Consultancy: Technical Lead, Heart of Stigma

Request for proposals

Closing date and time: 8 January 2024, 23:00 CET

1. About the IAS

IAS – the International AIDS Society – convenes, educates and advocates for a world in which HIV no longer presents a threat to public health and individual well-being. After the emergence of HIV and AIDS, concerned scientists created the IAS to bring together experts from across the world and disciplines to promote a concerted HIV response. Today, the IAS and its members unite scientists, policy makers and activists to galvanize the scientific response, build global solidarity and enhance human dignity for all those living with and affected by HIV. The IAS also hosts the world’s most prestigious HIV conferences: the International AIDS Conference, the IAS Conference on HIV Science and the HIV Research for Prevention Conference.
Find more information about the IAS at www.iasociety.org.

2. About the Heart of Stigma programme

HIV-related stigma and discrimination continue to be major barriers to ending AIDS as a public health threat. In 2020, the IAS launched the Heart of Stigma programme to bring attention to HIV-related stigma and the effectiveness of stigma-mitigation efforts. The Heart of Stigma programme actively supports stakeholders in the HIV response to scale up efforts to eliminate HIV-related stigma and discrimination.
Find more information about this initiative at https://www.iasociety.org/ias-programme/heart-stigma.

3. Purpose

The IAS is seeking proposals for a consultancy to provide technical leadership for the IAS Heart of Stigma programme, which supports stakeholders in the HIV response in scaling up efforts to eliminate HIV-related stigma and discrimination. To do so, the consultant will:

- Closely monitor developments in HIV-related stigma and discrimination and engage with other stakeholders in the field.
- Lead the implementation of the Heart of Stigma programme, bringing attention to HIV-related stigma and the effectiveness of stigma-mitigation efforts.
- Collaborate with different IAS teams to accurately reflect and adequately position HIV-related stigma and discrimination across IAS activities.
4. Objectives and estimated effort

Objective 1 – Programmatic strategy and leadership: Provide strategic direction and leadership on eliminating HIV-related stigma and discrimination aligned with the IAS strategy.
Activities may include:
- Convening communities of practice on elimination of HIV-related stigma and discrimination
- Updating stakeholder mapping of HIV-related stigma and discrimination reduction efforts
- Coordinating the development of a country-led self-assessment tool for tracking progress on elimination HIV-related stigma and discrimination
- Providing thought leadership to the IAS on HIV-related stigma and discrimination
- Serving as an IAS spokesperson on the importance of elimination HIV-related stigma and discrimination

Objective 2 – Grant implementation and project coordination: Manage grant implementation for the Heart of Stigma programme.
Activities may include:
- Developing programmatic work plans for achieving programme outcomes
- Overseeing the programme budget and key performance indicators
- Providing regular updates to the programme funder(s) through written reports and calls
- Mentoring and managing staff and consultants on the programme
- Facilitating internal capacity building on HIV-related stigma and discrimination and structural barriers
- Collaborating across IAS departments for effective project implementation.

Objective 3 – Stakeholder engagement and partnership development: Manage relationships with funders, global agencies, and key partners.
Activities may include:
- Convening and managing an IAS Heart of Stigma Advisory Board including setting agendas and overseeing follow-up actions
- Liaising with programme funders including through regular meetings
- Strengthening existing partnerships and developing new collaborations with stigma experts.
- Developing concept notes and funding proposals for expanding work in related areas.

5. Deliverables

Programmatic strategy and leadership deliverables
- Comprehensive report on communities of activities address HIV-related stigma and discrimination.
- Updated stakeholder mapping report related to HIV-related stigma and discrimination reduction efforts.
- Presentation materials or reports reflecting the importance of removing stigma as a barrier to health services.

Grant implementation and project coordination deliverables
Detailed programmatic work plan for the Heart of Stigma programme.
Budget oversight report and progress monitoring and evaluation framework.
Internal capacity building plan for staff/consultants regarding HIV-related stigma.

Stakeholder engagement and partnership development deliverables
- Agendas and documented follow-up actions from IAS Stigma Advisory Board meetings.
- Reports on strengthened existing partnerships and developed new collaborations with stigma experts.
- Concept notes and funding proposals for expanding work in related stigma areas.

6. Proposal requirements

- A two-page summary of the challenges remaining in eliminating HIV-related stigma and discrimination and activities the IAS could undertake to address these.
- CV and summary of relevant experience
- Two to three references from previous clients
- A daily rate
- For individual consultants, recent evidence of freelance registration in their country of residence

7. Qualifications for consultants

- Advanced degree in public health, law, human rights, international relations, development, or a relevant discipline, preferably with a focus on stigma.
- Demonstrated understanding and established networks within HIV-related stigma and discrimination science, programs, and advocacy; proven ability to self-initiate, propose, and implement strategic initiatives in dynamic environments; exceptional stakeholder management, cross-cultural interpersonal skills, and diplomacy.
- Full professional fluency in English, both written and verbal including strong written and oral communication skills, including representation and public speaking.
- Organizational aptitude and systematic approach to work.
- Capability to work independently and collaboratively within teams.
- Although not essential for this assignment, the IAS acknowledges the value of the experience of living with HIV and will consider this when evaluating applications.

8. Timeline

This is a full-time consultancy, anticipated as being approximately 200 days between February and December 2024. A specific work plan will be agreed upon selection of the candidate.

9. Submission details

Please send proposals to nostigma@iasociety.org with the subject, “RfP – Technical Lead, Heart of Stigma”, by 8 January 2024, 23:00 CET. For more information, email nostigma@iasociety.org.