

## Specification for Tender: Project aids2031

**UNAIDS is seeking to outsource the management of a new 2-year initiative on the long term AIDS agenda.**

The objective of this open tender is to find an institution to host the Project Management Office of the aids2031 initiative. The Project Management Unit will provide support to the aids2031 project management team whose responsibility will be to ensure coordination and coherence between nine key areas of work; organize regular Steering Committee meetings; facilitate the development and implementation of the overall aids2031 work plan; and mobilize needed resources to support the nine key areas of work as well as project deliverables.

Over the course of two years the project will convene a series of think-tanks and structured public conversations, as well as produce a range of print materials and programming for broadcast and electronic media worldwide. In addition to supporting individual working groups and overall project coordination, key products for which the Project Management Office will be responsible for delivering will include a series of 2031 issues papers as well as the production of a final report to be launched in 2009.

### 1. What is aids2031?

aids2031 is a consortium of partners who have come together to look at what we have learned about the AIDS response in order to consider future options. This initiative considers a variety of factors including advances in science as well as changing socio-economic and geo-political trends.

Working in 9 key areas, aids2031 hopes to spark new thinking and evidence on AIDS in order to influence investment, programming, research and leadership of tomorrow.

We seek to shift today's global aids response from primarily short-term crisis management to a long-term sustained response. This initiative brings together multi-disciplinary teams – including economists, epidemiologists, biomedical, social and political scientists – to question conventional wisdom, stimulate new research, encourage public debate, and uncover new evidence.

### Background and Rationale

The world has been managing the global AIDS epidemic for more than 25 years. While great strides have been made, there are still persisting as well as emerging challenges that must be addressed.

- The **number of people living with HIV continues to rise**. In 2006, more than 35 million people in the world were living with HIV, and nearly 3 million died from AIDS. This was more than in any previous year. While drug

therapy is helping many people living with AIDS, for every person who goes on life-prolonging **antiretroviral therapy**, **6 more people are infected with HIV**.

- **No one, in any country, has a guaranteed way to insure that HIV and AIDS will remain under control.** In countries like Thailand and Uganda where much progress had been made, we are now seeing higher rates of infection. For example, Uganda's infection rates have doubled in the past two years. Meanwhile in countries like Zimbabwe and Haiti, where – due to poverty and serious economic decline – we would have assumed higher rates of HIV, the infection rates are dropping.
- In 2005, the United Kingdom reported 7,500 new infections. That represents a 10 percent increase in the number of people living with HIV in the UK.
- **We cannot grow over-confident in our knowledge** of what works. We simply need to learn more about which behavioral and societal approaches are needed in order to change the future course of AIDS.

**aids2031 will build on current understandings.** It will interpret where the AIDS response has been most effective as well as where it has failed, whether because of inaction, implementation of the wrong programs, or poor execution.

**aids2031** partners are organized around nine key areas of work. The nine areas of work and their convening institutions are:

- i) Modelling the Epidemic and its Impacts-** The group will look at the likely development of the epidemic over a longer time horizon and consider the potential impact of different scenarios and interventions. **Geoff Garnett, Imperial College, United Kingdom.**
- ii) Drivers of the Epidemic-** The group will consider current and future drivers of the epidemic and question the scope for positive social change in order to address the inequities that underpin the epidemic. The role of young people will be particularly considered by the group as will the potential of new forms of technology and the growth of social movements. **William Fisher, Department of International Development, Clark University, USA** and **Geeta Rao Gupta, International Center for Research on Women, USA.**
- iii) Programmatic Response-** The group will look at lessons learned from 25 years of response, including how to take programme responses to scale and capacity constraints. It will take a hard look at what has worked and where much greater progress needs to be made. **Michel Sidibe, UNAIDS** and **Werasit Sittitrai, Thai Red Cross, Thailand.**
- iv) Science and Technology-** The group will consider the potential of new technology for both prevention as well as treatment. It will also look at many of the ethical issues surrounding new knowledge and its development and

how new interventions can be introduced in socially beneficial ways.  
**Michael Merson, Duke University, Global Health Institute, USA,**

- v) **Financing-** The group will consider how much the epidemic is going to cost and how countries will finance their future needs. It will question the scope for increased domestic funding in poor countries and the prognosis for long-term external funding possibilities. It will also question the extent to which macroeconomic policies and international development practices impact AIDS funding. **Stefano Bertozzi, National Institute of Public Health, Mexico.**
- vi) **Leadership-** This group will question whether long term leadership on AIDS can be sustained and if so, how this can be achieved. It will explore the issue of accountability in leadership particularly to the commitments that have and continue to be made on AIDS. **Peter Piot, UNAIDS; Zackie Achmat, Treatment Action Campaign, South Africa and Nicoli Nattrass, University of Cape Town, South Africa.**
- vii) **Communication-** This group will look at the changing communication environment and both its positive, and potentially negative, implications for global and local AIDS responses. **Denise Gray-Felder, Communication for Social Change Consortium, USA.**
- viii) **A special look at hyper-endemic areas-** The group will look particularly at the major challenges that the epidemic is in hyper-endemic areas – from its macro-economic challenges to those facing individual communities and households. It will ask the question whether an alternative development paradigm is needed to address the epidemic and its impact. **Achmat Dangor, Nelson Mandela Foundation, South Africa.**
- ix) **A special look at countries in rapid transition.** (Convener TBD)

The conveners listed above constitute **the Steering Committee** for the [aids2031](#) initiative, the project management for which is currently overseen by UNAIDS and the interim [aids2031](#) coordinator, Heidi Larson, Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies and Clark University.

Steering Committee members are closely involved in the different working clusters identified above, and in an additional group looking at challenges and opportunities facing [aids2031](#). The Steering Committee will serve as the [aids2031](#) governing body and will be available to advise the institution selected to manage this initiative.

In addition, an International Advisory Board is being established to provide independent guidance on the overall direction of the initiative.

## 2. The Purpose Of Competitive Tendering

The objective of this open tender is to identify an institution that can provide administrative and management support to the Project Management Unit for [aids2031](#).

### 3. Deliverables

The host institution will provide administrative and management support to the Project Management Unit.

The winning institution of this tender will be required to keep the aids2031 financial and legal records separate from the institution's other affairs, and is required to keep separate financial records, bank accounts and legal records. The institution will comply with any regulations (tax or legal) concerning operating such an initiative in the United States.

The Project Management Team to be hosted by the winning institution and lead by the Project Coordinator will be responsible to:

- i. Oversee the development and implementation of a work plan for aids2031 that maps out an overall implementation timeline and ensures that the individual thematic group plans are coordinated and adequately resourced;
- ii. Develop a sound resource mobilization strategy;
- iii. Organize regular Steering Committee meetings to review progress on the work plan, address financial and operational issues, and guide the overall work of the initiative;
- iv. Implement an internal communication strategy designed to keep all stakeholders well informed and work closely with the Consortium for Communication for Social Change on the external communication strategy;
- v. Monitor the progress of the individual thematic groups and the overall aids2031 progress and budget;
- vi. Ensuring the delivery of specific issue papers and the final report to be launched in 2009.

### 4. Who can participate in the tender?

The Steering Committee wishes to engage an agency or institution that has:

- 4.1 A proven track-record at managing large complex projects of this nature and scale;
- 4.2 Global connections and outreach capabilities;
- 4.3 An understanding of the development agenda and development project financing and institutional development;
- 4.4 The ability to translate academic and theoretical work to the broader population through various communication vehicles.

**Parameters:**

The winning institution must be:

- A research institution, university, health or educational organization operating on a not-for-profit or non-profit basis;
- A global nonprofit organization with reach beyond the United States and Europe;
- Experienced working in AIDS on a global basis;

The initial budget to manage this initiative is USD \$2 million USD, contributed by multiple sources, including UNAIDS.

**5. Tenders must be submitted in sealed envelopes marked “aids2031 Open Tender Response” no later than 14 September 2007. Bids should be sent by registered post or express mail (with tracking number) to:**

*Joel Rehnstrom  
Director, Planning, Administration and Finance  
UNAIDS  
20 Avenue Appia  
1211 Geneva 27  
SWITZERLAND*

**6.** The bid submission should include a technical proposal of **no more than 12 pages** total outlining the institutional capacity, strengths, previous experience and personnel.

- 6.1** A separate budget outlining how the required funds will be spent should also be included, outlining the following: Human resources, facilities, administrative and program support, administrative fees and overhead, travel.

**A decision about the winning bidder will be made by mid-October 2007.**