Request for Proposal
Clinical and technical consultant on sexual and reproductive health, contraceptive care and differentiated service delivery for HIV
Closing date and time: 4 September, 23:00 CET

1. About the International AIDS Society (IAS)

The International AIDS Society (IAS) leads collective action on every front of the global HIV response through its membership base, scientific authority and convening power. Founded in 1988, the IAS is the world’s largest association of HIV professionals, with members in more than 170 countries. Working with its members, the IAS advocates and drives urgent action to reduce the impact of HIV. The IAS is also the steward of the world’s most prestigious HIV conferences: the International AIDS Conference, the IAS Conference on HIV Science, and the HIV Research for Prevention Conference.

The IAS promotes and invests in HIV advocacy and research on key issue areas through our strategic programmes, initiatives, and campaigns that advocate for urgent action to reduce the global impact of HIV, including increased investment in HIV cure research; optimizing treatment and care for infants, children and adolescents with HIV in resource-limited settings; preventing and treating HIV-related co-infections; and expanding access to prevention, treatment and care for key populations vulnerable to HIV acquisition – such as men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, sex workers and transgender people – including protecting their human rights by combating punitive laws and discriminatory policies.

More information on the IAS can be found at www.iasociety.org.

2. About the Differentiated Service Delivery initiative

Differentiated service delivery (DSD) has been defined as “a client-centred approach that simplifies and adapts HIV services across the cascade, in ways that both serve the needs of PLHIV better and reduce unnecessary burdens on the health system”. With the recommendation in 2015 that all people living with HIV should be initiated onto antiretroviral therapy (ART), there has been growing acknowledgement that a “one-size-fits-all” approach will not be sufficient to reach global HIV targets. DSD, including adapting how people access their ART, has become a key component of HIV programmes.

In this context, the DSD initiative has been supporting the development of global and national level guidance for DSD since 2015. The initiative is committed to supporting the scale up of DSD through catalysing country and community advocacy and amplifying global best practices, tools and evidence to effectively reach the 37 million people worldwide in need of high-quality life-saving HIV care.

3. Purpose of the Consultancy

Recently, the HIV response has shown a renewed interest in addressing the unmet needs of women living with HIV in regards to contraceptive care as a result of the introduction of dolutegravir and the results of the Evidence for Contraceptive Options in HIV Outcomes (ECHO) trial.
Concurrently, many countries in sub-Saharan Africa are scaling up DSD models for clinically stable clients on ART resulting in less frequent interactions with the healthcare system. Contraceptive choices and the provision of sexual and reproductive health services often are not integrated with ART services meaning that women are still required to frequently visit health facilities.

The IAS invites proposals from individual consultants or consulting firms to support advocacy efforts to ensure quality, rights-based contraceptive options and other family planning choices are offered within HIV programmes.

4. Scope of work:

The consultant will engage with strategic partners and perform the following tasks:

**Task 1:** Coordinate webinars and other activities to disseminate the recently launched *Leveraging differentiated ART delivery models to strengthen family planning*.

**Task 2:** Provide technical input on a multi-country assessment of challenges and opportunities to improve the integration of HIV and contraceptive options and other family planning choices for women and girls living with HIV.

**Task 3:** Engage in thought leadership activities and strategic discussions on differentiated service delivery and sexual and reproductive health and rights, and

**Task 4:** Develop input for global funders of the HIV response on best practices to promote quality, rights-based access to contraceptive options and other family planning choices within HIV programming.

5. Period: September 2020 – February 2021, up to 50 working days for the whole consultancy.

6. Proposal requirements

The proposal should be no longer than five (5) pages in length including a budget and overall timeline. It should clearly outline how the project tasks (see point 4) will be met and include the following:

- A summary of relevant and comparable experience with this type of work and the approach to the project, including academic qualifications, work experience, publication record and a list of key partners
- A sample of recent work (of a similar nature)
- A declaration of any conflicts of interest
- For individual consultants: recent evidence that the consultant is a registered freelancer in their country of residence.

7. Deliverables

- Two webinars developed and co-hosted related to HIV, DSD and sexual and reproductive health
- Input provided and summary report drafted from the multi-country assessment
- Summary report of DSD and contraceptive care work including the supplement, webinars, multi-country policy review, multi-country assessment and survey on DSD and contraceptive options,
• Concept note drafted on quality, rights-based access to contraceptive options and other family planning choices within differentiated HIV programming that could be adapted for different resource mobilization opportunities
• Written feedback provided on at least one strategic document in relation to integrated sexual and reproductive health and rights and HIV care.

8. Submission Details

Proposals must be sent by email to dsd@iasociety.org by 23:00 (CET) on 4 September 2020. Late proposals will not be considered. For further information, please contact Anna Grimsrud, anna.grimsrud@iasociety.org.