

## CALL FOR APPLICATION

**UNAIDS is dedicated to preventing the transmission of HIV, reducing the suffering caused by HIV/AIDS and countering the impact of the pandemic on individuals, communities and societies**

### **National Project Consultant (full-time, SC-5/G5)**

#### **“Providing 500,000 HIV Rapid Test Kits to Iran to Strengthen National HIV Response”**

UNAIDS IRAN Country Office

**Duty Station:** Tehran, Iran

**Duration of contract:** 7.5 months during the period from July 2024 –Feb 2025.

#### **BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF ASSIGNMENT**

Only 51% of Iran’s estimated HIV population of 46,000 is aware of its HIV status, of which 72% is receiving antiretroviral therapy. This suggests that the main barrier to Iran controlling and reversing its HIV epidemic in time to achieve its targets under its National Strategic Plan for control of HIV is to expand and diversify its testing services and rapidly reduce its testing gap.

Although Iran’s National AIDS Control Programme provides HIV testing free-of-charge for all through various testing approaches (client- and provider-initiated testing and counselling, routine antenatal testing, community-based testing and counselling, lay provider testing, self-testing (pilot), and assisted partner notification/index testing) to promote uptake of HIV testing services, only half the estimated HIV population is thought to be aware of its HIV status. This issue has been compounded by a shortage of rapid diagnostic kits in recent years.

A 2019 modelling study estimated that simply reducing the testing gap from 58% to 43% between 2021 and 2024 would require 7.4 million tests under the current 5<sup>th</sup> National Strategic Plan. As per [AIDSinfo | UNAIDS](#), the country carried out 1.39 million HIV tests in 2022, down from 1.51 million in 2019. Even with optimal targeting, the country faces a significant shortfall in terms of test volume, assuming support from other sources remain constant. The purpose of this proposal is to fill this shortfall in national HIV testing capacity as a bridging measure in anticipation of a quantitatively adequate yet shock-proof solution. The tests will therefore be donated to the Ministry of Health and Medical Education’s Centre for Communicable Diseases Control, which functions as the Secretariat of the National AIDS Control Programme.

The project is designed primarily to bridge an immediate gap in national testing capacity by procuring approximately half a million rapid diagnostic kits and training providers and supervisors of the use of these tests. The secondary aim of the project is to introduce alternative procurement solutions to the National AIDS Programme to facilitate a transfer of knowledge and technology so that a technologically advanced and economically resilient domestic manufacturing capacity for rapid HIV diagnostics may be established in the medium term.

#### **MAIN OBJECTIVES**

Under the direct supervision of the UNAIDS Country Director, the consultant will provide effective support to the implementation of the UNAIDS project supported by the People’s Republic of China’s Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund.

## **KEY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Ensure timely implementation of project activities as set out in the submitted proposal.
- Participate in effective management of project funds, focusing on implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and quality control of project activities.
- Coordinate with national and local authorities and key government partners, as required, during the project implementation cycle.
- Coordinate with UNDP Operations Unit for the procurement of rapid diagnostic tests and accessories and QC solutions, and ensure their timely delivery to the designated MOHME storage and distribution facilities.
- Participate in meetings with the relevant government counterparts that are collaborating in the implementation of this project, and set up meetings with senior managers of partner organizations when required.
- Oversee the organisation of the training workshops and hybrid learning events scheduled in the project proposal, and timely submit of technical and financial reports after each event.
- Ensure project visibility material is properly displayed on procured items and during learning events/workshops.

### **For the procurement component of project:**

- Ensure full compliance with the pertinent UNAIDS rules and regulations. Double-check with the UNAIDS country office admin section at every checkpoint in the procurement process.
- Review the detailed specifications of procurement items before clearance, including quantities, unit costs, pre-purchase, customs arrangements, delivery, distribution as well as storage facility arrangements (in coordination with the Secretariat of the National AIDS Programme at the Centre for Communicable Diseases Control).
- Ensure close follow-up with suppliers and transportation companies.
- Support implementation of proper monitoring and control of procurement processes, and proper quality assurance of procured items.
- Conduct spot-checks at end-distribution points.
- Other related activities, as requested by the supervisor, to enable the success delivery of the fund.

## **KEY OUTPUTS**

Timely, quality delivery of products and results under the project work plan, including but not limited to:

- Monthly project progress report on each component of the project.
- Completion report at the end of the procurement component of the project, including quality assurance of procurement items (tests, accessories, and QC material), verification of delivery to designated storage sites, and proper display of visibility items.
- Final technical and financial project reports.

## **REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Education: at least undergraduate degree (Biomedical, Business Administration, Social and Managerial Sciences)
- language proficiency: Fluency in English and Farsi.
- Experience: at least three years' experience in the areas of Programme (evidence of experience in implementation, monitoring and reporting), Knowledge Management (organization of training workshops/events), Supply chain (evidence of work experience in this area),
- Familiarity with the United Nations system rules and procedures is desirable,
- Familiarity with HIV/AIDS response is desirable.

**COMPETENCIES:**

UNAIDS Values:

1. Commitment to the AIDS response
2. Integrity
3. Respect for diversity

Core competencies:

1. Working in teams
2. Communicating with impact
3. Applying expertise
4. Delivering results
5. Driving change and innovation
6. Being accountable

**TIME & SCHEDULING**

The assignment should be completed within the timeframe of **7.5 months during the period from July 2024 –Feb 2025.**

The assignment will be covered by two contracts:

- Contract 1. Covering July 2024 to Dec 2024.
- Contract 2. Covering Jan 2025 to Feb 2025, subject to satisfactory performance under contract 1.

**REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR APPLICATION:**

- CV
- Letter of motivation based on the TOR

**APPLICATIONS:**

Applications must be received no later than COB 06-07-2024 (by e-mail in English) to the following address:

To: iran@unaids.org

**NOTE:** Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an interview. Those applicants selected for interview will be requested to provide certificates of education and working experiences.

**NOTE:** this consultancy position is only for Iranian nationals.

**REPORTING AND WORK RELATIONSHIPS**

- The contractual partner will undertake the work in close collaboration with the Centre for Communicable Diseases Control and the UNAIDS Country Office in Tehran, Iran.
- The contractual partner will not publish in any form the results of this assignment without prior written consent of the contractor.
- The contractual partner will be solely responsible for the professional quality of her/his work and the timely completion of the assignment.
- The reporting format will be as stipulated in the donor agreement.
- The contractual partner shall update UNAIDS regularly on progress of the assignment.