

Ministry of General Education
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Terms of Reference (ToR)
Consultant to conduct Research: Baseline research on the Status of Teenage Pregnancies Post-Conflict to Develop the Country's Re-entry Policies in Tonj, Aweil, Pibor, Kapoeta North and Mvolo.

Introduction

In developing countries, approximately 20,000 girls under the age of 18 give birth. This amounts to 7.3 million births a year. The number of adolescent pregnancies is much higher as not all pregnancies result to births. When a girl hailing from a low-income family becomes pregnant, her life can change radically. Often, her education comes to an abrupt end reducing her opportunities to actively participate in economic development and she remains in the vicious cycle of poverty. ¹.

South Sudan as a country has and is still experiencing conflict in certain parts of the country resulting in disruption of learning for many young people, an increase in teen pregnancies, and displacement from homes resulting into an increase in street families. Further, culture and religious beliefs are deeply rooted amongst communities in South Sudan therefore increasing the prevalence harmful cultural practices such as early marriage. UNICEF reports indicated that South Sudan is among the 10 countries with the highest prevalence of child marriage (52%)², a condition that always leads to early pregnancy.

FAWE is concerned about the effect teenage pregnancies on the physical, emotional and mental well-being of girls and their prospects for returning to school and continuing their education.

Therefore, FAWE is seeking a consultant (an individual, firm or organization) to conduct research that will contribute to public discussions, policy making, and response planning on the effect of teen pregnancies on well-being of teen mothers, their children and their families..

Objective

¹ UNFPA, 2016. Adolescent Pregnancy.[Online] Available at <http://www.unfpa.org/adolescent-pregnancy> [Accessed 19 January 2017]

² UNICEF, 2013. Child Marriages: 39,000 Every Day. [Online] Available at https://www.unicef.org/media/media_68114.html [Accessed 1 February 2017]



To conduct research produce a policy brief based on research findings that will trigger policy discussions and recommendations on the status of teenage pregnancies in conflict and post conflict areas to influence the country's school re-entry policies and retention of teenage mothers in schools.

Scope of work

- Design a mixed (qualitative and quantitative) research methodology to assess the impact of teenage pregnancies on teenage mothers and girls.
- Conduct primary interviews with female learners, and secondary interviews with teachers, education officials, and other relevant stakeholders.
- Analyse findings from the interviews and develop recommendations for policy development and improvement.
- Prepare a report on the research findings.
- Support one female learner to draft an opinion piece reflecting on her personal experiences and some of the paper's policy recommendations.
- Present findings in validation workshop or via a virtual webinar

Key deliverables

- Research report
- A policy briefing paper based on the research, for external publication, of approximately 8,000 words. It should include targeted recommendation to relevant stakeholders.
- Opinion piece by one female learner.
- Raw data
- Validation workshop or virtual presentation on research findings.

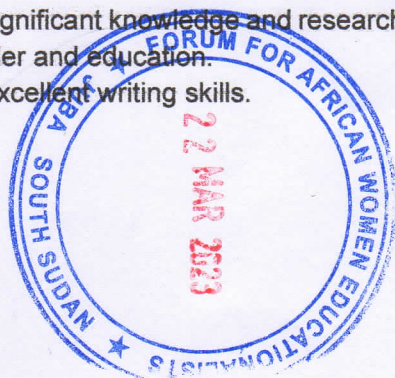
Tentative schedule

The key deliverables of the task above should be completed within a maximum of 21 working days from the commencement of the task. The consultant should submit the detailed breakdown of the research timetable based on the following major activities as a guideline or suggestion:

- Design of the research methodology & tools
- Review of documentation
- Period of the research in the field locations (Tonj, Aweil, Pibor, Kapoeta North and Mvolo).
- Data analysis and report writing
- Preparation and submission of the first draft report
- Meetings with FAWE and other relevant partners on initial findings and key deliverables
- Incorporation of comments and finalization of the research report
- Validation presentation on research findings.

Desirables

- Have significant knowledge and research experience in South Sudan, preferably on issues of gender and education.
- Have excellent writing skills.



- Be familiar with key education stakeholders in South Sudan, including government officials, INGOs, UN agencies.

FAWE's responsibilities

- Facilitate the work as per the specified activity and timeframe in the outline above
- Provide relevant documents to the consultant
- Effect payments according to the agreement
- Provide timely feedback on the report from all relevant staff members.

Requirements

Interested candidates in the position are expected to provide the following documentation:

- A technical proposal with detailed response to the TOR, with specific focus on addressing the scope of work and methodology to be used
- Sample of previous works on Research projects and policy papers or related work, etc.
- Initial work plan based on methodology outlined, and indication of availability
- A financial proposal detailing the daily rate expected, transportation costs, accommodation costs, etc. and initial work plan
- Company profile or CV including a minimum of 3 traceable, recent and relevant references to this task
- Team composition with a lead consultant, and a CV of each person to be involved in the assignment, including relevant experience

Procedures

- The policy paper will be overseen by the Executive Director (FAWE South Sudan) and the Programme Manager (FAWE South Sudan). The consultant(s) will work closely with the Advocacy Officers in undertaking the baseline study, and in ensuring the methodology is suited to the specific locations. The methodology and deliverables will be shared for consultation and input from relevant colleagues in FAWE Regional Secretariat, including the focal points for South Sudan in the Education, Humanitarian, and Peacebuilding teams.
- You are requested to submit your narrative and financial proposals by 27th March to lmathew.fawess@gmail.com

Note that the deadline for the submission is 21st April 2023.

