

Q: The team is concerned it will be difficult to find a nationally representative sample of people living with HIV, particularly pregnant women and women with children under two, not to mention trying to find women matching this description who live close enough together to form focus groups. Does UNICEF have access to any list of such people and/or can you leverage a partnership with a local NGO to secure such a list? Any other ideas for how to reach this niche target audience?

A: UNICEF (and UNAIDS as a partner of UNICEF) will facilitate the access to these data through Coordination Unit of the National Programme on HIV/STI prevention and control.

Q: Can UNICEF Moldova confirm that this bid is open to international companies (and is not only for locally registered companies)?

A: International companies can apply as well, subject to ToR requirements.

Q: The RFP notes that "Considering the sensitive topic of assessment, the assessment protocol set of the documents will be submitted for independent Ethical review, as stated in the ECA RO Standard Operation Procedures to ensure quality of research, studies and evaluations.". Could you please clarify whether UNICEF Moldova would facilitate this process or would we be responsible for identifying/engaging an Independent Ethical Committee for this purpose?

A: UNICEF Moldova will submit the study protocol to the national Ethical Committee.

Q: Section "7. Expected Deliverables and Delivery date" notes that deliverables 1,2 and 4 need to be delivered in Romanian. Should these be delivered in English as well, or Romanian only?

A: English is acceptable but not required; Romanian is mandatory for facilitating consultation with national stakeholders.

Q: Could you please provide further clarification on section "12. Evaluation criteria for selection"? There are two parts "Company and Key Personnel" and "Research team qualification". Is the "key personnel" in the first instance referred to the Team Leader? The "Research team qualification" box states that those individuals should have a minimum 5 years of relevant experience, including HIV. However, under section "9. Qualifications and experience", the requirements of 5 years' experience applies to the Team Leader only. Could you please confirm that the 5 years of experience applies to both Team Leader and all other research members? This would be very helpful for us to have a better understanding of the allocations of evaluation criteria points.

A: 5 years of experience applies to Team Leader only.

Q: Can you please confirm that the research team members (excluding the Team Leader) need to be fluent in Romanian AND Russian? Could you also kindly confirm that English is not required for these individuals?

A: English is not a mandatory requirement for the team members because data will be collected in local languages and report will be written in Romanian with translation in English, However, the Team leader will be responsible for quality of all deliverables, including those in English.

Q: What is the expected value of the project?

A: The Request for Proposals solicitation format requests proposers to submit their best financial proposal as per the ToR requirements.

Q: For sampling purposes, will UNICEF or its partners provide the selected vendor with a list of individuals receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) in Moldova?

A: UNICEF (and UNAIDS as a partner of UNICEF) will facilitate the access to these data through Coordination Unit of the National Programme on HIV/STI prevention and control.

Q: The RFP document mentions the need for an independent ethical review. Has UNICEF already identified a panel of reviewers or will the selected vendor be able to arrange a review by an organisation or a panel of his choice?

A: [UNICEF Moldova will submit the study protocol to the national Ethical Committee.](#)