

Invitation for Proposals (to be issued by UNFPA)

IFP Number UNFPA/IFP/21/001 - Extension

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, an international development agency, invites qualified non-governmental, not-for-profit organizations (incl. academic institutions) to submit proposals for the Baseline and Endline Studies and Operational Research for the Gender-based Violence Prevention and Response Project Phase II and the Gender-based Violence Response to COVID-19 in Nepal projects. The purpose of the Invitation for Proposals is to identify eligible non-governmental, not-for-profit organizations (incl. academic institutions) for prospective partnership with the UNFPA Nepal Country Office to support the achievement of results outlined in the attached Terms of Reference (Annex II).

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that wish to participate in this Invitation for Proposals are requested to send their proposals via email or mail clearly marked as “Invitation for Proposals: “M&E GBVPR II and GBV Response to COVID-19” to the following address:

United Nations Population Fund
UN House
Pulchowk, Lalitpur
Kathmandu, Nepal.

If you choose to submit your proposal electronically, it should reach the email inbox of bid.nepal@unfpa.org by **22 January 2021, 5 pm (Nepal time)**. Proposals received after the date and time may not be accepted for consideration.

Proposals must be submitted in **English**.

Any requests for additional information must be addressed in writing by **13 January 2021** at the latest to Ms. Smriti Gurung, e-mail: smgurung@unfpa.org. UNFPA will post responses to queries or clarification requests by any applicants who submitted a request on the UNFPA Nepal Country Office website (<https://nepal.unfpa.org/en>) before the deadline for submission of proposals.

UNFPA shall notify applying organizations whether they are considered for further action.

Section 1: Background

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| 1.1 UNFPA mandate | UNFPA is the lead UN agency for delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled. |
| 1.2 UNFPA Programme of Assistance in Nepal | In Nepal, UNFPA works with the government and other partners to end preventable maternal deaths; end unmet need for family planning; and end gender-based violence and harmful practices against women and girls. Further information on the programme can be found on https://nepal.unfpa.org/en |
| 1.3 Specific results | Within this framework and as set out in the UNFPA Nepal 8th Country Programme Document and Country Programme Action Plan (2018-2022), working with government and other partners, UNFPA will contribute to achieving the following results: |

1. Gender-based Violence Prevention and Response Project Phase II (GBVPR Phase II)

Project Goal: All forms of gender-based violence and discrimination against women and girls are reduced in two provinces in Nepal.

Outcomes:

- i. Women and men, including girls and boys, increasingly prevent, report and address gender-based violence;
- ii. Local governments, legal authorities, and health facilities provide effective (multi-sectoral) survivor-centered responses to gender-based violence; and
- iii. Local, provincial, and federal governments adopt and implement policies and budgets for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

2. Gender-based Violence Response to COVID-19 in Nepal

Project Goal: Women and girls in Nepal live free from gender-based violence both during and after the COVID-19 crisis.

Outcomes:

- i. Gender-based violence service providers continue to deliver functional, survivor-centred gender-based violence prevention and response services during and after the COVID-19 crisis; and
- ii. Community members have increased knowledge to seek help, prevent and address gender-based violence.

The scope of the work includes Baseline and Endline Studies for both of the above mentioned projects, as well as Operational Research for the GBVPR Phase II project. Please see the attached Terms of Reference (Annex II) for more detailed information.

Section 2: Application requirements and timelines

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| 2.1 Documentation required for the submission | The expression of interest shall include the following documentation: | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Copy of provisions of legal status of the NGO in Nepal (<i>Required to be eligible for review. However, if an INGO provides technical assistance only and intends to partner with a local NGO to conduct field work, a copy of the provisions of the legal status of the local NGO is required. Should an INGO propose to partner with a local NGO but not have identified a local partner NGO at the time of the submission of the proposals, the INGO will be required to provide a copy of the legal provisions of the local NGO, if the INGO is selected for the assignment(s).</i>)● Copy of provisions of legal status of the NGO in home country (for INGOs)● Attachment I – NGO Profile and Programme Proposal● Latest annual report and audit report as separate documents or hyperlink to the documents | |
| 2.2 Indicative timelines | Invitation for Proposal issue date | 30 December 2020 |
| | Deadline for submissions of proposals | 22 January 2021 |

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| Deadline for requests of additional information/clarifications | 13 January 2021 |
| Review of NGO submissions | 25 January 2021 – 5 February 2021 |
| Notification of results communicated to NGO | 8 February 2021 |

Section 3: Process and timelines

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| 3.1 Review & evaluation of NGO submissions | <p>Applications will be assessed by a review panel to identify organizations that have the required knowledge, skills, and capacity to support achievement of results <i>using criteria outlined in section 3.2 below</i>.</p> <p>It should be noted, however, that participation in this Invitation for Proposals does not guarantee the organization will be selected for partnership with UNFPA. Selected NGOs will be invited to enter into an implementing partner agreement and applicable UNFPA programme policy and procedures will apply.</p> | |
| 3.2 Selection criteria | <p>Eligible organizations will be selected in a transparent and competitive manner, based on their capacity to ensure the highest quality of service, including the ability to apply innovative strategies to meet programme priorities in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.</p> <p>The UNFPA Nepal Country Office will review evidence provided by the NGO submission and evaluate applications based on the evaluation criteria detailed in the Terms of Reference (Annex II) as well as the following considerations:</p> <p>NB: Any proposal not submitted in the specified working language will be excluded from consideration.</p> | |
| | Governance & Leadership | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The organization has a clearly defined mission and goals that reflect the organization’s structure and context, as well as alignment to UNFPA priority areas. • The organization does not have a history of fraud, complaints, or service delivery issues. |
| | Human Resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The organization has sufficient staff resources and technical expertise to implement the proposed activities. • Organization does not have conflicts of interest with UNFPA or its personnel that cannot be effectively mitigated. |
| | Comparative Advantage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The organization’s mission and/or strategic plan focuses on at least one of the UNFPA’s programme areas. • The organization has experience in the country or field and enjoys prominence in areas related to UNFPA’s mandate. • The organization has a proven record of accomplishment in implementing similar activities and is seen as credible by its stakeholders and partners. • The organization has relevant community presence and ability to reach the target audience; especially vulnerable populations and hard-to-reach areas. |
| | Monitoring | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The organization has systems and tools in place to systematically collect, analyze and use programme monitoring data. |

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| | Partnerships | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The organization has established partnerships with the government and other relevant local, international and private sector entities. |
| | Environmental Considerations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The organization has established policies or practices to reduce the environmental impact of its activities. If no policies exist, the organization must not have a history of its activities causing negative impact to the environment. |
| | Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The organization does not have a history of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassments, and has established PSEA structure and system. Staff of the organization agree to perform the required PSEA training, when selected. |
| 3.3 Prospective partnership agreement | UNFPA will inform all applicants of the outcome of their submissions in writing to the email/ postal address indicated in the NGO submission. | |

Annex I: NGO Profile and Programme Proposal (To be completed by NGO submitting proposal)

The purpose of this proposal is to provide the following information: a) overview of the NGO, b) an outline of the activities the NGO is proposing to partner with UNFPA, and c) provide UNFPA with sufficient evidence to show it meets the criteria outlined in section 3.2 of this Invitation for Proposals.

Information provided in this form will be used to inform the review and evaluation of NGO submissions as outlined in the Invitation for Proposals and the Terms of Reference (Annex II).

| Section A. NGO Identification | | |
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| A.1 Organization information | Organization name | |
| | Address | |
| | Website | |
| A.2 Contact information | Name | |
| | Title/Function | |
| | Telephone | |
| | Email | |
| | Are you registered in the United Nations Partner Portal ? | |
| A.3 Conflict of interest statement | To your knowledge, do any staff members of your organization have personal or financial relationships with any staff of UNFPA, or any | |

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| | other conflicts of interest with this programme or UNFPA? If so, please explain. | |
| A.4. Fraud statement | Does your organization have fraud prevention policies and practices in place? | |

Section B. Overview of the organization

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| B.1 Annual budget | Size of annual budget (previous year, USD) | |
| | Source of funding | <i>Outline funding base, including local, international, and private sector donors</i> |
| | Main funding partners/ donors | |
| B.2 Staff capacity | <i>List of number and key functions of core organization staff</i> | |

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| B.3 NGO mandate and background | <i>Outline the organization's mandate and field of work, and how it aligns to UNFPA's mandate.</i> | |
| B.4 Available expertise and specialists | <i>Outline the distinctive technical capacity of the organization to achieve results in the proposed programmatic area</i> | |
| B.5 Experience in proposed area of work | <i>Outline of type/scope and key results achieved in proposed programmatic area in recent years, including any recognition received at local / global level for the work in the proposed area. Include a summary experience, preferably in Nepal and prior experience with any organization of the United Nations</i> | |
| B.6 Knowledge of the local context/ Accessibility to target population | <i>Outline of presence and community relations in the location(s) the activities will be implemented in: include access to vulnerable populations and hard-to-reach areas, if any)</i> | |
| B.7 Credibility | <i>To what extent is the NGO recognized as credible by the government, and/or other key stakeholders/partners?</i> | |
| B.8 Monitoring | <i>Outline the systems in place (policies, procedures, guidelines, and other tools) that systematically collect, analyse and use programme monitoring data</i> | |

Section C. Proposal overview

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| C.1 Programme title | |
| C.2 Results to which the programme contributes | <i>Refer to Section 1.3 and the Terms of Reference (Annex II) of the Invitation for Proposal</i> |

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| C.3 Proposed programme duration | <i>From MM/YYYY to MM/YYYY</i> |
| C.4 Proposed Programme budget | |

Section D. Proposed interventions and activities to achieve intended results

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| D.1 Programme Summary | <p><i>This section should provide a brief summary of the programme.</i></p> <p><i>It should include a problem statement, the context and the rationale for the Programme:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Overview of the existing problem;</i> ● <i>How the problem is linked to global/regional/national priorities and policies; and</i> ● <i>The relevance of the programme in addressing problem identified</i> |
| D.2 Organizational background and capacity to implement | <i>This section should briefly explain why the proposing organization has the experience, capacity and commitment to successfully implement the workplan.</i> |
| D.3 Expected results | <i>“What” this programme will achieve - programme objectives and expected results</i> |
| D.4 Description of activities and budget | <i>This section includes a detailed description of budgeted activities to be undertaken to produce the expected results. Clear linkages between activities and results must be indicated. The applicant should include a separate excel spreadsheet with full details of activities and associated budget.</i> |
| D.5 Gender, Equity and Sustainability (optional) | <i>Explain briefly the practical measures taken in the programme to address gender, equity and sustainability considerations</i> |
| D.6 Environmental impact | <i>Outline the likely environmental impact of the programme, if any.</i> |
| D.7 Other partners involved | <i>This section outlines other partners who have a role in programme implementation, including potential sub-contractees and other organization providing technical and financial support for the programme</i> |
| D.8 NGO contribution | <i>This section briefly outlines the partner specific contribution to the programme (monetary or in-kind)</i> |
| D.9 Additional documentation | <i>Additional documentation can be mentioned here for reference</i> |

Section E. Programme Risks and Monitoring

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| E.1 Risks | <i>Identify major risk factors that could result in the proposed activities not being successfully implemented and any key assumptions on which the proposed intervention is based. Include any actions the organization will undertake to address/reduce identified risk(s).</i> |
| E.2 Monitoring | <i>This section briefly outlines the monitoring activities</i> |

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Section F. References

Please provide 3 references to support your proposal. Include name, title, contact information and brief summary of relationship.

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| Reference 1: | |
| Reference 2: | |
| Reference 3: | |

Section G. Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Capacity Assessment

Please note, the results of this assessment may be shared with other United Nations entities

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| G.0 Preliminary Screening | <p>Does the organization have direct contact with beneficiaries? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If your response is no, stop here and do not complete this section. However, please note if your organization begins working with beneficiaries at a later date, UNFPA will require your organization to fill out a self-assessment.</p> <p>If yes, please continue.</p> |
| G.1 Policy Requirement | <p><i>Please provide supporting documentation for any fields marked "Yes".</i></p> <p>Your organization has a policy document on PSEA. At a minimum, this document should include a written undertaking that the partner accepts the standards of conduct listed in section 3 of the ST/SGB/2003/13. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Supporting documentation may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Code of Conduct (internal or interagency) <input type="checkbox"/> PSEA policy <input type="checkbox"/> Documentation of standard procedures for all personnel to receive/sign PSEA policy <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): |
| G.2 Recruitment | <p>Your organization has a systematic vetting procedure in place for job candidates through proper screening. This must include, at minimum, reference checks for sexual misconduct and a self-declaration by the job candidate, confirming that they have never been subject to sanctions (disciplinary, administrative or criminal) arising from an investigation in relation to SEA, or left employment pending investigation and refused to cooperate in such an investigation.</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Supporting documentation may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Reference check template including check for sexual misconduct (including reference from previous employers and self-declaration) <input type="checkbox"/> Recruitment procedures <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): |
| G.3 Training | <p>Your organization holds mandatory trainings (online or in-person) for all IP</p> |

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| | <p>employees and associated personnel¹ (herein “personnel”) on PSEA and relevant procedures. The training should, at a minimum include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) a definition of SEA (that is aligned with the UN's definition); 2) an explanation on prohibition of SEA; and 3) actions that personnel are required to take (i.e. prompt reporting of allegations and referral of victims). <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Supporting documentation may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Training package <input type="checkbox"/> Attendance sheets <input type="checkbox"/> Training certificates <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): |
| G.4 Reporting | <p>Your organization has mechanisms and procedures for personnel, recipients of assistance and communities, including children, to report SEA allegations that comply with core standards for reporting (i.e. safety, confidentiality, transparency, accessibility).</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Supporting documentation may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Internal Complaints and Feedback Mechanism <input type="checkbox"/> Participation in joint reporting mechanisms <input type="checkbox"/> Communication materials <input type="checkbox"/> PSEA awareness-raising plan <input type="checkbox"/> Description of reporting mechanism <input type="checkbox"/> Whistle-blower policy <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): |
| G.5 Assistance | <p>Your organization has a system to refer SEA victims to locally available support services, based on their needs and consent. This can include actively contributing to in-country PSEA networks and/or GBV systems (where applicable) and/or referral pathways at an inter-agency level.</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Supporting documentation may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Internal or Interagency referral pathway <input type="checkbox"/> List of Available service providers <input type="checkbox"/> Description of referral or Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) <input type="checkbox"/> Referral form for survivors of GBV/SEA <input type="checkbox"/> Guidelines on victim assistance and/or training on GBV and GBV case management principles <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): |

¹ Associated personnel include sub-contractors, consultants, interns or volunteers and others associated with or working on behalf of the Partner.

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| G.6 Investigations | <p>Your organization has a process for investigation of allegations of SEA and can provide evidence. This may include a referral system for investigations where in-house capacity does not exist.</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Supporting documentation may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Written process for review of SEA allegations <input type="checkbox"/> Dedicated resources for investigation(s) and/or commitment of partner for support <input type="checkbox"/> PSEA investigation policy/procedures <input type="checkbox"/> Contract with professional investigative service <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): |
| G.7 Corrective Measures | <p>Your organization has taken appropriate corrective action in response to SEA allegations, if any.</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Supporting documentation may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of implementation of corrective measures identified by the UN partner entity, including capacity strengthening of staff. <input type="checkbox"/> Specific measures to identify and reduce risks of SEA in programme delivery. <input type="checkbox"/> Other ((please specify): |
| G.8 Subcontracting | <p>Your organization’s contracts and partnership agreements include a standard clause requiring sub-contractors to adopt policies that prohibit SEA and to take measures to prevent and respond to SEA.</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Supporting documentation may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts/partnership agreements for sub-contractors <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): |

Annex II: Terms of Reference for Baseline and Endline Studies and Operational Research for the Gender-based Violence Prevention and Response Phase II project and the Gender-based Violence Response to COVID-19 in Nepal project