

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

TERMS OF REFERENCE

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

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

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

The Republic of Kazakhstan, as a country receiving a large number of foreign migrants, is one of the EECA countries with the most advanced and humane policies in the area of ensuring access of migrants to HIV treatment. International migrants living with HIV are not deported from the country. Since 2020, with the release of the new version of the Code ‘On Public Health and Healthcare System’, foreign nationals, including those living with HIV, who are permanently residing in

Kazakhstan and have a residence permit, are entitled to free medical care as a part of the National Guaranteed Amount of Free Medical Care.

However, according to a conducted [study on determination legislative and financial barriers to obtaining medical care](#), despite the legally established possibility of obtaining a residence permit that would guarantee free medical care for HIV-positive migrants, foreign citizens must undergo an HIV test. A positive result subsequently becomes a barrier when submitting documents to the migration service - employees refuse to accept documents from such foreigners to obtain a residence permit.

Only about 170 foreigners with HIV receive ART within the framework of the Global Fund project, the rest do not have access to treatment. The absence of ART in the pharmacy network does not allow it to be purchased even on a paid basis.

The proposed project aims to estimate the number of HIV cases among foreign migrants in Kazakhstan; to define barriers in access to HIV services faced by foreign migrants residing Kazakhstan. 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

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 Kazakhstan.

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 based on received comments

PROPOSED TIMEFRAME

- **April, 2025** 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
- **April - May, 2025** adaptation methodology of the study, identify key experts for interviews, development of questionnaires for interviews, holding a briefing of interviewers
- **May - June, 2025** field part of the Study, gathering data, coordination of interviewers, holding desk research together with a demographer to collect needed data
- **July 1-30**, preparation a 20-page draft report in WORD, size 12 outlining key results of held interviews and analytics of gathered both qualitative and quantitative data
- **August 15, 2025** submission final report according to edits received from the REG
- **September – November** participation in a zoom or face-to-face presentation of the report, preparation of a PPP presentation with results of the Study and developed recommendations

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 **April 30, 2025**.

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).