

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Evaluation Research of the Youth Wise Project

Aidsfonds and Youth Wise partners invite consultants/a group of consultants to carry out evaluation research to assess the effectiveness and impact of approaches used under the Youth Wise project in Kenya and Malawi.

Submission deadline: **Friday 26 April, 09:00 CET**

1. Introduction

Aidsfonds

Aidsfonds is a leading international organization dedicated to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS by supporting communities affected by the epidemic. We strive for a world where there are no longer any deaths from AIDS, where people enjoy good sexual health, and a cure is available for all people living with HIV. A world in which everyone can love freely and without fear. For all that is love is our [2022-2025 strategy](#). With a focus on prevention, treatment, care, and advocacy, Aidsfonds works tirelessly to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS on individuals, families, and societies worldwide. Through strategic partnerships, innovative programs, and evidence-based interventions, Aidsfonds aims to create a world where everyone can live free and without fear.

Youth Wise project

The Youth Wise (YW) project (2021-2024), supported by Aidsfonds, is a youth- and women-led project, implemented in Kenya and Malawi by Networks of Young People Living With HIV (Y+ Global), Y+ Kenya, Y+ Malawi and Ambassador for Youth and Adolescent Reproductive Health Programmes (AYARHEP) in Kenya and the Coalition of Women Living with HIV and AIDS (COWLHA) in Malawi. Through a holistic approach to HIV prevention, treatment, and care, Youth Wise aims to empower adolescents and young people living with HIV to take control of their health and well-being.

Youth Wise focuses on amplifying the voices of adolescents and young people living with HIV (AYPLHIV) aged 10-24, ensuring their access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, including self-care practices. By providing support, resources and advocacy, Youth Wise wants to create a supportive environment where young people can thrive and fulfill their potential, free from the barriers of stigma and discrimination. Youth Wise has the following objectives:

- Youth leadership and youth advocates claiming their rights
- Reducing stigma and tackling gender inequality as a root cause of the HIV epidemic disproportionately affecting adolescent girls and young women
- Improving quality of and access to self-care service delivery, including community-based services
- Lobby and advocacy at community, district and national level
- Strengthening national young people living with HIV networks, e.g. core support and advocacy capacity strengthening

The project works closely with the community, healthcare providers and government agencies to strengthen health systems, improve service delivery and promote policy change that prioritizes the needs of adolescents and young people living with HIV.

Self-Care

Self-care is increasingly considered an urgent approach to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and has the potential to increase people's autonomy, choice, and power over their health. This is particularly critical for adolescents and young people living with HIV, who often face challenges in accessing health services due to poverty, distance, lack of privacy, and fear of stigma.

There is a high need to improve treatment outcomes and the quality of life for AYPLHIV. Youth Wise project is committed to enable AYPLHIV to practice self-care and fulfill their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) needs in a supportive and respectful environment and have improved treatment outcomes and quality of life.

2. Objective of the consultancy

To learn whether and to what extent, the approaches used within Youth Wise reached the objective of the project, and to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the project. The results will inform stakeholders if the project's goal was met and how to refine self-care interventions for effective potential scale up.

3. Methodology: Mixed methods evaluation research

We propose a mixed method evaluation research in which data from different resources is collected and analyzed in order to ensure effectiveness of Youth Wise' approaches is reviewed from different perspectives. This will include literature review, quantitative data captured by partners and qualitative data from target populations and stakeholders in both Kenya and Malawi.

The evaluation research will aim to assess the effectiveness of the approaches used under YouthWise to:

- a. Examine the impact on influencing the degree of uptake and adherence to the recommended self-care practices (e.g. condom use, HIV self-testing) among AYPLHIV.
- b. Understand the influence of the approaches on key health outcomes of young people, such as medication adherence, viral load suppression, health seeking behavior and quality of service provided.
- c. Analyze the effect on the contextual factors that have potentially influenced the practice of self-care, e.g. socio-cultural norms, stigma and discrimination, political and legislative constrains, and availability of supportive resources.

Focus areas of the evaluation research are the Youth Wise areas: Mombasa and Nairobi in Kenya and Chikwawa and Mangochi in Malawi.

4. Research Questions

Overall

What is the effectiveness and impact of the approaches implemented under the Youth Wise project on accelerating the self-care uptake and practice among adolescents and young people living with HIV (AYPLHIV) in the Youth Wise areas in Kenya and Malawi?

Specific

1. To what extent do the approaches implemented under the Youth Wise project reach and engage adolescents and young people living with HIV (AYPLHIV) in Kenya and Malawi?

2. What are the factors influencing the uptake and adherence to the recommended self-care practices among AYPLHIV?
3. How do the implemented approaches under the Youth Wise project impact key health outcomes, such as medication adherence and viral load suppression among AYPLHIV?
4. How do the approaches implemented under the Youth Wise project influence the way contextual factors affect self-care uptake and practice of AYPLHIV? (Contextual factors being e.g. climate change, political constraints and socio-cultural norms)
5. What are recommendations to optimize the effectiveness of the approaches used under the Youth Wise project (to enhance the empowerment, resilience, and well-being of AYPLHIV)?

5. Deliverables

- Inception report (max 3 pages), including:
 - Plan with detailed research methodology (e.g. literature review, interviews, data analysis)
 - and tools
 - Research questions
 - Detailed timeline
- Research evaluation report, including
 - Recommendations per country, per context
- Dissemination webinar.
- Paper published in (scientific) journal

6. Timeline and budget

The consultancy budget including dissemination is **8000 Euros** (excluding VAT; Aidsfonds will pay VAT separately from this budget).

- Final date for expressing interest: **26th April**
- Interviews: **1st May**
- Final decision of consultant: **3rd May**
- Induction Meeting: **6th May**
- Inception report: **27th May**
- Data collection starting: **3rd June**
- First Draft of the Report: **25th June**
- Validation Workshop on **1st July**
- Final report by **10th July**
- Dissemination workshop on **15th July** (YW partners will support in that)
- Submitting/ publishing the paper in a scientific journal (**31st July**)

7. Qualifications and experience

We are seeking a consultant or a group of consultants who:

- Are willing to collaborate and work alongside local youth-led and/or youth-serving Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to generate context-specific evidence.
- Possess experience in working with adolescents and young people living with HIV.
- Have team members based in Malawi and Kenya to facilitate primary data collection.

- Demonstrate proven experience in conducting research and analysis for mixed-methods studies, particularly in Kenya and Malawi.
- Demonstrate proven experience in report writing.

Desirable Qualifications:

- Have experience in HIV/self-care research.
- Have experience working in the field of sexual reproductive health and rights.
- Maintain an open-minded approach and actively promote enhanced access to self-care for adolescents and young individuals from diverse backgrounds.

Young people are particularly encouraged to apply!

8. How to apply

Please send your application through email to kibrahim@aidsfonds.nl and cvandervlies@aidsfonds.nl, in form of 2 documents:

- 1) Expression of interest (of no more than 3 pages) that includes: Motivation for the research, proposed plan for the research including approach/methods, phases, budget breakdown, workplan and date of availability.
- 2) Curriculum Vitae (max 3 pages)

Subject line to read: 'Expression of interest: Consultancy evaluation research Youth Wise'

For questions and further information, please reach out to Khalid Ibrahim (kibrahim@aidsfonds.nl). The closing date for the submission of expressions of interest is Friday **26th April 9.00 am CET**. Interviews will be scheduled for **1st May**.