

Vacancy No.: UNAIDS/RST/PREV01

Date: 18 August 2020

Title: Regional Consultant for Key Population virtual space interventions and innovations in HIV testing **Application Deadline: 21 September 2020**

Organization unit: UNAIDS RST AP

Contract type: Consultant Contract

Duty station: Bangkok, Thailand

Duration of contract: Starting asap until 31 December 2021 Extension subject to availability of Extrabudgetary funding

1. PURPOSE OF THE POSITION

This consultant contract is created to assist WHO and UNAIDS in the Asia and Pacific Regional Office to support countries in the region as a technical expert on HIV testing services and digital and virtual space innovations for key population service provision. This position will assist the roll-out of efficient and effective HIV testing services which includes community based testing, as well as support introduction and scaling up of digital, mobile and internet technologies within national HIV programmes to facilitate HIV service delivery for key populations who are hard to reach with current interventions. This consultant will also support self-testing, partner services and broader HIV, hepatitis and STI interventions.

2. BACKGROUND

There has been significant progress in the global HIV response. A steadily increasing number of people are receiving antiretroviral treatment and prevention efforts have also made an impact in reducing new HIV infections. In the Asia and Pacific Region, where the HIV epidemic is concentrated amongst key populations, rapid declines in new HIV infection have slowed down and service coverage for key populations have stagnated. HIV testing is the entry point for HIV prevention and treatment however accessibility of HIV testing services for people who need them the most is low in many countries of the region. Regional average for First 90 is 75% and HIV testing rates are low among SW (52%), MSM (54%), TG (42%) and PWID (49%) which means that these populations are not being reached by existing testing services. HIV testing needs to get out of fixed locations run by the formal sector and be available as a non-formal and community-based service.

Testing services are not provided in isolation but as a package of services for key populations in a manner that is acceptable to them and in settings that are often outside the formal health sector. Such service delivery modalities have traditionally been concentrated on physical locations like brothels, bars and the like but with changing behaviours in the community, people needing these services are increasingly less accessible in physical locations and outreach mechanisms that target the mobile phone and the internet for service provision are needed. Countries in the region are looking to new approaches that will help them reach key populations who are not being reached and provide services.

UNAIDS Regional Office and WHO HQ HIV Department KPP team are looking to hire a suitable and experienced consultant to support the ongoing work in the region.

3. MAIN TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE POSITION

Task 1: Supporting countries in Asia Pacific region to adopt and implement WHO (2019) HIV Testing Guidelines and approaches for reaching and supporting key population (including digital innovation).

Deliverable 1.1 Supporting at least 10 countries (Philippines, Papua New Guinea, India, Pakistan and Indonesia among others) in the region to develop and implement HIV community based and self-testing policies.

Deliverable 1.2 Support countries in the region to transition testing strategies and algorithms, including discontinuing Western blotting (e.g. Philippines), venepuncture methods (e.g. Indonesia) and introducing simplified and rapid testing-based algorithms.

Deliverable 1.3 Supporting priority countries in the region to pilot and implement testing innovations.

Task 2: Support countries in the Asia Pacific region to introduce the component of virtual space interventions that include internet, mobile and mobile applications into their existing key population programmes.

Deliverable 2.1: Support at least 5 countries (fast track and priority countries-TBD)) to provide technical support to assess use of mobile and internet by key populations that have a bearing on HIV transmission and suggest ways to introduce interventions that addresses the risk.

Deliverable 2.2: Develop technical guidance manuals on introduction of virtual space interventions for key populations into national key population programmes

Task 3: Develop Asia Pacific implementation briefs and technical updates on best practices on use of digital and virtual tools and innovations to increase access to services among key populations and facilitate and support HIV testing services including linkage to prevention and care.

Performs other related duties as assigned, including replacing and backstopping for others as required.

Budget

The indicative maximum available budget for a 12 months contract is up to \$96,000, excluding the duty travel costs during the contract period.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Education:

Degrees / Certificates

University degree in nursing, medicine, public health or relevant social science degree

Experience:

Essential:

- 10 years of public health work experience, with at least five years of LMIC field experience and focus on key population service provision including HIV testing services and prevention, working with Ministries of Health and civil society/community-based organization in the area of key populations and proven experience in developing or implementing key population virtual space interventions.
- Demonstrated experience in designing testing strategies and algorithms and undertaking data collection using mobile and virtual space.
- Integrity and ability to handle confidential information in accordance with policies and protocols on use of information, data, and research.
- Knowledge of current trends in testing approaches, experience in drafting and/or handling testing strategies will be considered a strong advantage.
- Demonstrated experience in working with international organizations, governmental institutions, and non-governmental organizations.
- Excellent ability in writing and drafting of reports
- High level of computer literacy, including Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel.
- Excellent analytical, communication and negotiation skills.
- Ability to work under tight timelines.

- Ability to multi-task and work efficiently with minimal supervision.
- Strong intrapersonal skills demonstrated by the ability to work in a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity.

Languages:

Essential: Demonstrated high level of expertise and capacity to write and communicate in English (read – write – speak)

CLOSING DATE:

Interested applicants are requested to send their application letter and CV to rstap@unaids.org the closing date is 21 September 2020. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.