

Terms of Reference (TOR)

Population sizes estimation for Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) and Trans-Populations in Belize

1. Background and Context

Belize has a total population of 370,000 of whom approximately 42% are under 25 years of age. Although an upper-middle-income country by World Bank classification, the heavily indebted, highly vulnerable to economic and disaster shocks, and weak national capacity of Belize disguises and denies significant rates of poverty, unemployment, chronic malnutrition, drug abuse and violence as well as other specific conditions that drive the HIV epidemic. The country is negatively impacted by a severe “brain drain” problem, losing many professionals, including health care workers, to other countries. This has serious implications for the provision of adequate health care, which is provided mostly by the Government.

Related to HIV/AIDS epidemic, Belize has the highest HIV prevalence in Latin America and the 5th highest in the Caribbean, with estimated adult prevalence of 1.4% for persons 15-49 years, and more than 3,100 people living with HIV/AIDS.

Based on a Behavioral Sero-Prevalence Survey (BSS) conducted in 2012 by the HIV Unit of the Center for Health Studies of Del Valle University of Guatemala in collaboration with the Ministry of Health of Belize National TB, HIV & other STIs Program, it was determined that the prevalence rate amongst MSM was at 13.85% (19/136). This being the highest prevalence compared to other Key Populations (KP) in Belize. There is no official data available for the trans-population in Belize.

While the results from the BSS may suggest that the HIV epidemic in Belize is concentrated among men who have sex with men, comparisons should be conducted with caution considering the small sample size used in this study. Nevertheless, an earlier study conducted in 2001 by Multicenter Study in Central America (EMC) suggested that HIV prevalence among men who have sex with men in Belize is the highest reported in the Central American region.

Both statistics suggest that MSMs in Belize have a high level of vulnerability for HIV; however, no official estimate has been conducted to determine the size of this population in Belize, and thereby the country is unable to determine the extent of the problem for MSMs, as well as for the trans-population for whom no representative data is available.

2. Purpose & Objectives

The purpose of the consultancy is to conduct a population size estimate for Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) and trans in Belize as key populations in the country in order to ensure resources are appropriately targeted to adequately cover the populations in need of HIV prevention, treatment and care services.

The specific objectives are:

- a) Determine the MSM and trans-populations size estimates by District and Age Groups;
- b) Develop MSM and trans-populations Profiles

3. Scope of Work & Outputs

The scope for this assignment will be to undertake a population size estimate for MSMs and trans-populations in Belize.

The expected outputs are:

- a) Final Report in English of the population sizes estimates to be approved by UNDP and the National AIDS Commission's (NAC) M&E Subcommittee. (in hard copy and electronic form in WORD format); and
- b) Presentation of the findings of the Study to the various partners of the HIV/AIDS National Response.

4. Methodology & Approach

The methodologies will include a combination of methods to achieve optimum results within a unique context like Belize. Based on the completion of an analysis of the country, the consultant will determine best combinations of methods to complete this study.

To achieve this, the consultant is asked to prepare a protocol for the situational analysis, which will describe the details of the methodology/methodologies/tailored methodology/ies chosen and how the concerns of the key populations have been addressed. Working with the cross-sectional partners will ensure that the protocol is sound and incorporates best practices for this type of analysis.

The sizes estimation will be triangulated with data from other studies such as the integrated biological and behavior surveillance (IBBS 2013), the BSS 2012 and other Caribbean and Latin American studies.

5. Duration of Work

The project is expected to extend no longer than 50 days.

6. Location of Work

Within the country of Belize

7. Deliverables

Expected deliverables are:

- a. Draft Report on the MSM and trans-populations size estimates:
- b. Final Report of the MSM and trans-populations size estimates:
- c. Presentation of the main findings of the study:

The timeframe for the reports and the presentation will be included in the technical proposal submitted by the Service Provider, but must not exceed three (3) months.

All reports must be submitted in hard copy and electronic form, in WORD Format.

8. Scope of Proposal Price and Schedule of Payment

Deliverables	Payment Schedule	Delivery schedule
Approved Draft Report of the Study	50%	30 days after signing of contract
Approved Final Report of the Study	40%	15 days following presentation of first draft report
Presentation of the main findings of the Study	10%	5 days after presentation of main findings

Financial proposal to be prepared in US currency and must be inclusive of applicable indirect taxes.

Validity of proposal: 90 Days

9. Institutional Arrangements

Working relationship: The consultant will report directly to the Executive Director of NAC and the Project Manager, UNDP-GF. Logistical arrangements will be determined by consultant and ED of NAC, with costs being borne by consultant.

10. Qualification & Experience of Successful Provider

- Master's degree in Statistics, Demographics, Population Studies, Sociology, Urban Studies, Community Development, Economics or other related expertise
- 5 Years' experience in similar studies and with various methodologies of collecting size estimations in concentrated epidemics;
- Ability to submit a concise and well written analytical report on the results of the study in English;
- Previous experience working with the MSM and Trans-populations is mandatory

11. Recommended Presentation of Proposal

1. Letter interest

2. Proposal Submission Form
3. Documents Establishing eligibility and qualification of proposers
4. Technical Proposal Form, indicating specifically a protocol for the situational analysis, which will describe the details of the methodology/methodologies/tailored methodology/ies chosen and how the concerns of the key populations have been addressed and best practices for this type of analysis.
5. Financial Proposal Form (In a separate sealed Envelope)

12. Criteria for Selection of Best Offer

The criteria serving as basis for evaluating offers is the Combined Scoring method – where the qualifications and methodology will be weighted a max. of 70% and combined with the price offer which will be weighted a max of 30%.