



### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Post title:** Review of the 2006 National Policy on HIV and AIDS for the Kingdom of Lesotho

**Level:** Consultancy

**Duration:** 30 days

**Time:** October 2018- March 2019

National AIDS Commission is looking for an individual local consultant to review the 2006 National Policy on HIV/ AIDS 2006 and formulate a new National Policy on HIV/ AIDS for the Kingdom of Lesotho with support of UNAIDS and UNFPA.

**Main Objective, Tasks and responsibilities:**

The overall objective is to strengthen the HIV and AIDS framework to ensure HIV and AIDS program is guided and regulated effectively by updated Policy document in line with International Conventions and National Priorities.

The tasks and key deliverables will be:

- Provide an inception report with road map, detailed methodology and tools to be used for the assignment implementation.
- Draft the HIV Policy 2006 review report and formulate the New National HIV and AIDS Policy update document through interviews and consultations with key stakeholders, amending the draft documents according to stakeholder comments as necessary.
- Validate the final draft and finalize the National Policy on HIV and AIDS for Cabinet endorsement.

**Qualification, Experience and Skills**

Advanced degree in Public Health and related HIV strategic planning and respective areas, minimum of 8 years' experience in development of the policy concepts, methodologies and tools, National Strategies and Policies; Proficient grasp of HIV /AIDS aspect in Southern Africa and Lesotho; sound analytical and report writing skills; Fluent in spoken and written Sesotho and English;

**How to apply**

Further details and the Terms of Reference can be accessed on [www.nac.org.ls/opportunities/](http://www.nac.org.ls/opportunities/). Interested and qualified individuals are expected to submit their application to email/s: [info@nac.org.ls](mailto:info@nac.org.ls), [mohlabi.t@nac.org.ls](mailto:mohlabi.t@nac.org.ls) and [Jarrakhoval@unaids.org](mailto:Jarrakhoval@unaids.org) on or before 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018, 17:00. Selected consultant will be reporting to the National AIDS Commission and UNAIDS.

Website: [www.nac.org.ls](http://www.nac.org.ls)

## Concept Note

### Review and Development of National Policy on HIV And AIDS for the Kingdom of Lesotho

#### **Introduction**

Lesotho's HIV prevalence remained high at 24.3% [23.4, 25.2] in 2017 and is the second highest HIV prevalence in the world. The national HIV incidence among adults (15-49 years) is 1.5% with women having higher incidence (1.81%) compared to men (1.33%). Estimates show that adults (15-59 years) living with HIV are 306,000 and children aged 0 to 14 years are approximately 13,000<sup>1</sup>.

According to the 2017 Lesotho Population-Based HIV Impact Assessment (LePHIA) the country is within reach for the 90-90-90- targets in treatment, as there are 77.2% of people living with HIV between ages 15 to 59 years report knowing their HIV status, 90.2% of people who know their HIV status are on treatment, and 88.2% of people on treatment are virally suppressed. However, the current trends will not meet fast track targets unless the response is revamped. The recently validated National Strategic Plan for HIV 2018-2023 set new ambitious targets to reduce new HIV infections by 75% and achieve the 95-95-95 targets in treatment with an overall goal towards Ending AIDS by 2030.

The 2016 Lesotho Legal Environment Assessment (LEA) report underlined the need for several policy and law review, including the 2006 National HIV and AIDS Policy that is not yet updated to meet fully the rights and needs of PLHIV and vulnerable groups and address effectively challenges for fast tracking HIV response towards ending AIDS by 2030. Thus, the 2006 HIV and AIDS Policy does not reflect the country strategic directions reaffirmed in 2016 Political Declaration on Ending AIDS adopted to Fast-Track the AIDS response and accelerate progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) target of ending AIDS by 2030. The new Policy will be reflecting country commitments anchored to the global and regional ones like Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Africa Union and South Africa Development Community (SADC) as well as the national priorities formulated in the National Strategic Development Plan and National Strategic Plan on HIV and AIDS.

#### **Purpose of the HIV and AIDS Policy review and development**

The purpose is to strengthen the HIV and AIDS framework through the review of current national policy on HIV and AIDS and development of a new policy on HIV and AIDS to ensure HIV and AIDS program is guided and regulated effectively by updated Policy document in line with International Covenants and National Priorities to meet the aspirations of Basotho.

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1 Comprehensive HIV Epidemiological Analysis of Lesotho, July 2018

## Terms of Reference

### Review and Development of National Policy on HIV and AIDS for the Kingdom of Lesotho

#### **1. Introduction**

Lesotho's HIV prevalence remained high at 24.3% [23.4, 25.2] in 2017, it was high among women at 29.7% [28.5, 30.9] compared to men 19.1% [18.0, 20.3] among adults (15-49 years) and the prevalence among children ages 0 to 14 years is 2.1%. The national HIV incidence among adults (15-49 years) is 1.5% with women having higher incidence (1.81%) compared to men (1.33%). Based on the 2017 report of the Comprehensive HIV Epidemiological Analysis (CHEAL), using the Incidence Patterns Model (IPT) and 2014 DHS, the country estimated that largest number of new infections occurs among Never Married women - mostly young women before marriage (3,823; 29.4%), Never Married Uncircumcised Men (3,374; 25.9%), Sero-discordant couples with the male HIV+ (1,760, 13.5%). These three groups are expected to contribute 69% of new infections in Lesotho<sup>2</sup>

Lesotho committed to achieve the 90-90-90 targets aim to have 90% of all people living with HIV know their status, 90% of all people who know their status be on treatment, and 90% of all people on treatment with viral suppression by 2020. According to the 2017 LePHIA, those targets are within reach for Lesotho, as it is 77.2% of people living with HIV between ages 15 to 59 years report knowing their HIV status, 90.2% of people, who know their HIV status are on treatment, and 88.2% of people on treatment are virally suppressed. However, current trends will not meet fast track targets unless the response is revamped.<sup>3</sup>

The 2006 Policy on HIV and AIDS was designed to bring forward the Government commitments to ensuring adequacy of protection, care and support to all vulnerable groups in all interventions on HIV and AIDS in the early 2000s. The current HIV and AIDS Policy yet to reflect country strategic directions reaffirmed in 2016 Political Declaration adopted to Fast-Track the AIDS response and accelerate progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) target of ending AIDS by 2030. The revised Lesotho National HIV and AIDS Policy is to promote gender equality and human right -based approach to leave no one behind. The new Policy will be reflecting country commitments anchored to the global and regional commitments as well as the national priorities formulated in the National Strategic Development Plan and National Strategic Plan on HIV and AIDS. Thus, there is need to a programmatic review of the document from the perspective of the updating and ensuring the consistency to the global, regional goals in Social Development, Health and HIV as well as commitments in the national HIV response. The validated recently National Strategic Plan 2018-2023 set ambitious targets to reduce new HIV infections by 75% and achieve 95-95-95 in treatment with an overall goal to reach Ending AIDS by 2030.

The 2016 Lesotho Legal Environment Assessment (LEA) reported that the HIV response has not achieved the desired and necessary changes in the policy, legal and regulatory aspects, governing HIV-related issues

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<sup>2</sup> Comprehensive HIV Epidemiological Analysis of Lesotho, July 2018

<sup>3</sup> National Strategic Plan on HIV and AIDS 2018-2023

in the country, thereby impacting negatively on the lives of all affected populations and the 2006 National HIV and AIDS Policy yet to be reviewed from that perspective.

### **3. Rational**

The Lesotho National AIDS Commission (NAC) requested the review of the current 2006 HIV and AIDS Policy and formulation the new Policy document to align the document with national priorities in HIV response, harmonize and strengthen HIV and AIDS framework. Review of the current Policy document and development the new Policy is also important for integration HIV response with broader social development aspects and reinvigoration response towards an effective national HIV and AIDS response in line with the National Strategic Development Plan and Health Sector Strategic Plan, and HIV and AIDS National Strategic Plan as well as global and regional guidelines, as the 2016 UN Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS, Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by 2030, Africa Union and South Africa Development Community (SADC) commitments. As described in the UNAIDS Strategy 2016-2021, response focus shall be on the people-centred HIV and health services integrated in the context of stronger systems for health with HIV-sensitive UHC schemes well financed and implemented, to achieve and sustain the goal of ending AIDS. Thus, the new Policy is to guide for including of key HIV prevention, treatment and care services in the basic and essential UHC service.

The National HIV and AIDS Policy review and development is planned under the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency 4-year envelope to strengthening integrated SRHR/HIV and SGBV services project, where Lesotho UNAIDS and UNFPA will be managing the different tasks aimed on the Policy review and development in the 2018-2019.

### **3. Specific Objectives**

To achieve the main objective, the process will focus on the following specific objectives:

- Review of the current National HIV and AIDS Policy 2006 in a view of alignment to the national priorities, National Strategic Development Plan, Political Declaration 2016 targets and a new National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan 2018-2023.
- Formulate new National policy on HIV and AIDS

### **4. Process of the assignment**

The devoted task team to be formed by the National AIDS Commission to represent different constituencies consist of the members from Government (MOH, Cabinet), CSOs and Development partners for guiding, overseeing an overall process and endorsing the deliverables. UNAIDS will be commissioning a local consultant to support in addressing of the key specific objectives and implement the following tasks:

-In 2018 the local consultant's assignments will be carried out through the following tasks: desk review and analysis of various respective documents, including National HIV and AIDS Policy 2006, Joint HIV and TB Program review 2017, it is to be guided by the validated National Strategic Plans (NSP) 2018-2023

strategic areas, other country programs policies and assessments in respective areas. A literature review will be followed by collection information from key stakeholders, through consultations and interviews with members of the Task team, respective HIV and AIDS Technical Working Groups, Cabinet office and Parliament, NAC, MoH, MOSD, MOL and other relevant line ministries, Civil Society Organizations, PLHIV networks, Development Partners and Joint Team on HIV and AIDS mostly at the national level. In 2018 the assignment will be completed by delivering of the initial draft documents of the current National Policy 2006 review and new Policy ready for task team and partner's comments and recommendations.

-In 2019 the local consultant's assignments will be carried out through the following tasks: the draft documents introduced to the Task Team and partners, the draft is to be amended based on the comments provided by stakeholders. After completion of the compilation, the amended draft documents are to be validated by the task team and stakeholders for endorsement and the final draft to be completed for the Cabinet approval.

**5. Deliverables.** The assignment will be starting in October 2018 and competing in March 2019, while it is divided in two consecutive phases: from October to Dec 2018 and from January to March 2019.

1) Expected outputs in October- December 2018:

- Producing an inception report with a detailed road map of the review and development as well as methodology and tools with engagement of all stakeholders to be used for the assignment implementation
- Presenting the initial draft 2006 Policy review report and the new draft Policy document's key outlines to the task team and key stakeholders through the workshop.

2) Expected outputs January – March 2019:

- Incorporating comments as necessary and amending the documents accordingly.
- Validating of the final draft with stakeholders and finalizing the national policy on HIV and AIDS document ready for approval

**6. Key Qualification, Experience and Skills**

- Advanced degree in Public Health / HIV strategic policy and planning, or related Social Sciences, and Social Development.
- A minimum of 8 years professional experience in reviewing and development National Strategies and Policies, its methodologies and tools development; Sound understanding and proven previous experience of the policy development in Lesotho;
- A minimum of 8 years' experience working in the areas of HIV and AIDS.
- Understanding of the HIV /AIDS aspect in Southern Africa in general and Lesotho in particular;
- Previous experience of working with UN, Development partners, especially in the relevant field.
- Good analytical and report writing skills; facilitation skills and interpersonal skills; Good computer literacy;
- Fluent in spoken and written Sesotho and English;

## 7. Application requirements:

Interested and qualified individuals is expected to submit:

- Brief description on why the Institution /consultants is the most suitable for the assignment, and the Technical Proposal, including detailed methodology and proposed work plan on how they will approach and complete the assignment.
- Financial proposal indicating consultancy fees and all related costs.
- Personal CVs describing qualification, skills and experience to address those indicated in Terms of reference as well as the contact details (e-mail and telephone number) of the Candidate and at least three (3) professional references;

A successful Consultant will be selected based on the Combined Scoring Method, where the qualifications and technical proposal with methodology will be weighted a maximum of 70%, combined with price offer which will be weighted a maximum of 30%.

Application is to be sent to: [info@nac.org.ls](mailto:info@nac.org.ls) , [mohlabi.t@nac.org.ls](mailto:mohlabi.t@nac.org.ls) and [Jarrakhovaj@unaids.org](mailto:Jarrakhovaj@unaids.org)

**8. Timing and Duration.** The consultancy is for a total of 30 working days in below distribution per calendar years:

- 2018 assignments are to commence in October and to be completed within a period of 15 working days by the end of November 2018.
- 2019 assignments are to commence in January and to be completed within a period of 15 working days by the end of March 2019

**9. Supervision and Reporting Arrangements.** Roles and will be distributed in the following order:

- National AIDS Commission to lead the process of the Policy development in close collaboration with UNAIDS Lesotho.
- Devoted Task Team is responsible for overall oversight for Policy development, and approval of all deliverables.
- UNAIDS Lesotho will be responsible for the overall assignment, contract and logistics management of the consultancy

**10. Reporting Arrangements:**

- Consultant will be reporting to the UNAIDS and National AIDS Commission