

TERMS OF REFERENCE
NATIONAL HIV DRUG RESISTANCE STRATEGY AND STUDY
BELIZE

Subject: Consultancy to support the development of the national HIV Drug Resistance (HIVDR) prevention and control strategy and HIVDR study protocol and plans in Belize.

Background

Prevention, monitoring and timely response to population levels of HIV drug resistance (HIVDR) are critical to achieving the WHO/UNAIDS 90–90–90 targets for 2020. HIVDR emerges when HIV replicates in the presence of ARV drugs. Drug resistance is caused by mutations in the genetic structure and affects the ability of ARVs to block its replication and is associated with poor clinical outcomes and reduced effectiveness of ART. If HIVDR becomes widespread, ARVs currently used to prevent and treat HIV infection may become ineffective.

In response to increasing levels of HIVDR, the WHO coordinated the development of The Global Action Plan (GAP) on HIVDR (2017-2022). The overall goal of the global action plan is to forge synergies that will prevent HIVDR from undermining national and global objectives, while providing the most effective treatment to all persons living with HIV. The plan emphasizes five strategic objectives (Prevention and response, Monitoring & surveillance, Research and innovation, Laboratory capacity and Governance and enabling mechanisms) as critical components that should be integrated into broader efforts to ensure a comprehensive, effective and sustainable HIV response. It is essential that actions to monitor, prevent and respond to HIVDR are implemented at the clinical, programme and policy levels to address the many drivers of HIVDR. WHO also recommends that HIV treatment scale-up be accompanied by measures to monitor and improve the quality of ART delivery and surveillance of HIVDR. At the country level, the strategy endorses country ownership, HIVDR surveillance, leveraging of enablers, and timely dissemination and use of available HIVDR information.

The last HIVDR study was completed in 2007 and following discussions with a national team, it was agreed to implement new HIVDR surveillance approaches, based on WHO recommended methodology, which will inform and support the implementation of a national HIVDR prevention and control strategy in Belize, aligned with the strategic lines of the WHO HIVDR GAP. As part of HIVDR surveillance activities, a nationally representative survey to estimate pre-treatment and acquired HIVDR will be conducted by the Ministry of Health of Belize with technical support from the Pan American Health Organization and with financial support from the national Global Fund Project.

In order to support the implementation of the national HIVDR survey, which is expected to commence in 2021, the Ministry of Health Belize in collaboration with UNDP, the Principal Recipient of the Global Fund Project is seeking support of a consultant to develop a national HIVDR prevention and control strategy, including a protocols and plans for HIVDR surveillance to be implemented in 2021.

Scope of work:

Under the direct supervision of the Laboratory Director of the Central Medical Laboratory, the Consultant will work in close collaboration with the Deputy Director of Health Services, Technical Advisors from PAHO and WHO Headquarters and the Advisor from UNDP Global Fund Project to:

- a. Review WHO references and HIVDR surveillance guidance, tools and existing appropriate HIVDR protocols as recommended by PAHO.
- b. Review the concept note for the development of an HIVDR prevention and control strategy, study protocol and surveillance in Belize.

- c. Facilitate a process of consultation with relevant national stakeholders to frame the purpose and public health objectives of developing a national strategy for HIVDR prevention and control in Belize.
- d. Based on the consultation and recommendation, develop: 1) a draft HIVDR prevention and control strategy; 2) protocol and plan for the implementation of HIVDR study in Belize.
- e. Organize national consultation to validate these documents with national stakeholders.
- f. Circulate the draft study protocol and HIVDR prevention and control strategy to the PAHO country Office for technical review by appropriate PAHO and WHO Advisors.
- g. Finalize the HIVDR prevention and control strategy and study protocol and coordinate with the Ag. Laboratory Director submission for relevant ethical approvals.

Deliverables & Dates: -

1. Development of a work plan to support the key tasks to be executed under the consultancy.
2. At the completion of the consultancy, submit the final documents (HIVDR Strategy & protocol) for the implementation of HIVDR study in 2021 base on the national concept note.

Qualifications of Consultant:

The Pan American Health Organization requires the services of a professional with the following expertise to implement the above:

- Master’s in Public Health, lab experience and public health surveillance.
- Previous experience in HIVDR would be an asset
- Knowledge of HIV and the HIV response in Belize
- Prior experience as a consultant.
- Excellent analytical and writing skills

Compensation

The total remuneration for this consultancy should reflect professional fees only. No travel is anticipated to be conducted under the consultancy. All interested persons should submit a cost to conduct the consultancy based on the scope of work.

Reporting Requirements

The Consultant will communicate regularly with both the Laboratory Director and the UNDP Advisor on the progress. All identified challenges that can potentially affect the final product should be communicated immediately to the Project Officers.

Timeframe:

The duration of this consultancy is for 30 days

Ownership:

All products and other materials resulting from this consultancy is the property of the Ministry of Health and subject to the rules and regulations governing copyrights. The Consultant may not make use of information gathered during this consultancy without the written consent of Ministry of Health

Project Officers:

- Mr. Chun, Ag. Lab Director Central Medical Laboratory
- Dr. Castro, UNDP Global Fund Project Belize
- Edwin Bolastiq, Advisor, PAHO/WHO Country office.

Recommended Presentation Offer:

The following documents are requested:

- a) Duly accomplished **Letter of Confirmation of Interest and Availability** using the template provided by UNDP;
- b) **Personal CV**, indicating all past experience, as well as contact details (email and telephone number) and a Proposed Methodology for the completion of service
- c) **Financial Proposal** that indicates the all-inclusive fixed total contract price, supported by a breakdown of costs, as per template provided.

Criteria for Selection of the Best Offer

The final selection will be based the combined scoring method where the qualifications and methodology will be weighed a maximum of 70% and combined with the price offer which will be weighted a maximum of 30%

Submission of Application Package:

Proposals are required to submit by email or in 1 sealed envelope clearly labeled *RFP: Consultancy to support the development of the national HIV Drug Resistance (HIVDR) prevention and control strategy and HIVDR surveillance protocols and plans in Belize.*

United Nations Development Programme

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