



LEADER IN REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

TERMS OF REFERENCE BETTER LIFE FOR GIRLS END OF PROJECT EVALUATION

1. Background

UNFPA with funding from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has been implementing a 2 and half year multi-sectoral project aimed at accelerating action to prevent teenage pregnancy and child marriage among adolescent girls in Uganda. The project codenamed Better Life for Girls (BL4G) was launched in May 2016 to advance efforts aimed at preventing teenage pregnancy and child marriage and is scheduled to end in December 2018. Its goal is to strengthen national capacity to deliver improved sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) outcomes and socioeconomic empowerment for adolescent girls in Uganda. The objective is to accelerate action in preventing teenage pregnancy and child marriage by mobilizing communities, strengthening youth friendly service provision and skills based SRHR education including HIV prevention for adolescent girls aged 10-19 years. The project has been using a holistic and gender-focused approach to empower girls and reinforce their position in order to put them on the path to sustainable empowerment. The project built on existing efforts, including the *Let Girls Be Girls* campaign aimed at preventing teenage pregnancy that was launched by the Ministry of Health in 2014 and the African Union Initiative to End Child Marriage that was launched by the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development (MoGLSD) in 2015.

UNFPA has been working through a number of implementing partners and stakeholders including the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), MoGLSD, selected local governments and civil society organizations namely Straight Talk Foundation, Communication for Development Foundation of Uganda, Reach a Hand Uganda and BRAC Uganda. The project covers 14 districts including Amuria, Bududa, Butaleja, Iganga, Kapchorwa, Katakwi, Mayuge in Eastern Uganda and Abim, Amudat, Kaabong, Kotido, Moroto, Nakapiripirit, and Napak in Karamoja region. The project adopted proven strategies including increasing girls' access to quality education and SRHR services; educating parents and communities on the dangers of teenage pregnancy and child marriage; increasing access to life skills for adolescent girls; promoting socioeconomic empowerment of girls; and engaging men and boys to end exploitation, abuse and subjugation of girls.

The project has two broad outcomes and specific interventions that contribute to the goal as shown below;

Outcome 1: Increased accessibility and utilization of age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) information and services by adolescent girls

The key interventions implemented under this outcome include;

- Supporting district authorities to monitor and supervise SRHR programs in target districts
- Orienting adolescent youth sexual and reproductive health and rights (AYSRHR) focal persons in primary and secondary schools on SRHR information and services and use of ICT platforms e.g. SafePal
- Supporting existing and new girl clubs in schools to improve menstrual hygiene management through training in making re-usable pads with local materials and/or provision of menstrual hygiene supplies
- Training of health workers (nurses, midwives and clinical officers) from hospitals, health centre IVs, health centre IIIs and school clinics in the provision of SRHR adolescent and youth friendly services, including effective referral and use of ICT platforms e.g. SafePal
- Provision of youth friendly SRHR information and services at supported health facilities and non-traditional sites including sport events, churches and mosques

Outcome 2: An enabling environment which promotes socioeconomic empowerment of adolescent girls and control over their earnings for the prevention and mitigation of effects of teenage pregnancy

The key interventions implemented under Outcome 2 include;

- Supporting the integration of SRHR, life skills, financial literacy and mentorship into Empowerment and Livelihood for Adolescents (ELA) clubs
- Implementation of a multi-media campaign that engages communities (including religious and cultural leaders) to invest in girls' education, address teenage pregnancy and child marriage
- Establishment of Male Action Groups to dialogue on ways of preventing teenage pregnancy, child marriage and act as an alert system for cases of child marriage, defilement, other forms of gender based violence and harmful practices

2. Evaluation purpose and scope

UNFPA seeks to undertake this evaluation as a means of assessing to what extent the planned Better Life for Girls project outcomes and outputs were achieved including the overall results, effects/changes realized, good practices, challenges faced and lessons learnt. The evaluation will cover all the 14 supported districts that were included in the baseline evaluation. It will also include a representative sample of health facilities, schools, ELA clubs and project beneficiaries. The findings will be used by Government, UNFPA, KOICA, partner organizations and other stakeholders to develop/scale up plans, strategies and interventions aimed at accelerating action to prevent teenage pregnancy and child marriage among adolescent girls in Uganda.

3. Specific objectives

The specific objectives are to;

- Assess the extent to which the project achieved its set outcomes, outputs and targets
- Analyse the relevance of specific project components in addressing teenage pregnancy and child marriage as perceived by direct beneficiaries
- Assess the potential for sustainability of project components, results achieved and other efforts aimed at accelerating action to prevent teenage pregnancy and child marriage among adolescent girls in Uganda
- Examine whether the project was implemented in the most efficient manner

4. Evaluation questions

The evaluation will be guided by four of the five parameters of OECD/DAC evaluation criteria namely relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability. Impact will not be assessed because the project duration was not long enough to reliably measure this parameter. The criteria will be applied using the following evaluation questions:

Relevance

- How relevant were the specific BL4G project components in addressing teenage pregnancy and child marriage as perceived by direct beneficiaries?
- Were the interventions and outputs of the BL4G project consistent with the overall goal, objectives and outcomes?
- To what extent was BL4G project support aligned to (i) the needs of the target population (ii) capacity and needs of target government ministries and districts (iii) priorities set in national strategy and policy frameworks for ending child marriage and teenage pregnancy?

Effectiveness

- To what extent were BL4G project outputs achieved?
- What major factors facilitated or hindered the achievement of BL4G project outputs?
- To what extent did BL4G project interventions contribute to improved SRHR outcomes and socioeconomic empowerment of adolescent girls in target districts?
- What difference did the BL4G project make in the lives of ELA club beneficiaries?

Efficiency

- To what extent did the implementation mechanisms foster or hinder the achievement of the project outputs? This includes assessment of timeliness in release of funds, implementation rates, reporting, fund utilization rates etc.
- Was the BL4G project implemented in the most efficient manner?
- Were BL4G project outputs achieved on time?

Sustainability

- To what extent are BL4G project interventions likely to continue after donor funding has ended?
- To what extent has the BL4G project supported implementing partners to develop capacities and mechanisms to ensure ownership and sustainability of interventions?

5. Proposed methodology

A quasi-experimental evaluation design is proposed for assessing the contribution of the BL4G project to improved SRHR outcomes and socioeconomic empowerment of adolescent girls in target districts. Mixed-methods will be employed to generate data that will answer the study objectives and evaluation questions. In order to estimate the contribution of the project, a non-equivalent control group involving entities that were not project beneficiaries will be used. A more detailed study approach and methodology will be developed by the selected consultancy firm after a competitive procurement process.

6. Key deliverables

The consultancy firm selected to undertake the evaluation will be expected to submit the following;

- A detailed inception report and data collection tools after signing the consultancy agreement
- Letters from the Research Ethics Committee/Institutional Review Board and UNCST approving the implementation of the evaluation
- A draft evaluation report for review by the UNFPA Knowledge Management Committee
- A final report after incorporating comments from the Knowledge Management Committee
- A copy of the final datasets in Stata and MS Excel, complete with the outputs of the analysis

7. Team composition and qualifications

The evaluation will be carried out by a core team of two consultants with one being the team leader and the other a team member. The team leader will be responsible for all deliverables.

Experience and qualifications of the Team Leader

- 10 -12 years' experience in leading evaluations of a similar design, size, complexity and character, as well as vast technical expertise in research and evaluation of adolescent/youth sexual and reproductive health, child marriage, behavior change, gender equality and women's empowerment programmes in low income countries
- Proven skills in robust evaluation designs, quantitative and qualitative data analysis techniques
- A Master's degree or PhD in evaluation, public health, gender studies, sociology, development studies, population and reproductive health, statistics or any other related field
- Excellent report writing skills
- Experience in leading teams

Experience and qualifications of the Team Member

- 6 -8 years' experience in conducting evaluations of a similar design, size, complexity and character as well as technical expertise in research and evaluation of adolescent/youth sexual and reproductive health, child marriage, behavior change, gender equality and women's empowerment programmes in low income countries
- Proven skills in robust evaluation designs, quantitative and qualitative data analysis techniques
- A Master's degree in public health, gender studies, sociology, development studies, population and reproductive health, statistics or any other related field
- Excellent report writing skills

The core team is expected to recruit other resource persons if deemed necessary to support different phases of the evaluation.

8. Management of the evaluation

The survey will be managed by the selected consultancy firm in collaboration with UNFPA. The UNFPA Knowledge Management Committee will review, provide comments on the inception report, data collection tools and draft report submitted and clear all the key deliverables. The UNFPA M&E Specialist will monitor implementation of the survey and provide quality assurance for the entire process.

9. Duration of the evaluation exercise

The entire exercise is expected to last 45 calendar days from the date of signing the consultancy contract. The final report is expected not later than December 15, 2018. Below is a breakdown of the allocated time;

Key Tasks	Allocated days
Development of the inception report and data collection tools	7 days
Development of the research protocol for IRB review	3 days
Training of research assistants and pretest of tools	7 days
Data collection phase	13 days
Data analysis and report writing	10 days
Revision of the draft report and submission of the final report	5 days

10. Proposal evaluation criteria

Proposals will be subjected to a three-stage evaluation process namely compliance review, technical review and financial review.

Compliance review will check whether firms submitted the following requirements;

- Certificates of registration (evidence of legal status)
- Up to date CVs for at least two key personnel including the Team Leader
- Evidence of the firm's previous work on similar assignments
- Technical and financial proposals

Firms missing any of the above key requirements will be dropped at this stage.

Technical review will assess bidder's responsiveness to the terms of reference, level of understanding of evaluation objectives and questions, the proposed approach, methodology (with emphasis on how a quasi-experimental evaluation design will be operationalized), sampling methods, data analysis plan, evidence of prior experience in similar studies, team composition and qualifications among others. Proposals that do not score at least 70% of the technical score will not be considered for financial review.

Financial review: The maximum number of points will be allocated to the lowest price. All other financial proposals will receive points in inverse proportion to the lowest bidder.

UNFPA will award the contract for professional services to the firm that obtains the highest combined score for the technical and financial review.

11. Bid submission

All interested firms should submit technical and financial proposals sealed in two separate envelopes. All documents should be delivered in hard copy in a sealed envelope to UNFPA Uganda Office Reception at Plot 12A Baskerville Avenue, Kololo, Kampala, not later than November 02, 2018 at 12:00 noon.