

Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy (GPZL) Request for Proposal (RFP)

Develop and Maintain a Web-Based Database of Completed, and Ongoing Research Toward Zero Transmission.

Background

The Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy (GPZL) Zero Transmission Symposium (May 23–25, 2024, Bergen, Norway) brought together a diverse group of experts to discuss developments over 10 years to interrupt *Mycobacterium (M.) leprae* transmission, both in research and operationally. A previous symposium on zero transmission of *M. leprae* was held at the National School of Tropical Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine in Houston (USA) in 2014. In the 10 years that had passed since the first meeting a lot of new evidence has become available.

To achieve zero transmission of *M. leprae*, a collaborative and informed approach is essential. Continuous monitoring of research projects adding to the evidence related to zero transmission will enable prompt uptake of research results in leprosy control programmes, such as building blocks on the road to Zero Leprosy.

A central, web-based database of research (initiatives) focused on zero transmission to capture information on completed and ongoing projects will ensure stakeholders have access to the latest developments in the field. The database should be designed for frequent updates, ensuring it remains current and relevant. Direct crosslinks between the platform hosting the database and the GPZL website will enable easy access for all stakeholders and will promote collaboration among partners.

In view of the above, GPZL is willing to engage a qualified agency with proven expertise in developing web-based databases aligned with global standards. Accordingly, GPZL is issuing this RFP to invite submissions from eligible agencies based in India.

About Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy

The Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy (GPZL) headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland is a coalition committed to ending leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease. Our members include individuals and organizations who share our triple-zero vision of no disease, no disability, and no discrimination or stigma. Since its inception in 2018, GPZL's primary roles to advance towards zero leprosy are i) To convene expertise and influence, ii) To build and strengthen links, iii) To advocate nationally and internationally, and iv) To mobilize resources.

Objectives

To design, develop, and maintain a user-friendly, web-based database that provides up-to-date information on research projects focused on (zero) transmission of *M. leprae*, fostering collaboration among stakeholders.

Key Functions

Below are the key functions which we expect that the database should have -

A. User Interface & Navigation

- **Overview Page:**
 - **Top Banner with title of the Tool**
 - **Geographic Visualization** – Interactive map showing location of research projects and Clickable markers leading to project detail pages
- **Search options:** a search bar and filter options, to enable performing search queries in ongoing or completed studies on transmission of *M. leprae*:
 - geographic location (country)
 - start year
 - **main topic :**
 - epidemiology;
 - microbiological diagnosis;
 - immunodiagnostics;
 - genotyping; geospatial mapping;
 - elimination monitoring and transmission under low-endemic circumstances;
 - post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP);
 - modelling relevant to interruption of transmission of *M. leprae*;
 - One Health;
 - environmental transmission of *M. leprae*;
 - social determinants;
 - control programmes relevant to interruption of transmission of *M. leprae*;
 - organizations of persons affected by leprosy.
- **Call to action** with email address, for researchers to share information on relevant ongoing or completed studies.
- **Specific project information** on a separate page, after clicking on icon on map.
 - **Ongoing studies:**
Name of study; principal investigator; years of duration; geographic location (more specific information than just the name of the country); main (research) topic (see above); research question; methodology (brief); related organisations
- **Specific project information** on a separate page, after searching through search bar.
 - **Completed studies:**
Name of study; principal investigator; years of duration; geographic location (more specific information than just the name of the country); main (research) topic (see above); research question; methodology (brief), related organisations,
+ Link to main publication(s), abstract and/or main conclusions (if available)

- **Accessibility Compliance**

If possible, the web-based database needs to comply with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1, developed by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), to ensure accessibility for individuals with disabilities, including those with visual, auditory, cognitive, and motor impairments.

- The system should:

- Comply with **international metadata standards** (e.g., Dublin Core) to allow future integration
- Provide **usage analytics** (visitor counts, searches, downloads).

Target Groups

Researchers, funders, policy makers, and other stakeholders (e.g., program managers, communications experts) and individuals with lived experience of leprosy involved in or interested in zero transmission of M. leprae.

Scope of Work

The scope includes the following key activities:

1. Database Design and Development:

- Design build and test a user-friendly interface, including a geographic map, with functionalities to search and filter projects.
- Define layout, metadata fields, and taxonomy in consultation with GPZL.
- Use open-source technology stack (e.g., Python/Django, Node.js, PHP/Laravel, PostgreSQL/MySQL) to ensure compatibility with GPZL's platform.
- Propose hosting options (cloud-based or GPZL-managed, with cost implications) and facilitate integration into the GPZL website.
- Implement strong security protocols (data encryption, secure login, backup, and disaster recovery).
- Provide bulk upload/import tools for CSV/Excel.
- Enable role-based access (Admin, Editor, External Contributor), including admin functionality for GPZL to independently manage data.
- Ensure cross-browser compatibility and mobile responsiveness.

2. Technical Support, Maintenance, and Updates

- Develop a procedure for bi-annual data updates by GPZL to keep the database current.
- Provide an online form for researcher submissions, with email-triggered workflows and a moderation queue before publishing.
- Include audit trails for all edits and entries.
- Deliver an analytics dashboard (usage, searches, project counts).
- Provide technical documentation and training for GPZL staff.
- Offer technical support and bug fixes for at least one year post-launch, with options for extended maintenance.

Note: The database and expert group convened by GPZL will help ensure that research findings are rapidly translated into practice.

Deliverables

1. Inception, Prototype & Implementation Plan

- Inception plan outlining methodology, timelines, hosting recommendations, resource allocation, and risk mitigation strategies.
- Prototype demonstrating visual layouts, navigation flow, and user interactions.
- Incorporation of **at least 3 rounds of design feedback and revisions** based on GPZL's input.
- Implementation plan with revision cycles, feedback mechanisms, and quality assurance.

2. Final Version of the Database

- Fully functional, web-based database integrated into the GPZL website.
- Interactive map and searchable database of projects, with filter options and clickable map markers.
- Responsive design across mobile and desktop, with cross-browser compatibility.
- Analytics dashboard and data submission workflows fully functional.
- Complete Intellectual Property rights, source code, and technical documentation handed over to GPZL.
- Ensure permissions for public sharing of project data.

3. Training & Handover

- Training for GPZL staff on managing, updating, and troubleshooting the database.
- Step-by-step **User Manual and Data Entry Guide** with screenshots.
- Documented workflow for researcher submissions, moderation, and publication.

Note: All intellectual Property rights, source code, and documentation will belong exclusively to GPZL.

Role of GPZL

GPZL will:

- Provide overall project oversight and designate a focal point for communication.
- Review and approve inception report, prototype, test version, and final deliverable.
- Supply initial data structures, taxonomy, and examples of research projects.
- Validate research topic categories and ensure data privacy compliance.
- Conduct bi-annual data updates via the admin interface.
- Promote the database among researchers and stakeholders and manage researcher submissions through the online form.
- Promote and manage researcher submissions via an online form.

Timeline

Phase	Activities	Period
Costing & Agreement	Proposal submission, contract signing	Sep 2025
Design & Development	Database build, iterative testing	Sep - Nov 2025
Testing & Data Entry	Populates data	Dec 2025
Final Adjustments	Bug fixes, integration	Jan 2026
Launch	Public release	Jan 2026
Ongoing	Bi-annual updates, maintenance	Post-launch

Eligibility & Experience Criteria

- Minimum 7 years of proven experience in designing and developing interactive, map-based web databases for NGOs, research, or public health sectors.
- Proven capability in UI/UX design, database integration, and responsive web development.
- Ability to implement advanced search and filtering, ensure cross-browser and mobile compatibility, and comply with data privacy standards (e.g., General Data Protection Regulation).
- Experience embedding databases into existing platforms, enabling role-based data entry, and linking with other websites.
- Track record of delivering user-friendly interfaces, training materials, and capacity-building sessions.
- Capability to provide ongoing maintenance, technical support, and usage monitoring (visitors, searches, project counts).
- Prior work with public health, research, non-profits, or international development organizations will be an advantage.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated as follows:

- Technical Proposal – 60%
 - Understanding & methodology – 20%
 - Relevant experience & samples – 15%
 - Technology & security compliance – 15%
 - Work plan & timelines – 10%
- Financial Proposal – 30%
- Public Health/NGO/Research Experience – 10%

Application Process

Interested and eligible agencies are invited to submit a proposal that includes the following:

- Technical Proposal – Demonstrate understanding of the assignment, outline the proposed approach and methodology, provide a detailed work plan with timelines and key milestones, and specify the proposed technology stack and tools.
- Financial Proposal - Detailed cost breakdown covering development, testing, deployment, training, and technical support, along with any recurring costs (e.g., hosting, licensing). **Financial proposal needs to be submitted in INR (with taxes clearly stated). An excel sheet of budget calculation proposal should also be attached.**

Note: Agency need to submit at least two sample databases they have previously developed. Web links to these samples may be included as attachments or shared via email.

Proposals should be submitted by 10th September 2025 via email to admin@zeroleprosy.org with the subject line “Proposal – Web Database Development for GPZL”.