

“POPULATION SIZE ESTIMATE AND ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS IN HIV AMONG PLHIV AND KP FOREIGN MIGRANT IN ARMENIA”

TERMS OF REFERENCE

For a consultant to participate in a Study on provision of HIV care to foreign migrants in Armenia.

REG is pleased to announce a call of expression of interest for a **KEY RESEARCHER** to participate in the Study “**Population size estimate and assessment of needs in HIV among PLHIV and KP foreign migrant in Armenia**”.

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

The Regional Expert Group on Migration and Health in Eastern Europe and Central Asia was established by civil society activists and researchers to develop an expert position that would help improve the quality of life of international migrants in the countries of the region. The aim of the group is to provide expertise to ensure continuous access of mobile populations to health services along the entire route from countries of origin to countries of destination in the EECA region.

The goals of the Regional Expert Group on Migration and Health are the following:

- To conduct research to assess the health situation of migrants and access to healthcare services;
- To present research results to the public and discuss evidence-based arguments with decision-makers, representatives of civil society, the academic community, and international organizations;
- To initiate and support expert dialogue to foster cross-border cooperation between sending and receiving countries of migration, as well as creation of bilateral and multilateral agreements in the area of mobile populations health;
- To create a common information space for cross-border cooperation.

REG is a public non-profit association consisting of individual expert members, an Advisory Council, country representatives, as well as an Executive Committee that coordinates the activities of the REG. For details, pls. follow <http://migrationhealth.group/en/>

RESEARCH RATIONALE

In addition to challenges faced by all migrants, such as obtaining a legal status in the receiving country, securing housing, employment and/or social benefits, overcoming language barriers, and other issues, Key populations (KP) and people living with HIV (PLHIV) face a unique set of challenges related to accessing HIV prevention and treatment and psychosocial services. Availability of such services in receiving

countries varies, and their accessibility for KP and PLHIV migrants may vary even more.

The proposed project *aims to estimate the number of HIV cases among foreign migrants in Armenia; to define barriers in access to HIV services faced by foreign migrants in Armenia. Received data and estimations is to be used in needs assessments and will form the basis for the development of assistance programs for migrants and evaluate funding needed for prevention and treatment programs.*

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

To assess the numbers of PLHIV and KP foreign migrants and to identify their needs and barriers in accessing HIV, humanitarian and psychosocial services in Armenia

METHODS OF THE STUDY AND PRELIMINARY DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY SAMPLE

The study is based on the rapid assessment methodology and integrates desk research of available statistical and analytical documents (both official, indexed and gray ones) with rich qualitative data based on the range of expert interviews.

The quantitative and qualitative data from the desk research and interviews would be gathered together and triangulated to ensure the best quality of the research results. The data for estimating the number of migrants of interest would be analyzed using the calculation matrix. The interviews would be analyzed via thematic analysis. The limitations would be described and addressed in regard to overall quality of data available.

The preliminary identified sources of data would be coupled with the information gathered with the help of local experts including gray sources and sources on local languages and those identified via key informant interview. All identified sources for the analysis of the situation would be listed in the final report.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR social researcher with PhD with more than 5 years of experience in HIV research including size estimation of hard-to-reach populations, qualitative and bio-behavioral surveillance studies among key populations, numerous peer-reviewed international publications as well as research reports.

EXPECTED TASKS OF THE STUDY

Collection of quantitative data

- adapt methodology
- assist in gathering national qualitative data (desk research) using open sources

Collection of qualitative data

- identify experts for interviews with public health experts as well as PLHIV and KP foreign migrant
- develop a questionnaire for expert interviews
- identify barriers for migrants for access to HIV services
- evaluate possible sources of bias and their volume for available migration and HIV-prevalence data

Data Analysis and report preparation

- Analyze collected data
- Develop a draft study report
- Present a draft report the Regional Expert Group on migration and health
- Develop full version of the report

PROPOSED TIMEFRAME

- **July, 2024** participation in the kick-off meeting for study team organized by REG for detailed understanding of the context and aims of the Study and methodology
- **July 2024** adaptation methodology of the study, gather national qualitative data (desk research) according, identify key experts for interviews
- **August-September 2024** analyzing field data
- **October 15,** preparation 30-page draft report in WORD, size 12 outlining key results of held interviews and and analytics of gathered quantitative
- **October 25 2024** submission final report according to edits received from the REG.
- **October 25 2024** preparation PP presentation with results of the Study

LANGUAGE OF THE REPORT: The report is to prepared in English or Russian

ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

All information and data collected in the course of the study should not be transferred to third parties or used in other studies or reviews until the publication of this report. After the publication, the use of data is possible only with a link to the report of the Regional Expert Group on Migrant Health in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA)

The authors of the report retain the right to the name; the rights to the report and the results of the study will belong to the Regional Expert Group on Migrant Health (REG) in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (dissemination, translations into other languages, etc.).

TERMS OF PAYMENT

Payment of the total amount of the contract is made in one or two payments as agreed with the Contractor.

EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR TENDER PARTICIPANTS

Knowledge of qualitative data collection and analysis methods (40%)

Experience in analyzing publications and data on public health issues in EECA countries (40%)

Service cost (20%)

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Individuals, legal entities, self-employed who have the right to engage in relevant activities and are registered as single tax payers, can take part in the competition, by submitting tender proposals.

For detailed information and conditions, please contact Daniel Kashnitsky kashnitsky@gmail.com

The deadline for submission of the proposals is **July 20, 2024**.

Please, submit a proposal by e-mail to Zinaida Abrosimova abrosimova@gmail.com (please, indicate in the topic of the email which position you are applying for).