



A review of country-led self-assessment tools for HIV

Request for proposals

Closing date and time: 23 November 2023, 23:00 CET

1. About the IAS

IAS – the International AIDS Society – convenes, educates and advocates for a world in which HIV no longer presents a threat to public health and individual well-being. After the emergence of HIV and AIDS, concerned scientists created the IAS to bring together experts from across the world and disciplines to promote a concerted HIV response. Today, the IAS and its members unite scientists, policy makers and activists to galvanize the scientific response, build global solidarity and enhance human dignity for all those living with and affected by HIV. The IAS also hosts the world's most prestigious HIV conferences: the International AIDS Conference, the IAS Conference on HIV Science and the HIV Research for Prevention Conference.

Find more information about the IAS at www.iasociety.org.

2. About the Heart of Stigma programme

HIV-related stigma and discrimination continue to be major barriers to ending AIDS as a public health threat. In 2020, the IAS launched the Heart of Stigma programme to bring attention to HIV-related stigma and the effectiveness of stigma-mitigation efforts. The Heart of Stigma programme actively supports stakeholders in the HIV response to scale up efforts to eliminate HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

Find more information about this initiative at <https://www.iasociety.org/ias-programme/heart-stigma>.

3. Purpose

The IAS is seeking proposals for a consultancy to conduct a comprehensive review and evaluation of country-led self-assessment tools utilized by national governments for HIV-related purposes. The primary objective of this review is to assess the availability, content, effectiveness and adoption of existing self-assessment tools, with a focus on their role in facilitating positive change.



The review process may encompass online research to identify and analyse these tools and interviews with key informants who possess expertise in the development, implementation and support of such tools. We are particularly interested in gathering insights from users of the HIV Prevention Self-Assessment Tool (PSAT), especially those associated with the Global Prevention Coalition, the South-to-South Learning Network (SSLN) and ministry of health officials from countries where the tool has been employed.

In addition to focusing on HIV prevention self-assessment tools, this request for proposals (RfP) extends its scope to include country-led self-assessment tools employed in other health-related and non-health sectors. We are also interested in exploring various aspects of these tools, such as their format (for example, Excel or Word), accessibility (online or offline), requirements (e.g., in-person meetings and technical assistance) and any other relevant details.

The insights derived from this consultancy will serve as the cornerstone for the development of a new self-assessment tool, specifically designed to address issues related to HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

4. Objectives and estimated effort

Objective 1: Review and stakeholder consultation (estimated time: 18-20 days)

- Review the PSATs and other country-led self-assessment tools, including those outside the HIV and health sectors.
- Conduct key informant interviews with tool developers, users and supporting entities.

Objective 2: Analysis and recommendations (estimated time: 7-10 days)

- Provide a comparative analysis of the tools reviewed, focusing on their scope, approach, uptake, impact, strengths, limitations and format.
- Provide recommendations for best practices for the development of a new country-led self-assessment tool focusing on HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

5. Deliverables

Deliverable 1: Comparative tools analysis: An in-depth report comparing the features, effectiveness and limitations of the self-assessment tools evaluated, including those in HIV prevention and other sectors

Deliverable 2: Interview insights summary: A comprehensive document capturing the perspectives, advice and experiences shared by key informants during interviews

Deliverable 3: Conclusive findings and actionable recommendations: A final report that synthesizes all findings and provides specific, actionable steps for improvement or implementation

Deliverable 4: Summary presentation: A PowerPoint deck that visually highlights the essential findings and recommendations suitable for sharing with stakeholders and decision makers



6. Proposal requirements

- A two-page overview of the methodology that is proposed for the review
- CV and summary of relevant experience
- Two to three references from previous clients
- A daily rate
- For individual consultants, recent evidence of freelance registration in your country of residence

7. Qualifications for consultants

- Hold an advanced degree and a minimum of five to seven years of relevant experience in the fields of public health, social sciences or related disciplines. Experience in global health and/or HIV is highly desired.
- Demonstrated expertise in the evaluation of tools, frameworks or programmes, as well as conducting stakeholder interviews for data collection and analysis
- Submission of two or three recent writing samples, preferably related to public health initiatives, tool evaluations or stakeholder analyses. Please provide these in a digital format with your application.

8. Timeline

The consultancy is expected to take 25-30 working days within three months of the contract start date.

- A specific work plan will be agreed upon selection of the candidate.

9. Submission details

Please send proposals to nostigma@iasociety.org with the subject, "RfP - review of self-assessment tools", by 23 November 2023, 23:00 CET. For more information, email nostigma@iasociety.org.

This request for proposals aligns with our broader efforts to comprehensively understand and address HIV-related issues and will complement two other concurrent RfPs. One of these seeks to review measurement tools for HIV-related stigma and discrimination. The other seeks to map relevant partners in selected countries working on elimination of HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

These three complementary RfPs aim to strengthen our collective response to HIV, enhancing prevention and response strategies by addressing both the measurement of stigma and discrimination and the development of effective self-assessment tools for positive change. Interested and qualified parties are welcome to submit proposals for one or more of the RfPs.