#### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

#### (prevention activities)

#### Round 4 of HIV/AIDS Grant

Post title: International HIV/AIDS Evaluation Expert (SSA contract)

Duration: 20 days

Location: Dushanbe, with field visits to regions of Tajikistan

Purpose of the Mission: Final Evaluation

Component of Evaluation: HIV prevention among labor migrants and their families, street and school children and prisoners

Deadline for applications: 14 December 2009

***Instruction for submission of applications*: Please fill out an Application form for SC/SSA positions posted on** [**www.undp.tj**](http://www.undp.tj) **by following the *job vacancies* link from this webpage. Please note that no other type of application form will be considered for such positions, other than the one found at the link specified above**

**Introduction**

Tajikistan is at the earliest stages of an HIV/AIDS epidemic, with an estimated 10,000 adults living with HIV by end of 2005. The prevalence is highest among young people less than 29 years old. Disease control strategies for HIV/AIDS and TB are guided by the National AIDS Strategic Plan and National TB Control Programme. Key goals of former include reducing the HIV/AIDS epidemic and containing concentrated stage i.e. < 1% of the pregnant women by 2015, as well as improving health status of the people living with HIV. Consistent with the National AIDS Strategic Plan 2006-2010, the overall goal of the programme is to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS, mitigate the social and economic impact of the epidemic and contain the HIV prevelance less than 1% of the gerenal population by 2012 by scaling up access to HIV prevention, treatment and care services for the vulnerable groups and general population. The programme seeks to undertake activities across the public, private and NGO sectors and build their capacity to engage in scaling up a multi-sectoral national response.

**Current situation and response**

Prevention of an HIV/AIDS epidemic in Tajikistan is one of the top-priority tasks in the country at the present time. Although the number of HIV/AIDS cases in the country is still relatively low, there are reasons for serious concern. Available evidence indicates that HIV is spreading rapidly in the country. According to the official statistics of the National AIDS Prevention and Control Center (National AIDS Center), the number of HIV+ cases has increased from 2 in 1991 to 1049 in December 2007. HIV + cases are registered in 49 out of 58 district of the Republic and the number of mortality cases among HIV positive people is 85 people (9,2%). 97,2% HIV + cases are registered among people aged 15-49 and 1,6% among children up to 14. 81% of cases is registered among men and 19% among women. Moreover, during the last few years the number of new HIV + cases among women continues to grow. Thus, in 2004 the number of HIV + cases among women was 16,3% whereas in 2006 the number increased up to 25,6%. It should be noted that in more than 60% of cases among women, HIV is transferred through sexual contact. The first case of HIV + among pregnant women in Tajikistan was registered in 2005 and up to now 28 pregnant women with HIV + was registered in the country.

The round 4 GFATM HIV grant on “Reducing the Burden of the HIV/AIDS in Tajikistan” is designed to further boost the national capacities in combating the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the country. The main scope of activities is: (1) Provision of access for people living with HIV/AIDS to treatment, care and support (2) Expanding HIV/AIDS preventive activities among migrants and their families, (3) prisoners, and (4) street children, (5) Building capacity for implementation of monitoring and evaluation methodology.

In the frame of round 4 GFATM grant, HIV prevention activity among migrants and their families was one of main priorities to stave off HIV spreading in the country. Prevention activity included provision of per to per information on HIV and STI transmission, distribution of information materials (brochures, booklets) and condoms among labour migrants, and raise awareness campaign in community. The International Organization of Migration (IOM) has been granted to implement these activities through it’s NGO partnership network. Moreover according to the request of MoH, 30 friendly cabinets (FC) for migrants were established in different districts taking into account migration flowing out of the country. FCs for migrants provide consultation on HIV prevention and STI syndrome treatment to vulnerable population.

Implementation of HIV prevention activities among street children conducted in tree main regional towns (Kurgan-Tube, Kulyab, Khujand) and in the capital of Tajikistan, Dushanbe city. Local NGOs have been contracted to implement activities among street children, which included per to per education and raise awareness campaigns .

HIV prevention activities among prisoners was conducted by Medical Department of Ministry of Justice (MD, MoJ). More than 20,000 prisoners covered by HIV per to per education, distribution of condoms and information materials, and STI treatment for needy prisoners.

Another important component of Round 4, HIV grant proposal was elaboration and adaptation of HIV prevention curriculum into education programme of secondary schools, functioning within system of Ministry of Education (MoE) of Tajikistan. UNICEF has been granted and has put efforts to promote activities in this direction. One teacher in each 73 schools over the country were trained and healthy life style curriculum including HIV prevention adopted to education programme.

Tajikistan has also been granted Round 6 and Round 8 HIV/AIDS grants. These grants have been consolidated recently and actual implementation started.

## Objectives of the Final Evaluation

The main objective of this Evaluation is to:

- Measure the effectiveness and efficiency of prevention activities among vulnerable groups by the project against the project targets and indicators.

- Produce plausible recommendations on project practices in terms of these groups for the consolidated Round 6/8 grant (started in 2009).

In compliance with the project document the final evaluation should assess:

* Project concept and design with regards to the abovementioned groups, review of the problems/issues addressed by the project and the project strategy, consideration of the appropriateness of the activities for those groups, activities and inputs as compared to cost-effective alternatives.
* Implementation of the project activities for these groups in terms of progress towards project results, quality and timeliness of inputs and efficiency and effectiveness of activities carried out.
* Project outputs, outcomes and impacts achieved by the project as well as the likely sustainability of project results. This should encompass an assessment of the achievement of the outcomes and the contribution to attaining the overall objective of the project, inclusion of relevant stakeholders.

## Scope of Evaluation

The evaluation will cover all HIV and AIDS activities of round 4 GFATM grant and, where appropriate, in collaboration with other development partners that have contributed to the achievement of the outcomes. The evaluation is expected to generate lessons learnt, findings, conclusions and recommendations and cover the following specific issues:

* HIV/AIDS and STI prevention activities among the high risk groups of population (labor migrants and street children) to be evaluated. The main targets of the project were:
	+ Awareness raised about prevention of HIV/AIDS and STIs among labor migrants and their family members in 30 districts with high migration outflow rate;
	+ Syndrome treatment of sexually transmitted illnesses (STI) for labor migrants and their family members is provided through 30 Friendly Cabinets (FCs) in 30 districts;
* Awareness raised on prevention of HIV/AIDS and STIs among street children in Dushanbe and largest cities through local NGOs;

The evaluators should conduct focus group discussions and individual interviews with labor migrants and street children and make observations during site visits. Furthermore, the evaluator should assess performance of friendly cabinets providing labor migrants with STI treatment and counseling on HIV and local NGOs working with street children.

* HIV/AIDS prevention activities among prison inmates should be evaluated.The main target of this activity was:
	+ Informational-educational activities on HIV/AIDS and STI prevention are conducted in 18 penitentiary institutions of the country.
	+ Treatment of sexually transmitted diseases is provided for prisoners;

The evaluator should conduct focus group discussions or individual interview with prison staff and prison inmates in the penitentiary institutions of the country. The performance of friendly cabinets providing prisons with syndrome therapy for STIs and HIV counseling should be assessed.

* In addition, interview with school children, teachers, and authorities to be conducted to evaluate HIV education program at school settings

Overall analysis of relevant SRs; the strength and weaknesses of created partnerships, linkages between different components of prevention activities, capacities of SR and if there is a need to involve additional partners or change partnership approach to prevention activities.

* Additionally, the overview of the prevention activities, strategies of other sub-recipients involved in HIV/AIDS prevention activities to be done
* Sectoral coordination system and mechanisms between stakeholders exists in the country level and its effectiveness and contribution to resilience of HIV prevalence.

**Methodology or Evaluation Approach**

The evaluation team may employ relevant and appropriate methods to conduct evaluations including review of documents, individual and group interviews/discussions with stakeholders and partners, field visits, use of questionnaires, etc.

The final evaluation should include but not necessarily limit to the following methods:

* desk review of relevant documents (project document, quarterly, semi-annual and annual project reports, minutes of technical meetings, training reports, relevant national policy documents etc.);
* individual and/or group interviews with members of the Project Steering Committee (main governmental stakeholders, donor, civil society, UN agencies), representatives of the counterparts and implementing partners;
* meeting with representatives of the project beneficiaries;
* meeting with representatives of the UN collaborative agencies;
* field visits to services developed under the project;

## Composition of the Evaluation Team

The evaluation team shall consist of three independent members; an *International Consultant* (team leader) who must be knowledgeable in HIV and AIDS programmes and strategies, and two *National Development Consultants* with understanding of Tajikistan’s strategies for HIV/AIDS, poverty reduction and mainstreaming of other cross-cutting issues.

**The international consultant (team leader) will perform the following tasks:**
- Lead and manage the evaluation mission;
- Design a detailed evaluation scope and methodology (including the methods for data collection and analysis);
- Decide on the division of labor within the evaluation team;
- Conduct an analysis of the outcome, outputs and partnership strategy (as per the scope of the evaluation described above);
- Draft evaluation report; and
- Finalize evaluation report.

The team leader should have extensive experience in leading evaluations and report writing. Some experience in post Soviet countries is preferable and demonstrated knowledge of results based management techniques is required. Knowledge of the Central Asian region, traditional society links, and current governing mechanisms and HIV/AIDS trends will be an advantage.

The areas of expertise needed by the evaluation team are: i) M&E of HIV/AIDS prevention activities ii) in-depth knowledge of the outcome being evaluated.

Qualification and Experience requirements

Additional requirements include;

* Post graduate degree in public health, social science, development studies, gender or other field relevant to the topic.
* At least 7 years experience in research and analysis of health project that work with vulnerable group and marginalised population.
* At least 5 years experience in research and analysis in HIV prevention programme
* Fluency in English, and preferably knowledge of Russian
* Proven excellent analytical and writing skills
* Good communications and interpersonal skills
* Reliability and timeliness in keeping deadlines and delivering high quality products.
* Knowledge of UNDP procedures and programme implementation strategies will be additional advantage.
* Experience in technical cooperation programmes and projects would be an added advantage.

**Expected outputs of the Evaluation**

The key product expected from this mid-term evaluation is a comprehensive analytical report in English that should, at least, include the following:

- Executive summary;
- Introduction;
- An analysis of the situation with regard to the outcomes, the outputs and the partnership strategy;
- Key findings (including best practices and lessons learned, assessment of performance)
- Country ownership/driveness
- Replication approach
- Linkages between project and other interventions within the sector
- Management arrangements
- Implementation
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Coordination and operation issues
- Results
- Prospects of sustainability
- Conclusions and recommendations
- Advice on implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the relevant activities within follow-up Round 8 project
- Lessons learned

The findings are expected to feed into National AIDS programme planning process and provide valuable insights into the formulation of Action Plans/Annual Work Plans for the HIV and AIDS Programme. The expected product from this evaluator is an evaluation report that provides findings, recommendations, and lessons learned from the above mentioned areas.
The terms of payment will be discussed with the successful candidate at a later stage.

 **Since UNDP Tajikistan currently has a majority of male employees, we strongly encourage qualified female applicants for this position. UNDP seeks to ensure that male and female employees are given equal career opportunities and that staff members are able to keep an appropriate balance between work and private life.**