Research Consultant

National Demographic and Health Data Ecosystem Assessment

Consultancy Details

Approximate timeframe	November 2026 – January 2027
Estimated time	5–7 days

To Apply

Please send applications to sarora@prb.org by **Wednesday, December 2, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. UTC** (12:00 p.m. in Mali; 2:00 p.m. in Burundi; 5:00 p.m. in Pakistan; 7:00 p.m. in Western Indonesia (WIB), 8:00 p.m. in Central Indonesia (WITA), and 9:00 p.m. in Eastern Indonesia (WIT); and 7:00 a.m. U.S. Eastern Time), using the subject line **"Country Assessment Consultant Application – [Applicant Name]"**:

1. Resume / CV
2. Three professional references
3. Proposed daily rate (8 hours)
4. Country(ies) for which you are applying

Project Background

The Population Reference Bureau (PRB) is conducting a series of country assessments to hear directly from national stakeholders about the future of demographic and health data following the termination of the USAID-funded Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) Program. Through virtual or in-person interviews with key stakeholders, including data users, the assessments will examine how demographic and health data are produced, accessed, financed, and used; document emerging priorities; and capture country perspectives on opportunities to strengthen sustainable, country-owned data ecosystems.

Country assessments will be conducted in **Burundi, Indonesia, Mali, and Pakistan.** Consultants may apply to support one or more of these country assessments. Those with relevant expertise and networks across multiple countries may be selected to support more than one assessment.

Purpose

The Country Assessment Consultant will support PRB in implementing qualitative assessments of the national demographic and health data ecosystem. Working closely with the PRB team, the consultant will help identify key stakeholders, facilitate interviews, and provide country-specific insights to ensure the assessment captures a broad range of perspectives on the production, access, and use of demographic and health data.

While PRB anticipates identifying many national data steward contacts (e.g., National Statistical Offices and other government counterparts), consultants are expected to bring strong knowledge of their country's demographic data landscape and advise on additional priority stakeholders, particularly among data users such as line ministries and civil society.

Consultants should anticipate conducting approximately 10 key informant interviews, although the final number may vary by country depending on stakeholder availability and the assessment needs. Interviews may be

conducted virtually. PRB will provide the interview protocol, training, consent procedures, and ongoing technical support throughout implementation.

Responsibilities

The consultant will:

- Advise PRB on key institutions, organizations, and stakeholders relevant to the assessment.
- Recommend and use their networks to help source appropriate interview participants, particularly among data users (e.g., government, academia, civil society, implementing partners, and development partners).
- Coordinate interview scheduling with identified stakeholders.
- Conduct semi-structured key informant interviews using interview guides provided by PRB.
- Record interviews (with participant consent) and maintain appropriate documentation.
- Submit the audio recording for each interview where participant consent is provided. If a participant does not consent to audio recording, the consultant will take notes during the interview and prepare a detailed interview summary immediately afterward. Where feasible, a PRB team member may serve as a notetaker for unrecorded interviews.
- Communicate regularly with the PRB project team regarding recruitment progress, scheduling challenges, and emerging issues.

PRB will be responsible for transcription (where recordings are available), coding, and analysis.

Deliverables

Deliverable	Description
Interviewee recommendation list	Recommended interview participants, including contact information and rationale where appropriate.
Interview recruitment and progress tracker	A regularly updated tracker documenting outreach, interview scheduling, completed interviews, recruitment status, and any challenges or emerging issues requiring PRB's attention.
Interview package	Documentation of participants' written consent to audio recording (where provided); the corresponding audio recording (where consent is provided); or, for unrecorded interviews, interview notes or a detailed interview summary.

Preferred Qualifications

The ideal consultant will have:

- Strong knowledge of the country's demographic, health, and statistical data ecosystem, including familiarity with DHS and related survey programs.
- An established professional network among national data producers and users.
- Experience conducting qualitative interviews or other qualitative research activities (preferred). PRB will provide training on the interview protocol and procedures as needed.
- Excellent organizational and communication skills.

- Ability to work independently and maintain confidentiality.

Preference will be given to candidates based in the specific countries or regions where our assessments are conducted.

Consultants performing virtual interviews are responsible for ensuring their access to a high-speed internet connection and any software required for holding and recording interviews.