

Request for Proposals (RFP)

For

Sub-award

in support of

Challenge TB Malawi Year 4

***ASSESSMENT OF PATIENT PERSPECTIVES, PREFERENCES, AND
PATHWAYS ON SEEKING, ACCESSING AND ACCEPTING TB CARE &
PREVENTION IN URBAN SETTINGS***

USAID Cooperative Agreement No. AID-OAA-A-14-00029

Submit Questions to: akuzike.tasowana@kncvtbc.org

Closing Date for Submission of proposals: *19th November 2017*

Managed by:

KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation

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Introduction

KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation

KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation (KNCV) is an international non-profit organization dedicated to the fight against tuberculosis (TB), which is still one of the most deadly infectious diseases in the world. KNCV is an international center of expertise for TB control that promotes effective, efficient, innovative and sustainable TB control strategies in a national and international context. We are an organization of passionate TB professionals, including doctors, researchers, training experts, nurses and epidemiologists. We aim to stop the spread of the worldwide epidemic of TB and to prevent the further spread of drug-resistant TB. For more information see www.kncvtbc.org.

Over the past century KNCV has built up a wealth of knowledge and expertise, initially by successfully controlling TB in the Netherlands. Since the 1970s, we have also shared our knowledge and expertise with the rest of the world. We operate from a central office in The Hague in the Netherlands, and two regional offices, one in Central Asia and the other in East Africa, as well as many country offices worldwide. In Malawi we are based in Lilongwe, Area 9 opposite Madidi Lodge. KNCV raises funds from private, institutional, corporate, and government donors.

Challenge TB

KNCV is the lead partner in Challenge TB (CTB), the current United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded 5-year global project to decrease TB mortality and morbidity in high burdened countries. We lead an international consortium with eight partner organizations: American Thoracic Society (ATS), FHI 360, Interactive Research & Development (IRD), Japan Anti-Tuberculosis Foundation (JATA), and Management Sciences for Health (MSH), PATH, The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union), and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The overarching strategic objectives of CTB are to improve access to quality patient centered care for TB, TB/HIV, and MDR-TB services; to prevent transmission and disease progression; and to strengthen TB platforms. CTB project includes TB control activities in 23 countries and several overarching core projects in multiple countries. For more information see www.challengeTB.org.

Challenge TB in Malawi

The CTB project in Malawi works towards reducing the number of deaths due to TB and TB/HIV co-infection by improving the access to quality patient-centered care (PCC), prevention of transmission and progression to disease; and supporting the establishment of sustained and enhanced systems. KNCV is the lead partner to implement the project. Challenge TB has focused activities in 15 districts of Malawi and is also supporting national level activities such as supervision, monitoring, EQA, efficient use of GeneXpert platforms, amongst others.

The Malawi CTB project is supporting NTP efforts to enhance the creation of demand for TB services by raising community awareness of TB signs and symptoms through engagement of CSOs and CBOs working on TB and HIV services. This will enhance early TB diagnosis in the community and among high-risk populations through active case finding. The NTP, as outlined in the current National Strategic Plan (NSP), has prioritized high risk populations for TB control information on early diagnosis and treatment through media outlets, with involvement of community organizations and HSA for case finding and management. CTB is working with local partners including ACTION AID, a Global Fund co-principal recipient and other CSO working on TB and TB/HIV programs to enhance early TB case finding and help reduce the risk of catastrophic costs for TB patients in all the five administrative zones in Malawi. KNCV has a number of initiatives, which are aimed at supporting the NTP. These include support to finding and treating missed patients among subpopulations in Lilongwe and Blantyre districts, aimed at enhancing access to quality TB services at community and health centre levels.

Purpose of the assessment

The purpose of the assessment is to better understand the patient perspectives, preferences and pathways in seeking, accessing and accepting TB care and prevention among urban sub-

populations at high risk of contracting TB, in order to enhance awareness of TB within these communities and improve early care seeking behavior as well as treatment initiation, adherence and completion. The assessment will be conducted in Lilongwe and Blantyre districts.

Main Aim

The aim of the assessment is to optimize the TB service network and to improve the quality of TB care and prevention in addressing patients' demands, needs and expectations.

Specific Objectives

1. To gather baseline information on the knowledge, attitudes and practices of people in communities towards TB;
2. To determine the individual, social and environmental barriers and enabling factors that contribute to individuals with presumptive TB seeking care and prevention early;
3. To provide recommendations for the development of patient-centered TB services for the National Tuberculosis Control Program.

Methodology

Using the Terms of Reference, the intending consultant will prepare a draft proposal on how he/she intends to conduct the assessment. The consultant is expected to propose and design a suitable methodology for gathering information and analyzing the findings. Given that this is a social study, both qualitative and quantitative data are expected.

Main Tasks of the Consultant

1. Submit an inception report, which will include an interpretation of the tasks and methodologies that will be used in the assessment;
2. Develop appropriate tools and instruments for gathering information;
3. Present the methodology for approval;
4. Review appropriate documents such as the TB Disease Prevalence Survey report and the National Strategic Plan;
5. Ensure collection of high quality data for high quality analysis and reporting;
6. Undertake consultations with key stakeholders and conduct field data collection;
7. Process and analyze the data, write and submit a draft report of the survey;
8. Present Preliminary findings to CTB, NTP and Health Education Unit representatives;
9. Revise and submit a final version of the survey report, including recommendations, to CTB and NTP.

Deliverables

Deliverables under this consultancy will include the following:

1. A detailed inception report showing how the consultant seeks to undertake the study. The report will include a clear methodology and data collection tools, analysis reporting details and a detailed work plan. This will be presented within two weeks after signing of the contract.
2. A draft report detailing the assessment background, description of the setting, used methodology and tools, results and recommendations submitted within two weeks after completion of data collection activities in the field.
3. A power point presentation of the background, description of the setting, used methodology and tools, results and recommendations of the assessment.

4. A final report submitted within 14 days after receiving stakeholders' written comments on the draft report to be submitted to CTB and NTP.

Duration and Time

The entire assignment including preparation of the assessment tools and protocol, fieldwork, analysis of data and report writing is estimated to last four weeks of 5 working days each as follows;

- Two weeks for preparation (10 billable days)
- Two weeks for field assessment (14 billable days including travel)
- One week for report writing (5 billable days)

Desirable Qualifications

- Track record of similar previous assignments in the target settings
- The consultant will be required to devise appropriate strategies and administer effective tools to generate as much information as required within the limited time.

Education and Background Required:

1. The consultant shall have an advanced degree in Public health, Environmental health, social science, behavioral science;
2. Good knowledge in Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methodology;
3. Minimum of 5 years' relevant research;
4. Clear understanding of research ethics.

How to Apply

Interested consultants should send an Expression of Interest (EOI) (a maximum of 15 pages) which should contain technical and financial proposal to akuzike.tasowana@kncvtbc.org.

The technical proposal should include consultants understanding of the TORs, methodology, and work plan and activity schedule.

A detailed CV of the consultant and a sample report should be included as annexes.

The financial proposal should include professional fees and other expenses required to undertake the assessment.