

Establishing the HIV Action Fund for Enabling Breakthroughs in HIV Cure, Vaccine and Prevention R&D

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Terms of reference (ToR) for a contractor to develop and prepare for a donor round table (tentatively planned @ 25th World Aids Conference in Munich in July 2024) to set up an HIV cure, Prevention and Vaccine R&D investment fund. This ToR describe the context, responsibilities and expected results for a pre-conference meeting to discuss the ins- and outs for such an HIV cure fund. Aidsfonds intends to bring together relevant stakeholders for this donor round table. These can be funders that are already investing in HIV cure research, but also funders that do not do so. Mapping of these interested funders (in close collaboration with Aidsfonds) will be part of the assignment. The meeting is intended as an unique opportunity for the participants to interact and work together. During a half day or one-day meeting, we should create a shared picture of the problems and opportunities, foster mutual understanding of difference in perspective and interests, and find common ground and propose action on what we need and intend to do for the near and far future.

About Aidsfonds

Aidsfonds – Soa Aids Nederland is a Dutch organization that also works internationally. Aidsfonds strive for a world where there are no longer any deaths from AIDS and where people enjoy good sexual health. A world in which everyone can love freely and without fear. We do this by working together with the people who are hit hardest by HIV, STIs, discrimination and exclusion. We strengthen their voice and support them with information, knowledge and funding. Working with communities as equals is at the heart of all our work. We conduct and support research and ensure that HIV, AIDS and STIs remain high on the agenda worldwide. The knowledge we have gained nationally is applied internationally, e.g. for reducing new HIV infections. The approach we have adopted worldwide with communities to tackle power and gender inequality is the same approach we will adopt in the Netherlands to intensify the fight against STIs. Together we are working to find a cure for HIV and we are proud of that! For all that is love.

We anticipate that the meeting will ultimately be sponsored and supported by various stakeholders.

Background

We've seen HIV arrive. We want to see it go. Advances in HIV research have demonstrated that HIV cure or control can be achieved. Fifteen years after Timothy Brown's cure through stem cell transplantation, there have been multiple similar cases reported. Moreover, some HIV controllers show enhanced immune control of the virus off therapy, identifying new pathways to cure HIV.

We are confident that ending the HIV epidemic is possible. We need to invest both in HIV cure R&D, as well as R&D for HIV vaccines and HIV prevention. The various areas of HIV R&D are interrelated. The success of cure strategies might for example depend on effective (therapeutic) vaccine strategies. This is why we want to investigate the possibility to create an interdisciplinary investment fund to support R&D in the field of HIV prevention, vaccine and cure. Setting up one single fund will also prevent that increased investments in one area leads to less investments in another. And we are convinced that it creates a more aligned political message towards potential funders: jointly we could develop an end to the HIV epidemic.

Our inspiration

We intent to model the set-up of the fund loosely modelled on the AMR Action Fundⁱ. The 1 billion USD AMR Action Fund does provide an immediate lifeline to companies in danger of failing due to an inability to secure investment for the development of new antibiotics. The Fund therefore acts as an accelerator to salvage antibiotic development. More inspiration comes from the recently announced NATO Innovation Fundⁱⁱ, which advertises itself as the world's first multi-sovereign venture capital fund, which was established by 23 NATO allies. It is also a 1 billion USD fund that will invest in cutting-edge technological solutions, leveraging the potential for commercial innovation to address critical defense and security challenges.

We aim to establish a investment fund with the ambition to help launch two to four new HIV cures and vaccines within the next decade. Currently there are very few leads that have reached the clinical pharmaceutical development stage. We envisage that the investment fund will need to support quite a few research lines, meaning that the financial ambition of the HIV Action Fund should be significantly greater than 1 billion USD. To determine a realistic target for the fund will be part of the assignment, to be prepared as a key decision topic for the meeting.

Purpose of the assignment

We foresee an interactive half or full day donor round table preceding the IAS world AIDS meeting with most (preferably) all of relevant stakeholders involved. Ideally, first (seed level) pledges to contribute to the fund should be made during the meeting as well, which will require a substantial amount of pre-meeting networking, which is part of this assignment.

You will be supervised by Remko van Leeuwen and members of the HIV cure project team Aidsfonds – Soa Aids Nederland. Moreover, there will be a small supervisory team, also with external stakeholders.

Scope

We propose a one day donor round table, preferentially preceding the 25th IAS World Aids meeting that will be held in Munich 22 to 26 July 2024. In preparations for the donor round table we aim:

- Validate that a meeting 25th IAS World Aids meeting is a realistic target
- Mapping potentially interested investors
- Holding consultations with relevant stakeholders
- Ensure an inclusive approach including the involvement of relevant communities
- Developing an outline for the donor round table.

- Develop a list of short-term objectives as well as the long-term strategic objectives for global the fund.
- Ensure that the participants of the meeting connect as a network and to develop actions that set and influence the investments in HIV cure, prevention and vaccine R&D.

The final products to be delivered

All in collab with the cure project team @ Aidsfonds:

- 1) Help organize the donor round table.
- 2) Propose a methodology for the donor round table
- 3) Develop a high-level investment case for the fund (2-3 pager) as input for the round table
- 4) Map the different stakeholders. Organize a roadshow along different stakeholders preceding the donor round table
- 5) Produce a brochure/pitch type donor round table report
- 6) Attempt to secure first (seed level) pledges to contribute to the fund

Procedures and deadline for submission of proposals

The proposal must include a technical and a financial section. The technical section must include the names and qualifications of the personnel that are going to do this assignment, and the proposed approach to the engagement; and the financial section must clearly show the total estimated fee charge for the assignment and how it has been calculated, including a breakdown of the expected man hours and the charge out rate for each proposed team member. The total length of the proposal should be no longer than 5 pages. Please note that enquiries and requests for information will be made available to the other pre- selected suppliers. Any proposals received after February 9th at 18:00 CET will not be considered.

Currency of the proposal

The proposed fee shall be in Euro.

Language

The language of the proposal shall be in English.

Evaluation criteria for the proposal

The proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Overall capabilities of the consultant to carry out this assignment, including quality of the submitted proposal, the professional qualifications and experience of the team proposed to carry out this assignment; and
- Price, including how it has been calculated or estimated.

A minimum score for the technical proposal will be specified by the evaluation committee. A quality-price ratio will be calculated for all proposals that exceed the minimum technical score and the proposal with the highest quality-ratio will be selected.

Qualifications of the contractor

The contractor shall have the appropriate experience and specific expertise necessary to conduct this assignment. Specifically, we anticipate proposals from highly motivated persons/companies/groups whose expertise spans venture capital, pharmaceutical development, finance, and health policy and management. They are deeply committed to ending the HIV epidemic and leveraging their skills and networks to drive change at the global level.

Legal framework

Any subsequent contract shall be governed by Dutch law.

Budget and planning

A maximum of 50,000 euros (including VAT) is available for this assignment.

Start date preferably March 1st 2024

Depending on the results achieved, a follow-up phase will be started. The framework for this has not yet been established, and is not part of this assignment

How to respond

Share your motivation and CV with Remko van Leeuwen via rvanleeuwen@soaids.nl. We'll let you know if we'll invite you for an interview. Do you have any questions? Please also contact Remko van Leeuwen at rvanleeuwen@soaids.nl or +31 6 3978 8139

ⁱ [Antimicrobial Resistance Research & Development - AMR Action Fund](#)

ⁱⁱ https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_217864.htm?selectedLocale=en