



Vacancy No.: UNAIDS/RST/PREV02

Date: 27 September 2021

Title: Consultant to develop approach paper on enhancing access to HIV commodities and services in Asia and the Pacific through nontraditional approaches

Application Deadline: 11 October 2021

Organization unit: UNAIDS RST AP

Contract type: Agreement on Performance of Work

Duration of contract: Starting as soon as possible

1. PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTANCY

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS – UNAIDS Asia and the Pacific is seeking for the consultant, individual/firm, to develop approach paper on enhancing access to HIV commodities and services in Asia and the Pacific through nontraditional approaches

2. BACKGROUND

Ending AIDS as a public health problem by 2030 is one of the targets in the context of achieving Sustainable Development Goals. This requires, among other enabling factors, universal access to HIV treatment and prevention services and commodities. Existing health services are often unable to provide these in an environment of competing priorities in the health sector and shrinking political commitment and resources. As scientific discoveries and applied research come up with new technologies, drug formulations and innovative products that are crucial in meeting the needs of HIV prevention and disease control among vulnerable communities, the capacity of health systems to provide access to them are being challenged. Innovative, nontraditional and cost effective service delivery approaches would also be required to address the growing challenge to provide access to these new products and services that are being piloted and rolled out in country settings.

UNAIDS is aware and aims to address the challenges that populations and countries face in promoting equitable access to these essential and innovative commodities and services and recognizes the need to use nontraditional methods of access. These nontraditional approaches could be based on learnings from the past and specifically when full potential of some approaches that were attractive in earlier contexts are not fully realized due to multiple reasons. The experience with Social Marketing and Social Franchising is a case in point. These approaches were widely used in the past to provide access to good quality and affordable condoms, SRHR services among others. Many developing countries used them with success and substantial capacities were built in countries to implement them. There would be other nontraditional approaches too, which supplemented the free service delivery mechanism in the public sector. Inexplicably and unnoticed, these methods gradually faded away and these days they are barely visible.

This approach paper will describe approaches like Social marketing, Social franchising and any other innovative methods beyond the traditional social marketing approaches practiced over the past few decades for promoting access to health commodities and services, document success, reasons for success and subsequent neglect and reasons, how the needs of the times may have changed and what is the current status of these approaches. The report will also explore the possibilities of reviving those approaches with modifications as necessary in the current context of promoting access to commodities

like self-test kits for HIV/Hepatitis/ other infections, PrEP formulations, Substitution drugs and demand driven prevention services that may not be feasible for existing systems to initiate or scale up.

Another area to be examined is the cost effectiveness of these approaches, possible use of innovative purchasing mechanisms and how they could be part of UHC packages or associated outreach mechanisms. Could the current national health insurance schemes which are often touted as the solution to UHC cover these approaches? How could civil society and community-based organizations be part of the proposed solution and document the experiences from social marketing with these organizations. How successfully have virtual spaces been used to promote access to newer HIV commodities?

In short, this approach paper that will inform a regional think tank meeting to be convened by UNAIDS, will summarize approaches and actions that have been taken over the past few decades in using nontraditional methods beyond the classic public sector driven approaches to provide health commodities and services. The report will assess how successful were those approaches and what are the lessons learnt that can be applied to revive those approaches in the current context considering recent developments in virtual technologies and in the fields of logistics and supplies management. The report will offer feasible suggestions to move forward for maximizing access to prevention commodities and services using nontraditional approaches that may include ways to convert traditional 'non consumers' to 'consumers' of products and services of interest to the HIV response.

Findings and recommendations from this paper will inform a regional roundtable meeting planned for later this year and stimulate discussions and thinking on innovative ways to make health commodities and services available to people who need them when current service delivery mechanisms are unable to meet demand.

3. SCOPE OF WORK

1. Desk review and Key informant interviews:
 - a) Perform a desk review of secondary information on best practices, annual reports from national and global publications available on past and existing social marketing schemes with emphasis on commodities and services offered, populations covered, procurement mechanisms, sales and marketing data and linkages with health systems.
 - b) To look for and document newer generation marketing approaches that go beyond traditional social marketing and use virtual technologies and advancements in logistics and supply management systems to expand the consumer base to include new profile of consumers of health and life style products.
 - c) In consultation with the UNAIDS Regional Advisor, identify stakeholders and practitioners in the AP region and elsewhere who will participate as key informants. (10-15 interviews)
 - d) In consultation with the UNAIDS Regional Advisor, draft and finalize questionnaire for KPIs and information collection forms for the desk review with the aim to identify best practices and lessons learnt

2. Focused information gathering and analysis:
 - a) Summarize data and information by approaches and countries, documenting lessons learnt which have relevance to next steps.
 - b) Identify challenges faced by vulnerable and key populations in accessing services covered by these marketing and franchising efforts and gaps that lead to obsolescence of the approaches.
 - c) Identify commodity features that may make them more or less amenable, to these types of approaches, and potential mitigation strategies where applicable.
 - d) Identify Covid related access challenges that vulnerable and key populations have been facing in accessing these commodities and services and offer solutions in the context of integration of HIV service components in the UHC package of services.

3. Report writing and deliverables:

- a) Develop a draft think piece with recommendations on next steps that should be considered at the regional roundtable.
- b) Revise the draft review report based on the feedback received.
- c) Submit the final review report and a summary PowerPoint presentation.

DURATION:

Consultant will be required to work for a maximum period of 30 working days over the period of 12 weeks.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Experience:

Essential:

- Demonstrated experience in implementing social marketing and or social franchising campaigns and programs.
- Knowledge of current trends in innovative, nontraditional and cost-effective service delivery approaches, experience in designing nontraditional health service approaches.
- 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.
- Excellent analytical, communication and negotiation skills.
- Ability to work under tight timelines.
- 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:11 OCTOBER.

Interested applicants are requested to send their application letter, CV, short concept note describing the way they envision the work to be carried out and the financial proposal with rate per day to rstap@unaids.org the closing date is **11 October 2021**. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.