

Response to Queries

RFP-2011-40: A qualitative study on factors influencing HIV resource allocation decisions in selected countries

September 13, 2011

1. When do you anticipate work on this contract would start ie. how long do you think it would take for UNAIDS to issue a contract for the work?
[We estimate that a contract could be issued approximately six weeks after the closing of the bid \(mid-November\). Ideally, we would like the work to begin before the end of November 2011. However, proposals with later proposed start dates will be fully considered.](#)
2. Do you have a particular time frame in mind for this work, or any particular deadlines that need to be met?
[We anticipate the proposed delivery of the final product to be as timely as possible and would expect the final outcome of the work to be delivered no later than end of June 2012.](#)
3. The RFP suggests that UNAIDS may already have countries in mind in terms of where it would like the work to be done. Please can you let us know whether there are particular priority countries where you would like the case studies to be conducted?
[The countries for the study will be selected purposefully by UNAIDS SSE/ESR staff in collaboration with the successful bidder. Countries will be selected from the UNAIDS Strategy/UBRAF, 2011-2015 20+ high impact countries. The countries included in this list are Nigeria, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, DRC, Indonesia, South Africa, India, Russian Federation, China, Brazil, Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana, Namibia, Ukraine, Myanmar, Thailand, Haiti, Rwanda, Iran, Guatemala, Jamaica, Cambodia and Djibouti.](#)
4. What is the timeline for starting, and completing, this study?
[See answers to questions 1 & 2.](#)
5. Are there any views as to which countries might be particularly important to include in the study? What criteria will be used for country case-study selection?
[See answer to question 3.](#)
6. Is there any notional dollar figure in mind in relation to this piece of work?
[UNAIDS prefers not to pre-specify the size of the budget for this task. As per RFP instructions, bidders are asked to provide the most economical offer that addresses UNAIDS specified requirements in the proposed timeframe.](#)

7. Is there any important background information that can be provided that will help clarify the rationale for establishing this study? i.e. what problem is it seeking to address?

Analyses have shown that “neighbouring countries with similar HIV prevalence levels spend resources in radically different ways. Spending patterns appear to be only nominally related to the severity of the epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa, and are totally unrelated to prevalence in the rest of the world [1].” This is due in part to the limited use of resource allocation tools in country planning processes and the limited influence of model results on set targets and objectives when the tools are used.

A more strategic approach to investment is needed to strengthen national and international HIV responses and maximize returns on investments. Prioritization of interventions is especially critical in the context of the decline in the resources available for HIV interventions [2]. An investment framework has been proposed that is intended to support better management of HIV responses than presently exists [3]. In order to better focus UNAIDS assistance to countries in prioritization and evidence based resource allocation in the context of national strategic and operational planning the following are critical: an updated understanding of the decision-making process for allocating funds to HIV in countries and information on how resource allocation tools can be made more useable and beneficial to decision-makers.

References

1. Forsythe S, Stover J, Bollinger L (2009) The past, present and future of HIV, AIDS and resource allocation. BMC Public Health 9 Suppl 1: S4.
2. UNAIDS (2010) UNAIDS Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic 2010. Geneva, Switzerland: UNAIDS.
3. Schwartländer B, Stover J, Hallett T, Atun R, Avila C, et al. (2011) Towards an improved investment approach for an effective response to HIV/AIDS. Lancet.

8. When is the complete report expected?
See answer to question 2.