Expression of Interest

EVALUATION CONSULTANT – RESPOND MID-TERM REVIEW – RESPOND

Duration: estimated 55 days between June and August/ September 2026

Available Budget: $124,000, including travel

Location: Desk-based with travel in-country

Reports to: MEL Specialist, RESPOND

About Menzies School of Health Research and RESPOND

Menzies is a national leader in research and education that improves health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and populations across our region. As a leader in global and tropical research into life-threatening illnesses, Menzies continues to translate its research into effective partnerships and programs in communities across Australia and the Asia-Pacific region.

Menzies' Global & Tropical Health Division (GTH) was awarded a Strategic Partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in May 2024 under the Partnerships for a Health Region (PHR) initiative, Australia's flagship investment in health in the Indo-Pacific. The Regional Engagement in Surveillance and Response to Priority diseases, providing Opportunities for National Health System Strengthening and Development (RESPOND) program has engaged with partners in Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Malaysia, to support the development and implementation of initiatives that will build healthcare capacity and resilience in the region. Drawing on over 20 years of experience and established collaborations with governments and other stakeholders in the project countries, RESPOND will help build health systems' capacity to anticipate, prevent, detect, and control priority disease threats from May 2024 to 31 December 2027.

RESPOND has three End of Program Outcomes (EOPOs):

- EOPO1: Partner capacity for disease surveillance and laboratory diagnostics improved
- EOPO2: Ministry of Health clinical case management of priority disease is strengthened
- EOPO3: Operational and research evidence base informs Ministry of Health public Health policy and practice

In Indonesia, RESPOND is supporting partners to build stronger health systems to combat priority communicable diseases and contain the threat of antimicrobial drug resistance. The focus is on malaria and tuberculosis, with relevance for and impact on a wide range of communicable diseases and is building on established networks across the region. Program sites in Indonesia include Papua, North Sumatra and North Kalimantan.

In Timor-Leste, RESPOND continues to build on previous Menzies work, which helped develop evidence-based health policy and practice guidelines in Timor-Leste: it responds to Ministry of Health (MOH) requests for further capacity building in operational research, supporting Timorese health professionals to lead on the production and application of local evidence to guide public health decision-making. A side-by-side mentoring approach will support improvements in surveillance, laboratory, and clinical settings, strengthen capacity to use data for decision-making, and support the development and implementation of evidence-based public health policies. RESPOND will be delivered alongside complementary Menzies projects in Timor-Leste funded through a range of Australian Government and international funding schemes.

In Malaysia, the focus of RESPOND is to support the implementation and evaluation of novel approaches to communicable disease control, building on synergies with existing programs and international partners. Capacity building in health economics, operational research, research translation, and improved surveillance of zoonotic diseases has been identified as a key need. The program will build and expand upon a collaborative network of institutions across Malaysia and Australia established through previous projects funded by government departments in Malaysia, Australia and the USA.

RESPOND is at its mid-point of implementation and requires an independent mid-term review. We are seeking a suitably qualified individual or group to review progress, identify strengths and weaknesses and or opportunities for improvement, including any pain points identified in the programs' monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) system, processes (data collection and handling, synthesis and analysis and reporting), and provide accountability to both DFAT (donor) and Menzies, the implementing partner.

Objectives and scope of work

The scope of this review is across all of RESPOND and its activities delivered in Indonesia, Malaysia and Timor-Leste, with scope for evaluating cross-country delivery. This review covers activities in each of these contexts, and will also consider the full scope of RESPOND, including leadership and governance structure, its resourcing, systems and management (both in-country as well as broadly across RESPOND).

The review is an opportunity to gather information and to make recommendations to strengthen implementation to improve program delivery and outcomes.

Hence, the objectives of the mid-term review are to:

- Review progress of the initial implementation stage towards the EOPOs and CCIOs, and across all of RESPOND's relevant programs and activities between May 2024 and June 2026, including efforts towards sustainability.
    1. Review and assess how effectively Gender Equality, Disability Equity and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) responsiveness and other DFAT cross-cutting priorities (including First Nations) have been incorporated, monitored and reported on in RESPOND.
    2. Identify areas for improvement and make recommendations, including risk considerations, to support RESPOND in meeting its EOPOs and CCIOs by December 2027.
- Make recommendations for the sustainability and continuity of opportunities beyond current DFAT funding for RESPOND.

A full Terms of Reference is provided at Attachment 1below.

Expected outputs and deliverables

The following outputs and deliverables expected at the dates identified.

Deliverables	Days	Due Dates
Presentation on Approach and Mid-Term Review Plan	Up to 5 days	5 June 2026
Mid-Term Review Plan		15 June 2026
Data collection	Up to 25 days	25 July 2026
Presentation and no more than 5-page preliminary findings document	Up to 10 days	31 July 2026
First Draft Mid-term Review and Report	Up to 10 days (including revision)	15 August 2026
Final Mid-term review and report		30 August 2026

Selection criteria

Given that locally-led is a key principle of RESPOND, it is desirable that the lead evaluator or their team be based in SE Asia, preferably at one of the country sites, or that they have partners on the ground at all or preferably most of the sites for in-country engagement and data collection. However, Evaluators not located in the region but with substantial country site experience to contribute will also be considered.

The following key skills and capabilities are required:

- Extensive experience (>10 years) in undertaking evaluations and reviews in international development, particularly for DFAT-funded programs and in the relevant countries
    1. Experience in quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection, synthesis and analysis for the evaluation of development programs
    2. Demonstrated experience developing practical and accessible recommendations
    3. Relevant postgraduate qualifications or equivalent experience with high-level analysis and written skills
    4. Strong understanding, experience and knowledge of disease surveillance and health systems strengthening in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Have established networks and the ability to work with local partners/ researchers for data collection in Malaysia, Indonesia and Timor-Leste
- Demonstrated ability to produce evaluations that consider systems, programs, impact and cross-cutting themes including GEDSI and First Nations responsiveness. If in a consortia, please include skills and capabilities that meet this criteria.

Application process and terms of engagement

For further information or to submit your application please email globalhealthadmin@menzies.edu.au with the subject line RESPOND MID-TERM REVIEW.

Applications close Monday, 18 May 2026.

We welcome applications from individuals or consortia who meet the role's criteria.

Applications should include

1. Expression of Interest through a 1-2 page cover letter highlighting how you meet the requirements of the role. If you are applying as a group of consultants, please list each named consultant and their proposed role in the project.
2. A proposal outlining your approach to achieving each of the deliverables/outputs listed and travel plans included. The number of days against each deliverable is indicative only, and you may amend these if justified by your approach.
3. A curriculum vitae of no more than 4 pages clearly presenting skills, qualifications and experience relevant to this call. If the application is from a group of consultants, please provide the curriculum vitae of each consultant.
4. Your expected daily rate* and the details of two professional referees

Note:

*A daily fee rate for services inclusive of all professional and administrative fees, but exclusive of travel, accommodation and other such expenses

A selection panel may interview shortlisted applicants.

ATTACHMENT 1:

RESPOND Independent Mid-Term Review TOR

1. Background

The **R**egional **E**ngagement in **S**urveillance and response to **P**riority diseases, providing **O**pportunities for **N**ational health system strengthening and **D**evelopment (RESPOND) program is an AUD11.1 million Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) funded initiative under the Partnerships for a Healthy Region (PHR) grants.

RESPOND is delivered in Timor-Leste (TL), Indonesia (IN) and Malaysia (MY) between May 2024 and March 2028 and is focused on three End of Program Outcomes (EOPOs) and two Cross-cutting Intermediate Outcomes (CCIOs).

- **EOPO1:** Partner capacity (experience, expertise) for disease surveillance and laboratory diagnostics improved
- **EOPO 2:** Clinical case management of priority diseases (including rheumatic heart disease, tuberculosis, HIV and malaria) strengthened
- **EOPO 3:** Operational and research evidence base informs MOH public health policy and practice
- **CCIO 4:** Menzies and partners are better equipped to identify barriers to gender equality, disability equity and social inclusion (GEDSI) and utilise opportunities to inform public health policy and practice
- **CCIO 5:** Australian First Nations people and regional partners share experience and knowledge in health system strengthening

RESPOND is built on existing and new work that is undertaken in the region and contributes towards disease surveillance and improving laboratory diagnostics, strengthening clinical case management for priority diseases and strengthening the use of evidence-based in public health policy and practices. Areas addressed through RESPOND include strengthening clinical disease surveillance systems, laboratory capacity building to enhance disease detection, diagnosis, and case management for priority diseases across health systems in TL, Indonesia, and Malaria. Working with partners and stakeholders to deliver technical assistance, training, and provide additional support across priority areas of One Health, TB and malaria and working to combine technical support with health economics and policy expertise to inform national-level decision-making in Indonesia. Activities in Malaysia also include laboratory strengthening but has a strong focus on workforce development and institutional collaboration to enhance serological and genetic surveillance capacity across partner institutions, supported by targeted training in serology for malaria, henipavirus, rickettsioses, and melioidosis. These activities are delivered in alignment to its Program Logic (see **Annex A**).

The program is seeking an independent mid-term review to assess progress, identify strengths and weaknesses including any pain-points identified in the programs' monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) processes to provide accountability to both DFAT (donor) and Menzies as the implementing partner.

2. Objectives

Therefore, the objectives of this review are to:

Review progress of the initial implementation stage towards the EOPOs and CCIOs, and across all of RESPOND's relevant programs and activities between May 2024 and June 2026, including efforts towards sustainability.

1. Review and assess how effectively Gender Equality, Disability Equity and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) responsiveness and other DFAT cross-cutting priorities (including First Nations) have been incorporated, monitored and reported on in RESPOND.

2. Identify areas for improvement and make recommendations, including risk considerations, to support RESPOND in meeting its EOPOs and CCIOs by December 2027.

Make recommendations for the sustainability and continuity of opportunities beyond current DFAT funding for RESPOND.

3. Scope and key evaluation questions

RESPOND is delivered in country contexts of Timor-Leste, Indonesia and Malaysia with scope for cross-country delivery. The scope of this review covers activities in each of these contexts, but will also consider the full scope of RESPOND, including leadership and governance structure, its resourcing and management (both in-country as well as broadly across RESPOND). The review is an opportunity to gather information and to make recommendations to strengthen implementation to improve program delivery and outcomes.

The following key considerations should be included but it is anticipated that a Mid-term review plan will develop key evaluation questions and sub-questions and identify data collection methods and tools. These key evaluation questions have been designed in alignment to DFAT's Design and Monitoring and Evaluation Standards.

Key considerations:

Relevance

- To what extend is RESPOND aligned to PHR indicators, partner country priorities and other DFAT bilateral programs or DFAT Funds such as the Global Fund?
- How has RESPOND leveraged on other projects/ created synergies with other ongoing Menzies work in the countries? Are there opportunities not yet realised in this area?
- To what extend has RESPOND and its thematic areas aligned to in-country priorities including links and coordination with DFAT or other bilateral programs?
- To what extent does RESPOND address gender equality, disability equity, and social inclusion priorities within partner country health strategies and disease responses?

Effectiveness

- How and to what extend has RESPOND supported Timor-Leste, Indonesia and Malaysia to have stronger, more resilient, equitable approaches to detecting, preventing, and treating priority diseases?
- How and to what extent has partner capacity for disease surveillance, clinical case management and laboratory diagnostics improved and or strengthened across all RESPOND contexts?
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- To what extent has operational and research evidence informed MOH public health policy and practice?
- To what extent has RESPOND established effective communication, coordination, governance and strategic alignment across Menzies departments and teams (including Global Tropical Health) and with broader stakeholders to support coherent program delivery?

Efficiency

- How and to what extent has RESPOND demonstrated value for money and the efficient use of its resources to deliver against its outcomes?
- To what extent has RESPOND maximised opportunities for sharing knowledge and resources across project sites?

Sustainability

- To what extent are RESPOND's activities designed and implemented in ways that imbed and support sustainability beyond the life of the program?
- To what extent have RESPOND's approaches strengthened national and sub-national systems (e.g. policies, workforce capacity, institutional arrangements, financing, data systems) to support ongoing disease surveillance, laboratory diagnostics, and clinical case management?
- What risks and enablers exist for the sustainability of RESPOND outcomes, and how can these be addressed in the remaining implementation period?

Gender equality, disability equality and social inclusion (GEDSI)

- To what extent has RESPOND incorporated and embedded GEDSI considerations and priorities and activities across program design, implementation, partnerships, and MEL systems and how can these be strengthened?
- To what extent has RESPOND identified and addressed GEDSI related barriers and identified meaningful approaches to reducing those for the project period and beyond?
- To what extend has RESPOND progressed GEDSI across its cross-cutting priority.

Monitoring, evaluation and learning

- Is RESPOND's MEL system able to generate rigorous information and relevant information to inform evidence-based decision making?
- Are there opportunities for improved communication of results for RESPOND?

One Health and Climate Change

- How and to what extent has RESPOND contributed and advanced One Health priorities in the region and in alignment with partner government priorities?
- What opportunities exist to incorporate Climate Change into RESPOND's Results Framework?

First Nations Engagement

- How and to what extend has RESPOND delivered its Australian First Nations Engagement activities?

- What approaches have been used and what opportunities exist to learn from the approaches used for other contexts to improve future engagement?
- Were engagement strategies co-designed with Australian First Nations stakeholders, or developed internally then "consulted" on?
- Did the Australian First Nation and partners experience meaningful, respectful, beneficial and culturally safe engagement in all the activities?

Local context

- How and to what extent have RESPOND's activities strengthened capacity and advanced localisation in partner countries (e.g. transfer of management/ ownership of project activities; development of meaningful partnerships with local stakeholders).
- How can the RESPOND program strengthen its approach in delivering its activities in each of these local contexts?

4. Capabilities required and evaluation governance

Given that locally led is a key principle of RESPOND, it is desirable that the lead evaluator or their team be based in SE Asia, preferably at one of the country sites, or that they have partners on the ground at all or preferably most of the sites for in-country engagement and data collection. However, Evaluators not located in the region but with substantial country site experience to contribute will also be considered.

The following key skills and capabilities are required:

- Extensive experience (>10 years) in undertaking evaluations and reviews in international development, particularly for DFAT-funded programs and in the relevant countries
    1. Experience in quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection, synthesis and analysis for the evaluation of development programs
    2. Demonstrated experience developing practical and accessible recommendations
    3. Relevant postgraduate qualifications or equivalent experience with high-level analysis and written skills
    4. Strong understanding, experience and knowledge of disease surveillance and health systems strengthening in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Have established networks and the ability to work with local partners/ researchers for data collection in Malaysia, Indonesia and Timor-Leste
- Demonstrated ability to produce evaluations that consider systems, programs, impact and cross-cutting themes including GEDSI and First Nations responsiveness.

Desirable:

- Previous experience and knowledge of aid program activities, and or health systems strengthening, disease surveillance and or laboratory management and improvements, with delivery in low-resource and or low-capacity settings.
- Demonstrated experience integrating cross-cutting issues such as gender equality, disability equity, social inclusion, climate change and safeguards in health policy and programming.

- Based in or from the region
- Language skills in Bahasa Indonesian, Tetun and/or Bahasa Malayu.

Evaluation governance

The mid-term review team/person work will be oversighted by the Menzies RESPOND MEL Specialist and in close collaboration with the DFAT RESPOND Program Manager. The draft report will be tabled for consideration and comment by the RESPOND Reference Group at its August meeting, so timelines must take this into consideration.

5. Schedule

Task	Dates
Methodology, design and desktop review (up to 5 days)	June 2026
Data collection (includes travel) (up to 25 days)	July 2026
Data analysis and preliminary findings (up to 5 days)	July 2026
Preliminary findings Presentation (up to 10 days)	First week of August 2026
Mid-term Review Report (up to 10 days including revision)	August/ September 2026

6. Deliverables

The table below lists the deliverables associated with this work. Activities should include a desk-top review to enable an informed Review Plan due mid-June. It is expected that a Draft and Final Review Report will include the following minimum elements: Brief background and context, Executive Summary (no more than 5 pages), Key findings, Lessons Learnt, and Recommendations.

Structure of deliverables, as mentioned, is tentative and should be confirmed with Menzies prior to its development.

Deliverables	Due Dates
Presentation on Approach and Mid-Term Review Plan	5 June 2026
Mid-Term Review Plan	15 June 2026
Data collection	25 July 2026

Presentation and no more than 5-page preliminary findings document	31 July 2026
First Draft Mid-term Review and Report	15 August 2026
Final Mid-term review and report	7 September 2026

ANNEX A: RESPOND PROGRAM LOGIC

