

Terms of Reference

For Consultancy Services on Household Pharmaceutical Waste Management in Arusha City

Background

The Eastern Africa National Network of AIDS and Health Service Organizations (EANNASO) is a regional umbrella body bringing together communities and civil society voices to inform policies and improve programming on human health related issues.

Pharmaceutical products play a major role in saving lives and alleviating suffering, while at the same time when these products are regarded unfit may present serious hazardous effects on public health and environment. Use of expired pharmaceutical products may result in other potential hazards that may include drug-resistant microorganisms which spread from health facilities or households into the environment. The management of pharmaceutical waste requires increased attention and diligence to avoid adverse health outcomes associated with poor practice, including exposure to infectious agents and toxic substances as well.

The Government of Tanzania through Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) has taken a number of steps to reinforce effective and efficient recall operations and guarantee safe disposal of unfit medicinal product, TMDA has reviewed its guidelines by clearly outlining procedures for executing the recall, which have taken on board the levels of recall, roles and responsibilities of key actors. However, despite the above efforts, a national policy and the guidelines relating to the management of household pharmaceutical waste is still missing. Improper disposal of unused and expired pharmaceuticals at household level is still a common practice in many places in the country. A study by Marwa et al 2023 on disposal practices of expired and unused medications among over 356 households in Mwanza Region¹ found that 96% of the households kept unused medications. This calls for a well-designed and concerted public outreach program to educate the public on the potential risks associated with the improper medications disposal practices and how to dispose medications properly for the safety of the community.

Recognizing the urgency of this problem, EANNASO with the support of the GFA Consulting Group and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is implementing the household pharmaceutical waste management project in Arusha City which aims at creating awareness on the potential hazards that result from inadequate and poor pharmaceutical waste disposal in households. This project will identify the existing gaps in household pharmaceutical waste management and put in place an action plan towards rescuing the situation.

Objective of the Consultancy

¹ Marwa KJ, Mcharo G, Mwita S, Katabalo D, Ruganuza D, Kapesa A. Disposal practices of expired and unused medications among households in Mwanza, Tanzania. PLoS One. 2021 Feb 4;16(2): e0246418. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0246418. PMID: 33539402; PMCID: PMC7861449.

- i. Conduct a study on the level of awareness of pharmaceutical waste products disposal within households in Arusha City.
- ii. Understand the methods of pharmaceutical waste disposal used by the selected households.
- iii. Identify policy gaps which requires advocacy efforts.

Deliverables

- i. Inception report
- ii. Detailed narrative study report and PowerPoint presentation with findings and recommendations
- iii. Policy Brief based on the findings.

Expected Outcomes

- i. Increased public awareness on proper pharmaceutical waste disposal and management.
- ii. Households are more informed and start using proper methods of pharmaceutical products waste disposal.
- iii. Increased compliance of households with safe disposal of pharmaceutical products waste.

Timeframe

EANNASO will issue a Contract for a maximum of four (4) Months from 20th November 2023 to 15th March 2024. The four Months include a brief preparatory remote meeting with EANNASO Project Lead.

Required Skills, Experience, and Competencies

- i. Bachelor's degree or equivalent in medical, public health, or related science discipline.
- ii. Minimum of 8 years of professional experience in medical / public health interventions / services at an international level or international organizations.
- iii. Minimum three to five years in policy brief developments in the health sector
- iv. Experience with Pharmaceutical industry at national / international level including knowledge on Drugs storage, use and disposition in Tanzania.
- v. Proficiency in computer especially Microsoft Office suite applications.
- vi. Experience in working with NGOs, government and donors is an added advantage.
- vii. He/she should display High Respect for culture diversity, gender equality, religion, race, nationality, age sensitivity, adaptability, and respect for human rights.

Functional Competencies

- i. Excellent organizational skills.
- ii. Strong analytical, writing, and communication skills.
- iii. Ability to prepare and deliver reports and presentations promptly.
- iv. Strong motivation and ability to work and deliver under short deadlines.
- v. Focuses on impact and result for the client and responds positively to critical feedback.

Language

- i. Excellent Spoken and written English.
- ii. Working knowledge of Kiswahili is an added advantage.

Application Deadline.

All interested candidates should send their CVs and Cost proposal at eannaso@eannaso.org copying bwana@eannaso.org not later than closure of business hours 13th November 2023.