



CONSULTANCY FOR CONDUCTING A RAPID ASSESSMENT ON THE EFFECTS OF COVID19 ON SRHR AND WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Background

Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE) is a national women's rights organization established in 1995. FOWODE grew out of the Women's Caucus of the 1994-1995 Constituent Assembly which debated and passed the 1995 Constitution of Uganda. FOWODE was established to offer a platform for Uganda's women's learning, networking, sharing experiences and advocating for gender equality and equity in decision making processes. FOWODE has been a key player in the women's movement and is part of a history that opened the way for thousands of women to have a voice in the public arena.

In April 2016, FOWODE initiated conversations to generate key SDGs priority areas for women in Uganda. The organisation spearheaded a process that led to the formation of the Uganda Gender Consortium on SDGs (UGCS). The UGCS through a series of consultations developed '**Voice to action - Advancing Gender Equality in the SDGs**', a document that aims at creating awareness and consolidating stakeholder commitment to the promotion and realisation of gender equality under the SDGs. "*Voice to Action*" is actualised through the UGCS which complements efforts of the Uganda NGO Forum through monitoring and reporting on the components of gender equality in the SDGs at the local and national level. The consortium brings together over sixty development partners including civil society organisations, donors and government institutions to champion and oversee implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), linking critical women's issues to the various SDG targets that inform advocacy in the key areas of concern for the women.

Although 2020 marked the 5th year of implementation of the SDGs, anecdotal evidence from media reports indicates that the COVID 19 pandemic exacerbated socio-economic gender inequalities, rolling back gains made in women's empowerment, equality and the Agenda 2030 Decade of Action. There was escalated gender-based violence, Sexual and Reproductive health challenges, increased burden of unpaid care work and worsened poverty levels all of which negatively impacted women's leadership.

It should be noted that most of the evidence from the media, like minded CSO's, policy makers and health care providers is qualitative and in-depth research is required to determine the real impact of COVID 19 on the SDG 5, to drive policy and decision making. It is against this background that FOWODE in partnership with the Uganda Gender Consortium on SDGs wishes to undertake a rapid assessment on the effect of the pandemic on women's leadership and the realization of women and girls' sexual and reproductive health rights.

2. Purpose and Statement of work

The purpose of the rapid assessment is to collect information and assess the extent to which COVID19 has affected women and girls' SRHR and their participation in leadership. The assessment will document specific SRHR challenges during the pandemic; and determine whether decision makers applied a gender lens to their district and national responses to Covid-19. The assessment will further profile initiatives that have been undertaken by different stakeholders to build women and girls' resilience to COVID 19, with a focus on addressing specific issues of SRHR and Women's leadership.

The assessment report will provide evidence and make recommendations for strengthening advocacy for gender responsive COVID 19 measures/strategies.

3. Scope of Work and Methodology

The assessment exercise shall cover a desk review of all available literature related to the effect of the pandemic on SRHR and Women's leadership at national level and in five selected districts. Where necessary the consultant shall conduct virtual interviews with some district-based respondents or through FOWODE's existing structures in the five districts.

4. Duration of work

The assessment will be implemented in a period of three weeks with effect from 21st June to 9th July 2021. The consultant is expected to adhere to the set timelines.

5. Deliverables

The consultant will be expected to deliver the following:

- Submit to FOWODE a technical and financial proposal of not more than 8 pages.
- An inception report with a plan of action on how the assessment will be conducted.
- Develop and share assessment tools to use during the assessment
- Develop and share a draft report with the UGCS
- Present report findings during a validation meeting with stakeholders to generate feedback for the final report
- Present a final report to FOWODE including all raw data (quantitative data sets, key documents reviewed.)

6. Required skills and experience

The consultant(s) should have the following qualifications/expertise:

- A Bachelor's and/ or Master's degree in Social Sciences, Economics, Gender, Studies or others as may be relevant. A post graduate qualification in Monitoring and Evaluation will be an added advantage.
- 5 years' hands on knowledge and experience, of conducting Baseline surveys.
- Knowledge of governance, human rights, gender and participatory development programs (Essential).
- Knowledge of country context and Sustainable Development Goals (Essential).
- Experience of working with local communities and non-governmental organizations.
- Experience in the design and use of participatory methods for assessment and evaluation. (Essential)
- Excellent writing, editing, and giving attention to detail (Essential)

7. Application process and timeline

FOWODE invites interested individuals and companies to submit the following application documents:

- Expression of interest
- Technical and Financial proposal (should include proposed activities schedule/work plan with time frame)
- CV of the consultant/s who will undertake the assessment

Please send the EoI to:

The Executive Director

Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE)

patricia.munabi@fowode.org

CC. elizabeth.ampairwe@fowode.org

Not later than 17th June 2021