

Terms of Reference

A. Job title: National Consultant/Training Facilitator on HIV/AIDS/ITS

B. Duty station: Chisinau, Moldova

C. Section/Unit: Programme

D. Project reference: Nr. 00060805 “Scaling-up the response to HIV/AIDS in the Uniformed Services of Moldova”

E. Duration: 3 weeks (24 November – 8 December 2008)

F. Organizational Settings:

I. Background:

In terms of HIV incidence (17.41/100,000 population in 2007), Moldova ranks third among CIS countries. As of 2007, 737 persons were diagnosed with HIV in the Republic of Moldova, including 6 foreign citizens. The epidemic has spread in all administrative regions of Moldova. To date, 528 persons developed AIDS, and 155 people have died.

Newly reported HIV cases in the Republic of Moldova have more than doubled since 2003, to 621 in 2006 (EuroHIV, 2007). More than half (59%) of HIV infections reported in 2006 were attributed to unprotected sexual transmission (EuroHIV, 2007)¹. In the past few years there has been a decrease in the rate of infection amongst injecting drug users from 42.41% (2001) to 38.19% (2006) and a growth in the rate of people infected through heterosexual contacts from 55.36% (2004) to 59.39% (2006).

The trends in HIV transmission create the potential for massive outbreaks of sexually transmitted HIV infection. In just a few years it could lead to a large-scale and generalized epidemic. It is estimated that in the absence of effective interventions, HIV/AIDS prevalence may reach up to 2% of the population by the beginning of 2011. As in the case of STIs, increased sexual transmission of HIV/AIDS is fuelled by underestimation of personal risks, unsafe sexual behaviours, gender inequalities, increased population mobility, growing poverty and unemployment.

Objective:

There is a critical need to find effective ways to lower the risk-taking behavior that leads to infection with HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in uniformed services populations (i.e. military, border guards, carabinieri). Behavior change, based on acquiring knowledge and learning skills, along with individual risk assessment, is an effective method for reducing risk-taking behavior and encouraging uniformed services personnel to become advocates in the fight against HIV/AIDS/STIs. Peer education is an important component in achieving behavior change. In addition to Peer-To-Peer education, it is extremely important to create a Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) room for HIV, because VCT has the potential to be a powerful intervention for reducing high-risk behavior, and it provides a gateway to prevention, care and support services. High-quality VCT services depend on well-trained and motivated personnel.

In this perspective, standardized counselor trainings should be provided in order to increase the knowledge and skills of participants regarding VCT for representatives of vulnerable groups.

¹ <http://www.aids.md/files/library/2007/1581/2007-aids-epidemic-update-en.pdf>

II. Responsibilities:

Course aim: to increase the knowledge and skills of participants regarding Voluntary counseling and testing for representatives of vulnerable groups.

Target audience: doctors, psychologists (all participants are military). Current level of knowledge of the topic is low and moderate.

Where this course fits in/previous knowledge: Prior to this course, participants are expected to have knowledge of the natural course of HIV infection, ways of transmission and prevention.

Length of course: 4-day learning session (7.5 to 8.5 hours classroom time per day plus coffee/lunch breaks) plus individual study time of approximately 2 hours.

Course format: Information Sessions/Lecture, discussions, group work. Pre-course information: estimated numbers of HIV patients, and groups of high risk, regulations regarding treatment of HIV infected patients (who is responsible, linkages with TB services), overall HIV prevalence in the country, major cause of HIV transmission, and HIV prevalence among pregnant women (data for Moldova and worldwide).

Course materials: Participants' Notes, Power Point slides, Worksheets, Reading Lists, Reference list.

Note: Materials (prepared in Romanian) to be ready for the courses one week in advance before start up of the training. Agenda for the training to be agreed with management of UNDP and partner organization (UNAIDS).

Specific tasks for consultant:

- To develop program and materials for the training course on HIV/AIDS – VCT in Romanian
- To facilitate learning session with a focus on VCT.
- To share experience on introduction of VCT modern approaches on the world health care system.
- To develop certification of specialists passed the training. By the end of the course participants should be able to provide VCT services to vulnerable groups.
- To prepare the report about the training course in (Romanian and English) and submit it to the UNDP project manager.

III. Products Expected:

On completion of this course and the associated individual reading and activities, participants of training will be able to:

- Provide VCT services for vulnerable groups;
- Explain the main aspects of necessity for testing to HIV to target groups and possible risks and prevention methods;
- Demonstrate a good knowledge of local protocols for VCT;
- Recognize special needs of patients from vulnerable groups;

- Demonstrate effective counseling techniques that can be used when dealing with groups with risk behavior.

IV. Qualifications and experience of the national consultant

- University degree in Medicine; advanced degree in Public health, Sociology, Psychology will be an asset
- At least five (5) years of experience in health care sector;
- At least five (3) years of experience in HIV/AIDS in HIV/AIDS and STI prevention interventions;
- Experience of work with AIDS –servicing NGOs and civil society sector is an asset;
- Experience in tutoring, facilitating trainings and presentations;
- Proficiency in Romanian, Russian, excellent drafting and presentation skills;
- Preferably knowledge of written and spoken English;
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills;
- Computer literacy (good knowledge of MS Office)
- Previous experience of working with international organizations, NGO, as a trainer is an asset.

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