#### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

#### (treatment, care, and support 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: Anti retroviral treatment (ARVT), care and support of PLWHIV

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 HIV grant, National AIDS Center has started to implement ARV treatment for the people living with HIV. ARV drugs have been procured under Round 4 HIV grant and first patient started to receive treatment since February 2006.

By the end of 2008, 231 patients have been involved in ARV treatment, out of which 74% still alive and receiving treatment, 17% died, 6,5% patients have ceased to get medicines. Under this grant PLWHIV also receive treatment and care for opportunistic infections.

Under the Round 4 HIV grant, 357 national health care providers have been trained on ARVT and PMTCT, adherence and palliative care for PLWH. Moreover CD4 count laboratory equipments have been procured and installed in three AIDS centres in order to improve clinical definition of HIV and monitoring of ARV treatment adherence.

In March 2008, the operational research on ARV treatment effectiveness has been conducted by invited international consultant. Upon the recommendation made by consultant, the specialists from national and regional AIDS centers involved on ARV treatment have passed five days training on practical aspects of ARVT on the base of the Sankt-Peterburg’s infection hospital named after Botkin. Two specialists from National AIDS center has visited Moscow for a study of implementation of Drug Management Information System (DMIS) implementing by project “Globus” under the Russian Open Institute of Health. The implementation of DMIS in Tajikistan is currently in the process.

Taking into account high stigmatization and discrimination of HIV infected in the country, the role of non governmental organisation (NGO) is very important to address needs of PLWHIV. That’s why the local NGOs (“Guli Surh”, Mental Health & AIDS centre) oriented on provision of services to HIV+ people are actively involved in supporting of PLWHIV network and providing specific social accompany and services to HIV+ people.

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

Evaluation of Objective 3 of the GFATM Round 4 grant addressing provision of treatment, care and support to people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWH) will be a component of the combined final evaluation of the Round 4 GFATM grant, which will also include evaluation of prevention programme targeting labor migrants, street children and prisoners.

The main objective of this Evaluation is to:

- Measure the effectiveness and efficiency of objective 3 of the Round 4 GFATM grant which is focused on provision of access to treatment, care and support for PLWH, including ARV, PMTCT services, care for people with HIV as well as capacity building of health care providers, social workers and small grants to NGOs working with PWLH

- Assess implementation and achievement of results against the project targets and indicators.

- Define lessons learnt and produce plausible recommendations on project management practices for the consolidated Round 6/8 grant (started in 2009) and its objective on provision of access to treatment, care and support to PLWH.

In compliance with the project document the final evaluation of Objective 3 should assess:

* Project concept and design, reviewing problems/issues addressed by the project and the project strategy, considering appropriateness of the objectives, planned outputs, activities and inputs as compared to cost-effective alternatives.
* Implementation of the project 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

1. The evaluation will cover activities focusing providing ARV treatment, care and support to PLWHIV under 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:SWOT analysis of the national management arrangements and working modalities between key stakeholders for treatment, care and support for PLWH

 Evaluate national management arrangements existing in the country for provision of ARV therapy and treatment of opportunistic infections and conduct Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis of working modalities between UNDP and AIDS centers, AIDS centers and health care provider and AIDS centers and NGOs/CBOs providing support to PLWH through conducting site-visits, observations, and individual interview with the health care providers, people affected by disease, NGOs representing PLWH, social workers and other stakeholders.

1. Review the quality and efficacy of ARV therapy and its compliance to the national guidelines and international quality standards, through review of patient records and treatment protocols. Evaluation of ARV efficacy should be focused on the following direction:
* Access to ARV treatment for eligible patients;
* Accessibility of ARV drugs;
* Accessibility and quality of lab diagnostic;
* Assess main difficulties for ARV introduction and implementation in the country and provide recommendations for improvement/amendment given the prevailing circumstances.
* Evaluate effectiveness of trainings and capacity building activities targeting to ARV providers organized by UNDP and AIDS centers.
* Assess capacities of responsible health care providers for ARV therapy and management of opportunistic infections
1. Review and evaluate national arrangements for prevention of mother-to-child transmission for HIV-positive pregnant women and newborns, achieved results within the period of programme implementation as opposed to target set and provide recommendations for ongoing GFATM-funded programme for support of PMTCT –related activities. Review and assess efficieny of VCT practices targeting pregnant women within the framework of PMTCT program implementation.
2. Review and evaluate programs targeting PLWH to improve adherence to treatment and provide social care and support, including review of small grant provided to NGOs involved in PLWH care and support, results achieved and recommendations for further expansion of involvement of communities/families of PLWH to support and care.
3. Review of partnership and sectoral coordination system
* Review of sectoral coordination system and mechanisms between stakeholders exists in the country level and its effectiveness and contribution to better promotion of ARV treatment and creating positive attitude (environment) of community towards PLWHIV.
* Analyze established partnerships of UNDP with governmental structures, health care sectors and providers, civil society and people affected by disease and other clusters to coordinate, cooperate and enhance implementation of treatment, care and support programme and provide recommendations for possible expansion of partnership with relevant stakeholders in and outside the country for the purpose of ongoing program.

**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, evaluation reports and national surveys, etc.);
* individual and/or group interviews with 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 two independent members; an *International Consultant* (team leader) who must be knowledgeable in HIV and especially on ARVT/PMTCT programs and strategies, and *National Development Consultants* with understanding of Tajikistan’s strategies for HIV/AIDS, gender and mainstreaming of other cross-cutting issues. UNDP HIV project team will provide all required support to consultants with regards to translation services, logistic arrangements and arrangements for meeting with ley stakeholders. Whenever required UNDP project specialists will accompany the evaluation team during field visits and meetings with partners.

**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 and tools 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);
- Provide draft evaluation report for comments to UNDP project; and
- Based on received comments finalize evaluation report reflecting on all above-mentioned evaluation tasks and with properly structured findings, lessons learnt and recommendations for the future.

The consultant should have extensive experience in leading evaluations and report writing in the relevant field. 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.

Qualifications 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 of working experience in HIV/AIDS prevention and treamtnet programmes
* At least 5 years experience in research and analysis of health care projects, in particular in ARVT/PMTCT 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 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.

**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.**