

Terms of Reference

A. Job title: National Consultant/Expert in Construction

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 months (January - March, 2009)

F. Organizational Settings:

Detailed terms of reference:

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. Voluntary HIV Counseling and Testing (VCT) gives clients an opportunity to confidentially explore their HIV risks and to learn their HIV test result. The target audience is individuals who are interested in knowing their HIV status and learning how to reduce their risk. The focus of the counseling sessions is on risk

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

assessment, risk reduction, partner referral, and linkages to care, treatment, and support.

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

II. Responsibilities:

- The Consultant should act as the Construction manager, all communication between project manager and contractors and other inter-relation communication should be made via the consultant. The consultant will be the focal person for the non-UNDP parties in the communications regarding the implementation of the construction programme.
- Constantly examines and verifies the works, both quantitatively and qualitatively.
- Preparing Project Status Report for each individual construction site on weekly, or monthly bases or/and according the Project manager request.
- Preparing a backup plan when needed if there are any deviations, limitation or shortage is expected on any individual construction site.
- Design the contractor payment process in accordance with the agreed payment plan and schedules and should be matching the UNDP policies and procedures.
- On the payment process the Consultant should provide the first approval for any payment (the verification of payment against the progress, schedule and prices).
- Preparing the completion certificate for each individual construction site.

Specific tasks for consultant:

- To estimate the overall works necessary for the renovation of the spaces predestinated for VCT rooms
- To estimate the overall costs and construction materials necessary for the renovation of the spaces predestinated for VCT rooms
- To prepare the estimate in Romanian

III. Products Expected:

- § Administration of technical issues of the Construction/Procurement Contracts
- § Insurance of quality and time delivery of the Construction/Procurement works/services
- § Supervision of the Contractor's job performance
- § Issuance of certificates of payments, invoices, hand-over documents
- § Preparation of works execution monthly progress reports.

IV. Qualifications and experience of the national consultant

- At least five (5) years of nationally (and/or internationally) recognized professional experience in construction
- License in construction
- Proven capacity, references
- Excellent knowledge of Romanian and Russian