



TERMS OF REFERENCE

JOB TITLE: Short Term Research Consultant (To assess Jordan's and Egypt's readiness to transition after Global Fund withdrawal)

DURATION: 6 months

STARTING DATE: MAY 4th 2017

END DATE: October 20th 2017

CONTRACTING BODY: RANAA SECRETARIAT

RANAA Overview

The Regional/Arab Network Against AIDS (RANAA) (www.ranaa.net) is a regional network comprised of national networks working on limiting the spread of HIV/AIDS. RANAA works on strengthening the role of its networks and their members by providing technical support and capacity building in various organizational and thematic areas. Additionally, RANAA works on ensuring that People Living with HIV (PLHIV) and Key Populations (KPs) attain their health rights, live in dignity, and have access to support, treatment, and care. The latter is done through developing studies, networking, and regional advocacy interventions. RANAA's aim is to have a strong civil society in the MENA region working collectively to reach zero new HIV/AIDS incident, low mortality rates, and to ensure that health rights for KPs and PLHIV are attained.

Project Overview

RANAA, in coordination with the Middle East and North Africa Harm Reduction (MENAHR) (www.menahra.org) and with the support of the International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO), will be developing two case studies on Jordan and Egypt. The assessment will focus on the consequences of the Global Fund withdrawal from HIV and Harm Reduction programs in Jordan by evaluating the country's readiness and the processes for transitioning. In addition, an assessment on Egypt will also be conducted in order to determine its readiness for Global Fund withdrawal. This will be done using and adapting the Transition Readiness Assessment Tool (TRAT) developed by the Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN).

The Global Fund is the major donor for the MENA region providing support to some countries in the response to HIV, TB, and Malaria through providing prevention, treatment, and care

services to revitalize communities, strengthen local health systems, and improve economies. However, this funding decreased from 2014-2016 allocation and 2017-2019 allocation.

For instance, for the case of Egypt, out of the \$2,058,336 only \$500,093 was allocated for HIV (Global Fund, 2015). Whereas in the previous allocation, \$7million from \$18,095,158 were allocated for HIV/AIDS. As for Algeria the \$2,312,936 allocation for 2017-2019 was solely for HIV. Djibouti was allocated a total of 20.2 million dollars for the three diseases, where 6 million were allocated for HIV. For 2017-2019, 2,910,923 were allocated from the total grant of 8,515,920 on HIV/AIDS (Global Fund, 2016) (Global Fund, 2014).

MENAHRA and RANAA have developed a brief and general document regarding the transition to national ownership of HIV services for KPs in MENA in 2016. This assessment used the indicators of the Transition Readiness Assessment Tool (TRAT): policy, governance, financing, and program. The document concludes that countries with Global Fund support in the region, in general, are not prepared for transitioning after Global Fund withdrawal. However, based on these indicators, each country falls under different stages of readiness. Due to the region's complexity, there is high concern as to how countries would sustain their HIV and harm reduction programs, especially those affecting KPs.

Egypt

Egypt was allocated \$18,095,158 for 2014-2016 from the Global Fund (AIDSPAN, 2016) and is currently undergoing an investigation of its round 10 grant (Global Fund, 2015) and waiting for final approval on the next grant. Although Global Fund has set “transitioning” as part of its strategic components within its core funding activities, if the new grant is not approved, Egypt may face devastating consequences since it lacks a transitioning plan and does not have a conducive environment for such programs.

Jordan

Prior to the Global Fund's New Funding Model, Jordan was ranked eligible for funding. It was highly reliant on funding from Global Fund in the past 10 years; with a disbursement up to \$9.2 million in 2015 on HIV grants. The country has witnessed a withdrawal from the Global Fund due to a change in eligibility criteria without having a transitioning plan. However, Jordan submitted a “Continuity of Service” application which granted NAP a total of almost \$162, 000 for the period (January 2013- December 2014), covering almost 40% of the cost of pharmaceuticals (ARVs) and health products and commodities (non-pharmaceutical) for the total number of PLHIV registered till end of 2012.

In recent updates, and according to the Global Fund's Core Eligible Countries 2017 List (2016), “Jordan's HIV/AIDS disease burden classification changed from ‘Low’ in the 2016 Eligibility List to ‘High’ in the 2017 Eligibility List. In accordance with the Global Fund Eligibility Policy, country components must be eligible for two consecutive eligibility determinations to become eligible to receive an allocation, subject to the availability of funding. As Jordan was not eligible in the 2016 Eligibility List for HIV/AIDS grants, it is therefore classified as not eligible in the 2017 Eligibility List” (Global Fund, 2016).

Scope of Work

1) Job Description

Under the supervision of RANAA President and in close collaboration with MENAHRA and RANAA staff, the selected consultant will work throughout the consultancy terms of reference, in addition to any other relevant tasks needed to meet the objectives of this assignment.

The overall objectives of the assignment is to assess Jordan's and Egypt's readiness to transition after Global Fund withdrawal for a sustainability of HIV and harm reduction programs based on the following Research Questions and Methods. The process of this assessment can be used to potentially be replicated in other countries in MENA.

1- Research Questions:

Research Question 1: Is Egypt prepared to transition from the reliance on Global Fund funding to national ownership and ensure the sustainability of their programs?

Research Question 2: Was Jordan prepared to transition from the reliance on Global Fund funding to national ownership and ensure the sustainability of their programs?

2- Methods:

In order to answer the above research questions, we will be using the TRAT tool (a mix of qualitative methods) developed by EHRN, while taking Egypt and Jordan as case studies.

2) Tasks

The consultant will be required to perform the following tasks while reporting regularly basis to the RANAA Secretariat.

- A. Development of action plan and timeline of this consultancy.
- B. Desk review of each country's context and profile (in terms of epidemiology, governing laws, modes of cooperation, funding resources, concerned stakeholders and policy makers, among other relevant information)
- C. Adaptation of the TRAT interview guide for the key informant interviews
- D. Organizing and conducting interviews with key informants in Egypt and Jordan organizing national
- E. Development and completion of the TRAT matrix and the first draft report for each country including identifying barriers and key lessons
- F. Sharing the draft report with key informants and stakeholders for feedback
- G. Amending the draft report based on received feedback

Organizing two consensus meetings respectively in Egypt and Jordan with the involved key informants to validate the assessment findings. Finalizing the assessment report based on the received feedback and the consensus meeting. The above steps will take into consideration the four thematic areas and their respective indicators as per the TRAT (policy, governance, financing, and program)

3) Deliverables:

- Progress report on the consultancy process to submit to RANAA Secretariat on:

- First draft Assessment reports on Egypt and Lebanon to submit to RANAA Secretariat on
- Second draft Assessment reports on Egypt and Lebanon to submit to RANAA Secretariat on:
- Final Assessment reports on Egypt and Lebanon to submit to RANAA Secretariat on:
- Consensus/validation meetings reports to submit to RANAA Secretariat
- Final report on the consultancy process to submit to RANAA Secretariat

4) Qualifications and requirements:

- Candidates must be in possession of an advanced university degree in Public Health, Public Administration Sociology, Economy or other related field
- Candidates must have experience in conducting similar assessments
- Candidates must be familiar with the topic of HIV/AIDS and Key Populations
- Candidates must be familiar with the Global Fund grants and in working and communicating within the Middle East and North Africa region.
- Candidates must have excellent written and verbal communication skills in English, and must be fluent in Arabic, French is a plus.

5) How to apply:

If interested, please submit a CV with a cover letter to info@ranaa.net (only applications which include cover letters will be considered).

Please ensure that the subject of your email “Short Term Research Consultant on Egypt and Jordan”

For further information, you may contact the offices at +961 1 493 211 or visit our website at www.ranaa.net

Applications received after the above date will not be considered. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted

Task	Duration (working days)
Desk review	Five
Adaptation of the TRAT	Three
Travel to Egypt and Jordan to conduct interviews	Ten (5 each)
Development and completion of the TRAT matrix based on findings	Ten
Organize a final focus group meeting in Egypt and Jordan with key informants to validate findings of the assessment	Two (1 each)
Edit final report	Six
Approximate Total number of days	36

Work-plan: The consultant is requested to present a plan to accomplish the above tasks to be approved by the secretariat.

Qualifications:

- Has effective communication and interviewing skills
- Previous experience working with NGOs and government bodies
- Previous knowledge related to HIV/AIDS in the region
- Has wide experience in conducting qualitative research
- Proficient in English and Arabic

Deadline: The deadline to present the candidature is April 27, 2017.

Duration: May 4, 2017 till October 31, 2017

Contact: Kindly send your CV and a letter of intent to: contact@ranaa.net

Tel: 00961 1 493211

Only Short-listed candidates will be contacted.