

Request for proposals-Working with marginalised groups- responses of faith based communities.

Background

A number of recent reports have highlighted the need for greater collaboration in the field of HIV. Increased collaboration between UN agencies, governments and civil society is an essential element of scale up towards universal access to prevention, treatment and care for HIV. UNAIDS places a high priority on partnerships and in recent years has been successful in brokering both formal and informal collaboration with, and between, a range of partners working on HIV.

Faith based organisations (FBOs) have made significant contributions to the HIV response, their work in the areas of stigma and discrimination, care and support and clinical treatment have been well recognized in the international arena. There has been little recognition, or documentation however, of work carried out by FBOs with marginalized populations.

UNAIDS civil society partnerships unit (CSP) invites proposals for a piece of research to gather evidence on the responses of faith based organizations to HIV in their work with marginalized populations. The proposal should outline a process to document examples of projects conducted by organizations of different faiths, addressing the needs of marginalized and populations most at risk of HIV infection (e.g.: Injecting Drug users (IDUs), Men who have sex with men (MSM), sex workers, migrant populations, refugees, prisoners).

It is evident that research alone will not change attitudes and perceptions. Participation in the Micah network consultation in October 2007 for FBOs working in development (theme 'Marginalized people our Christian Response') will form a key part of this consultancy. The proposal should indicate the challenges and opportunities presented by the consultation to build partnerships in this area of work.

http://en.micahnetwork.org/home/news/cmwa_consultation_in_malaysia_after_marginalised_people

Outputs:

The review should explore and document:

- 1) A review of three to five FBO projects (from different faith traditions) working with populations most at risk and vulnerable to HIV infection (e.g.: MSM, IDUs, sex workers, migrant populations, refugees, prisoners)
- 2) The strengths, weaknesses, gaps and opportunities vis-à-vis FBO work with marginalized communities- including:
 - a) the extent to which marginalized populations are involved in project design, implementation and evaluation of FBO initiatives
 - b) issues around proselytization (i.e. attempts to influence religious beliefs of participants)
 - c) linkages with secular and national structures
- 3) Suggestions of how to strengthen collaborative work with FBO and secular partners working with marginalized communities

Timeframe:

The project should be completed by 15 December 2007. The format of the final report should include a power point presentation and three to five case studies suitable for web use. Proposals should include a complete budget- including daily rate, number of days, travel and registration costs to attend the Micah consultation and should be received by the Secretariat by close of business 31 July. 2006. Proposals should be submitted to csp@unaids.org

Deadline for submission extended until 10 August 2007