FIND can sign a Confidentiality Disclosure Agreement (CDA) with interested developers prior to their RFP submission. FIND will not disclose the proposal to third parties without the prior written agreement of the proposal submitter.

CONDITIONS

Responding to the RFP is neither a contract or a commitment between FIND and the responder.

Appendix 1: Minimum set of data points to be captured under this scope of work

Respondents will be expected to detail their approach and associated costs for developing functionalities that enable the capture of the following data points, preferably in compliance with data exchange standards of International Patient Summary[2] (IPS):

Patient_Details

- Patient_First_Name
- Patient_Family_Name
- Age
- Gender
- Town
- Region
- Additional_Info

Test_Reference_Details

- Patient_ID – *Free Text/Constrained*
- Case_ID - *Free Text/Constrained*
- Test_Number - *Free Text/Constrained*
- Repeat_Test – *Yes/No*
    - Reason_Repeat - *List*
        - Additional_Info_Repeat_Test - *Free Text*

Symptoms

- Type - *List (Covid, future infection type)*
- Status – *List*
- How_Many_Days - *Number*
- Symptoms - *List*

RDT_Details

- RDT_Type - *List*
    - Other_Test_Type – *Free Text*
- RDT_Start_Time – *Automatic collection from app in background*

RDT_Results

- RDT_Result – *List*
- RDT_End_Time - *Automatic collection from app in background*
- Image_of_RDT – *Invoke Camera*
- RDT_Administrator – *Free Text*

Additional_Data

- Location - *Automatic collection from app in background if possible*
- Additional_Notes – *Free Text*

[2] https://international-patient-summary.net

Appendix 2: Target digital solution considerations

Respondents will be expected to describe which existing target digital solution they intend to modify for the inclusion of COVID RDT- related data capture. The successful uptake of the RDT-related data capture functionalities is, therefore, directly influenced by the product characteristics of the target application. An ideal set of characteristics for this target application is described below. This set of characteristics will be used as part of the evaluation process to evaluate the responses.

Characteristic	Description	Notes
Scope of the target application		
1.Target use setting	Community outreach (Level 0) and primary care (Level 1)	
2.Training requirements	Less than 2 hours of in-person training Same plus an option for users to train themselves (without a teacher). This could be done via the application itself or by providing web-based training resources	Assuming the users already use RDTs and mobile devices
3.Language support	Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, and Swahili	
Data characteristics		
4.Data ownership	Data ownership shall be in compliance with the in-country regulations and the Framework for the governance of personal data for the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator	
5.Data flow	De-identified output data can be exchanged with different authorities with authorization by local authorities	
6.Data exchange standards	The application supports at least one of the following formats: HL7 (Health Level Seven International), FHIR (Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources), ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials), LOINC (Logical Observation Identifiers, Names and Codes) or JSON	For connections to systems such as LISs (Lab Information Systems), DHIS2 (District Health Information Software), EHRs (Electronic Health Records), national registries and surveillance systems

Characteristic	Description	Notes
	(JavaScript Object Notation) to expose the collected data to other systems	
7.Handling of intermittent connections	The user shall be able to perform tests offline, in which case the application shall transmit that data when back online	
8.Security and privacy	To facilitate use by health programs in accordance with the laws, regulations and policies of their settings and following best practices, the app shall provide configurable features so that personal data can be (a) gathered transparently to users and patients, including consent (b) collected and processed only for purposes compatible with the health program's purposes (c) limited to what is relevant and necessary (d) collected accurately (e) stored in identifiable form no longer than necessary (f) secured for integrity and confidentiality, with encryption at rest and in transmission	(a)–(f) have been adapted from the EU General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR), article 5, sec. 1. Note that not all of the GDPR is relevant or appropriate to this product in these settings.
Pricing and licensing		
9.Pricing and licensing in LMICs	The pricing and licensing structure should be adapted to LMICs	

Appendix 3: RFP response template for digital solution developers

Download Word document here.