

Expression of Interest for hiring a short-term research consultant

Introduction

Since 1996, Naz Foundation International (NFI) has been providing technical, institutional and financial support and assistance for the development of community-based HIV/AIDS programming and intervention for males who have sex with males (MSM) across South Asia, while advocating appropriate policy development and a rights-based approach, along with an increased investment in sexual health programmes to address the health and welfare needs of MSM.

An urgent concern that arises from our work has been the need to obtain a deeper understanding of male-to male sexualities in the region, male sexual practices and related constructions of masculinities, along with risks and vulnerabilities to HIV and AIDS. Along with this was also the need to explore what works in terms of sustained risk reduction and behaviour change, and what does not work, and the impact that specific interventions have in reducing HIV and AIDS amongst the population that NFI focuses on. Such knowledge could impact on how future MSM, HIV and AIDS programmes and interventions are designed and implemented, enhancing and up-streaming advocacy to address inequity and social injustice concerns, as well as supporting the need for significant increases in investment and programme and technical support.

Project DIVA

As a coalition response to the sexual health needs of MSM and hijras in South Asia (PSI Nepal, UNDP, NFI, along with its country partners), a South Asia multi-country regional application was made to the Global Fund on AIDS, TB and Malaria Round 9, which was secured. The project is named as Project DIVA.



Countries engaged in this are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. NFI as a sub-recipient (SR) of this project, where PSI Nepal is the Principal Recipient (PR), are responsible for implementing the range of MSM/hijra technical assistance and support to the different countries.

Objectives of Project DIVA

- To improve the delivery of HIV related services for male-who-have-sex-with-male (MSM) and transgender populations (TG) in South Asia
- To improve the policy environment with regards MSM, TG, and HIV related issues in South Asia
- To improve strategic knowledge on MSM, TG, and HIV related issues in South Asia

Under Project DIVA, NFI is planning to hire the services of a short term research consultant to development the plans and operational protocols for some work planned under the project.

Scope of work for the short-term consultant

- 1) Understand the research needs under Project DIVA.
- 2) Develop the research plan, including study methodology, sampling strategy, data collection instruments, data management ethical considerations and guidelines for community led research for each of the research areas identified under Project DIVA. Research plans to be customized according budget available for the research, which shall be shared with the selected consultant.
- 3) Present the draft research plans to NFI.
- 4) Finalizing the research plans for each research topic based on the feedback received from NFI.
- 5) Develop the TOR with broad outline and approach for the four operational research planned in different countries under Project DIVA. These operation researches are proposed to be outsourced to an external agency through a tendering process. The TOR, outline and approach developed by the Consultant should be comprehensive enough, based on which call for expressions of interest could be developed for inviting tenders from interested and eligible agencies. Deliverables here are:
 - a. Background
 - b. Scope of work for the research agency: outline, broad elements of the methodology
 - c. Proposed time frame
 - d. Eligibility criteria for the research agency to participate in the bid
 - e. Bid evaluation method and criteria.
- 6) Present the outputs related to the operations research to NFI.

Finalizing the research plans for each research topic based on the feedback received from NFI.

Deliverables

- 1) Research protocols (study methodology and instruments), and plans (field implementation and data analysis) for the eleven identified research studies
- 2) Develop the TOR with broad outline and approach for the four operational research topics including the contents mentioned under point 5 under the section "Scope of Work" above.

Time

The consultant(s) is expected to complete the assignment within a maximum period of two calendar months from the date of signing the contract.

Qualification for the Consultant(s)

- 1) Graduation in Social Science
- 2) Multi country experience especially in MSM/Hijra issues
- 3) Demonstrated evidence of research
- 4) Competencies:
 - a. Good analytical skills complemented with strong communication skills
 - b. Excellent writing and oral communication skills in English

Submissions if you are interested

- a. Your latest CV
- b. Number of consultancy days that you propose would be required for this task
- c. Per day consultancy fees
- d. Total fees requested
- e. Evidence of fees earned in the previous consultancies in the recent past to justify the proposed fee rate

Note: NFI will directly pay for all travels (airfare, airport transfers, boarding & lodging) to Lucknow as and when required under this assignment.

Selection process

CVs will be evaluated based on the following parameters:

1. Qualification: 10 marks
 - With PhD in relevant subject: 10 marks
 - M. Phil in relevant subject: 08 marks
 - Masters in relevant subject: 06 marks
 - Graduation in relevant subject: 04 marks

2. Multi country experience on research: 30 marks
 - 2 marks for each one-country research
 - 4 marks for each multi-country research

3. Experience of working on MSM/TG issues: 30 marks
 - Two marks for each year of experience – up to a maximum of 15 years

From among the shortlisted CVs, 90% weightage will be given to the CV score and 10% weightage on the total financial quote

The technical score achieved (out of a maximum of 70) will be projected

The formula for determining the financial scores is the following:

$S_f = 100 \times F_m/F$, in which S_f is the financial score, F_m is the lowest price and F the price of the proposal under consideration. The weights given to the technical and financial proposals are:

T= 0.9 and

F= 0.1

How to apply

Those interested are requested to send the above-mentioned documents to applications_gfatm@nfi.net with copy to rajesh@nfi.net within seven days from the day of this notification.

The consultant(s) is expected to travel to Lucknow during the assignment period for coordination. Direct costs will be paid by NFI as per NFI's existing rules and regulations.