



## **Terms of Reference for Consultancy**

**Research Partner - National Kenya PLHIV Stigma Index 2.0**

**August 2019**

## 1.0 Introduction

The National Empowerment Network of People living with HIV/AIDS in Kenya (NEPHAK) is a national 'Network' that unites people living with, at risk of and those affected by HIV and related co-infections and comorbidities through community-based organizations. Operating within the confines of the NGOs Coordination Act of 1990, NEPHAK aspires for a nation where people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV are at the forefront and meaningfully involved in the interventions geared towards an 'improved health and well-being of communities' and where their rights are recognized and respected. The networks works to compliment the government efforts towards the acceleration of the implementation of the fast track plan targets and the achievement of universal health coverage goals.

## 1.1 Background

HIV and AIDS remain a public health challenge in Kenya. The Kenya HIV Estimates 2018<sup>1</sup> indicates that the country's national prevalence stands at 4.8% with prevalence among females, higher at 5.2% compared to 4.5% among males. There are 1, 121,943 people currently on ART representing 75% ART coverage. New HIV infections stand at 44,789 with approximately 17,664 infections occurring among young people aged 15-24 years.

Stigma and discrimination remain a key hindrance to service delivery and uptake across all populations. The National PLHIV Stigma Index conducted in 2014 indicated a high stigma index of 45%. Since then, there has been limited effort to document HIV related stigma and discrimination. The Stigma Index supports Greater Involvement of People living with HIV principle through being driven 'by and for' people living with HIV and their networks. By acting on this principle, the Stigma Index empowers individuals as well as communities most affected by the epidemic.

The People Living with HIV Stigma Index is a research process – a survey made for and by people living with HIV – to gather important evidence on the stigma and discrimination experienced by people living with and affected HIV. It has now been updated and strengthened through the PLHIV Stigma Index 2.0, which reflects shifts in the HIV epidemic and the global response, including new questions focused on specific populations to better understand how different groups of people living with HIV and key populations are affected by stigma and discrimination. It also includes an expanded healthcare section to look at the impact of stigma on health and access to health across the whole continuum of care, not just HIV services, and a new questionnaire that is streamlined and easier to use, using digital data collection.

In 2018, the country secured funding from Global Fund through the Kenya Red Cross Society as the non-state Principal Recipient, to roll out Stigma Index Survey. Led by the NEPHAK, it is hoped that the findings of the survey will inform policy and programming towards achievement of HIV fast track targets and UHC goals. In addition to drawing from the country context, the survey will adopt Standards, User Guide and other related Stigma Index documents provided by the International Partnerships (UNAIDS, GNP+ and ICW). A multi stakeholder National Steering Committee has been established to guide and oversee the process of the roll-out of the PLHIV Stigma Index 2.0 in Kenya. It is against this background that the National Steering Committee would like to engage the services of a national consultant to conduct the 2019 PLHIV Stigma Index 2.0.

## 2.0 Objectives

Stigma Index aims to address stigma relating to HIV while also advocating on the key barriers and issues perpetuating stigma - a key obstacle to HIV treatment, prevention and care. The purpose of the assignment is to conduct a survey of the HIV related stigma and discrimination among people living with HIV in Kenya as per *The People Living with HIV Stigma Index 2.0* guideline<sup>2</sup>. The specific objectives of the survey are:

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<sup>1</sup> NACC, HIV Estimates, 2018

<sup>2</sup> [www.stigmaindex.org](http://www.stigmaindex.org)

1. To document experiences of people living with HIV in Kenya regarding HIV-related stigma and discrimination
2. To document how stigma and discrimination is manifested in various communities and institutional settings;
3. To understand the underlying factors that cause and allow stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV
4. To identify and measure stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV.
5. To measure the changes over time with respect to HIV related stigma, in Kenya
6. To generate evidence for policy change and programmatic intervention in relation to rights of people living with HIV for an effective HIV response

### 3.0 Methodology

The survey will take a cross-sectional approach through the application of *The People Living with HIV Stigma Index* guidelines. The methodology will include desk review, quantitative and qualitative methods. It will be led by and implemented with the participation of PLHIV and involve participation of service providers as well as other partners working in HIV, Health and other sectors.

#### 3.1 Scope of work

The Consultant will work closely with PLHIV Stigma Index 2.0 Study Coordinator and the NEPHAK team to;

1. Develop an inception report with detailed methodology; timeliness and budgets
2. Develop the research and training tools in accordance with *The People Living with HIV Stigma Index 2.0* guidelines
3. Recruit research assistance and study coordinators from the networks of people living with HIV in partnership with NEPHAK
4. Work with the National Steering Committee to prepare a research protocol and submit for ethical approval in accordance with Kenya Research Ethics Committee guidelines
5. Conduct training for the research assistants from the networks of people living in preparation for the survey fieldwork and data collection
6. Supervise fieldwork and data collection and ensure its in compliance with the methodology proposed in the inception report
7. Perform data management (quality check) analysis and interpretation
8. Convene and facilitate review and validation meetings
9. Finalize and produce a consolidated Kenya HIV Stigma Index report

#### 3.2 Deliverables

The expected deliverables for the assignment

1. Inception report
2. Survey protocol with ethical clearance and approval
3. Data collection tools
4. Training tools for data collectors
5. Training report for data collectors
6. Final data set in SPSS format
7. Draft Stigma Index assessment report
8. Validation Workshop
9. Validation and Consensus Building Report;
10. Final consolidated HIV Stigma Index survey report
11. Dissemination workshop

#### 4.0 Qualifications and experience required

- Master's degree in social sciences, public health, epidemiology or demography;
- Experience in qualitative and quantitative data analysis;
- At least five years' experience on research on HIV and AIDS related matters will be crucial to the successful completion of the assignment;

- Proficiency in SPSS data analysis software
- Experience in data analysis and report writing skills
- Experience in working with People Living with HIV and Key Populations;
- Excellent oral and written Kiswahili and English
- Local consultant

### 5.0 Accountability and Location

The Consultant shall report directing to the Stigma Index Study Coordinator based at the NEPHAK who will in turn report progress and updates to the National Steering Committee. The Consultant will be requested to create progress reports for the duration of the project. This will be shared with the National Steering Committee

### 6.0 Application Specifications

Interested consultants should include in their application the following:

1. **Technical proposal not exceeding 4 pages on:** An understanding and interpretation of the TOR; Methodology to be used in undertaking the assignment and' Time and activity schedule.
2. **Financial proposal not exceeding 1 page indicating:** Detailing the consultant's daily rate in Kenya Shillings.
3. **Organizational and personnel capacity statement:** Relevant experience related to the assignment; Contacts of at least 3 organizations previously worked for and contact persons whom the consultant or consulting firm has undertaken similar assignment and; Curriculum vitae of the consultant.

### 6.1 Submission of Proposal

Interested and qualified consultants should submit their application to: [info@nephak.or.ke](mailto:info@nephak.or.ke) or to the NEPHAK National Secretariat, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Wood Avenue Court; Wood avenue, Kilimani, Nairobi or to P. O. Box 75654 00200 Nairobi

### 6.3 Deadline for Submission: **September 6<sup>th</sup> 2019**

### 7.0 Evaluation and Award of Consultancy

The National Steering Committee will evaluate the proposals and award the contract based on technical and financial feasibility. The Steering Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal received without offering an explanation and is not bound to accept the lowest or the highest bidder.