



UNDP Expression of interest (EOI)

“Pak-HIV-UNDP-EOI-2022-001- EOI for Digital Health Application Services”

UNDP *Pakistan* invites interested companies/consultants to apply on the following:

Summary of proposal:

UNDP has recently been requested by the Global Fund to support the HIV grant, starting July 2021 until December 2023 as Principal recipient in Pakistan. This Global Fund HIV grant will contribute to the achievement of the overall, strategic goals of the Pakistan AIDS Strategy IV - PAS-IV on addressing low prevention and testing coverage among key populations by:

Scaling up community-based interventions, improving treatment access for all, and by challenging stigma and discrimination through training for health care workers and others, and to strengthen the national M&E system for improved cascade monitoring.

To reach these goals, UNDP Pakistan aims to support the relevant implementing partners in:

- increasing coverage of the prevention services for MSM by 39% (of Population Size Estimates - PSE) by 2023 from the 2019 baseline;
- increasing coverage of the prevention services for FSW (of PSE) by 44% by 2023 from the 2019 baseline;
- increasing coverage of the prevention services for TG (of PSE) by 56% by 2023 from the 2019 baseline; and
- increasing coverage of the treatment services for PLHIV by 35% (of the estimated PLHIV) by 2023 from the 2019 baseline

UNDP Pakistan’s Project Management Unit (PMU), in collaboration with other key partners (including UNAIDS, and target key populations) will design and rollout a comprehensive program on addressing HIV related stigma and discrimination through strategic interventions on capacity building, advocacy and communications, and development of knowledge products as a barrier for vulnerable and marginalized populations in accessing social protection and life-saving health care services.

This initiative includes development of innovative digital solutions to dynamically engage with key populations and persons living with HIV in Pakistan to contribute towards preventing and reducing prevalence to supplement national and provincial interventions and enable equitable access to capacitated health and social services without stigma and discrimination.

Overall objectives of the digital solutions intervention are as follows:

1. Reduce human rights related barriers through utilization of innovative digital solutions;
2. Embed innovative digital solutions in prevention and response strategies for addressing stigma and discrimination faced by key populations (KPs) and persons living with HIV (PLHIVs) across all levels of service delivery;

3. Empower and enable key populations and PLHIVs to effectively negotiate and influence decisions across all levels for introducing and implementing rights-based initiatives and removing structural challenges contributing to increase in infections; and
4. Contribute towards creation of an enabling, people-centered and rights-based policy/legal environment for implementation based on holistic understanding and effectively addressing emerging intersections between HIV, human centered technologies, human rights, socio-legal alienation, rooted stigma and discrimination and lack of responsive service delivery.

In this vein, UNDP Pakistan is soliciting an Expression of Interest from a specialist firm for technical assistance (TA) to develop and manage innovative digital solution(s) for dynamic engagement with key populations and PLHIVs from June 2022 to December 2023 (18 months) under the GFATM grant.

This digital intervention is envisioned to facilitate opportunities for any user (who otherwise would experience higher stigma and discrimination in face to face interactions) to communicate with others in a safe, secure and protected environment and connect directly to HIV prevention, testing and care services. Existing mechanisms/digital spaces can also be leveraged upon to enable improved access to interactive platforms for individuals, communities and CBOs to share and discuss content, debate on issues and promote new ideas. Learning from successes in other contexts and models around the world, this can result in changing the dynamics and nature of interactions between rights-holders (communities, KPs, PLHIVs) and duty bearers (health care professionals and other service providers).

This intervention would also prove useful in aiding individuals and organizations already using social media and other platforms to target and interact with people living with, or at risk of HIV who feel isolated and less visible. In addition, data collection strategies can be streamlined through such platforms to help these organizations target people more precisely and effectively and feed into overall data management under this digital intervention.

At this stage, the digital intervention is proposed as a pilot for Punjab and Sindh (specifically in cities of Lahore and Karachi) through an implementing partner with expertise in communications, technology, an openness to engage with key populations and PLHIV, and experience in design and development of human centered digital interventions in Pakistan.

This digital intervention is also envisioned to enable deep listening to discourse on relevant matters for key populations and PLHIVs, employ two way communication instruments and maintain data on outreach to communities as key components of the digital strategy to be developed for this purpose. In addition, this intervention must embed a strong linkage with KPs to ensure sustainability and ownership amongst on communities on the ground, leveraging on gatekeepers and opinion leaders for maximum impact and outreach. A key component of this digital intervention is development of confidential data and information management tools to map access amongst users. The target of KPs/PLHIVs engaged and reached will be decided based on the digital needs

mapping and strategy development by the implementing partner in consultation with UNDP, key strategic partners (specifically UNAIDS) and communities.

The Contractor shall provide the following goods/services:

Technical assistance for development of a safe and secure digital intervention/platform for key populations/PLHIVs on awareness raising and improving access to key HIV services.

Outputs:

1. Conduct an initial digital needs mapping through a desk review, consultations and discussions during an inception phase in collaboration with UNDP, UNAIDS and CBO partners as well as KP/PLHIV communities.
2. Develop a digital strategy (including security parameters for usage) as part of the methodology for designing and rolling out the digital intervention for awareness raising amongst KPs and PLHIVs;
3. Design a human centered, rights-based digital for key populations/PLHIVs on awareness and access to key HIV services.
4. Pilot and test the digital intervention in collaboration and consultation with identified CBO partner(s) for rollout.
5. Provide ongoing user management (including data security, privacy and confidentiality) and back-end support for digital intervention until the end of the project (December 2023).

Eligibility criteria

List of attributes	Benchmark
Experience of developing safe and secure digital solutions including outreach and data management on human rights and social inclusion in Pakistan – experience of digital health will be an asset	Proof or evidence of relevant experience reflecting minimum of 2 years of work (project completion reports etc.,)
Experience of (or openness to) working with key populations and PLHIVs – knowledge of key issues of KPs/PLHIVs will be an asset	Proof or evidence of experience or openness to working with KPs/PLHIVs (or letter of openness in case of no experience)
Expertise in engagement of government & civil society stakeholders (and others) on issues of human rights, social protection, and access to health services for at-risk and vulnerable groups and communities	Proof or evidence of experience of engagement with government & civil society stakeholders on human rights, social protection, and access to health services for at-risk, and vulnerable communities
Experience of working with UN and/or international agencies is an asset	Proof or evidence of experience with UN and/or international agencies

Note that only short-listed firms shall be considered for the bid solicitation.

Submission details

- Cover letter stating intent to apply for an expression of interest; relevant documents as proof/evidence of a minimum of 2 years of satisfactory performance (including duration of each assignment/contract) or 2 relevant contracts/evidences of project completion;
- Evidence of financial stability through 2 years of audited accounts (2020-21 and 2021-22)
- All submissions are to be made at the following address: bids.pk@undp.org, Focal person: Sadia Ali.
- Expressions of interest and statements of qualification must be sent to be above address by **05:00 pm on Monday, June 06, 2022**
- Any additional details applying companies may share.

Interested Companies must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochure, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc...). Companies/Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

Companies will be selected in accordance with the procedure set out in the UNDP Procurement Guidelines and UNDP Financial Rules and Regulations.

The EOI and accompanying documents must be received in a sealed envelope no later than 06/06/2022 clearly labeled "Description of Work, services, goods". Documents sent by e-mail or facsimile will not be accepted. EOI received after the above deadline will not be considered.

EOI from suppliers failing to provide the request information will be disregarded. Invitations to bid and any subsequent purchase order will be issued in accordance with the rule and procedures of UNDP

This EOI does not entail any commitment on the part of UNDP, either financial or otherwise. UNDP reserve the right to accept or reject any or all EOI without incurring any obligation to inform the affected applicant/s of the grounds.

Interested companies may obtain further information at the below address.
bids.pk@undp.org, focal person is Sadia Ali.

Please mention "**Pak-HIV-UNDP-EOI-2022-001- EOI for Digital Health Application Services**" in the subject of your email submission