



PLAN
INTERNATIONAL



CONSULTANCY TERMS OF REFERENCE

Impacts of Climate Change on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Among Adolescents and Young People in Dhanusha: A Research Inquiry

Main Facts Table	
Request for Proposal (RFP) Reference	Ref No: 013-023/024
RFP launch date	30 January 2024
Deadline for submission of offers	13 February 2024

Organization Information	
Name of the organization:	
VAT/ PAN registration number:	
HAS A TAX CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE BEEN SUBMITTED? :	YES/NO
Contact person's name:	
Contact details:	Telephone:
	Cellphone
	Address:
	Email:
	Other:
Additional Contact Information:	
SIGNATURE AND COMPANY STAMP	
DATE:	

Terms of Reference (ToR)

Impacts of Climate Change on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Among Adolescents and Young People in Dhanusha: A Research Inquiry

1. Background Information on Plan International

Plan International is an independent development and humanitarian organization that advances children's rights and equality for girls. We believe in the power and potential of every child. But this is often suppressed by poverty, violence, exclusion and discrimination. And it is the girls who are most affected.

Working together with children, young people, our supporters and partners, we strive for a just world, tackling the root causes of the challenges facing girls and all vulnerable children. We support children's rights from birth until they reach adulthood. And we enable children to prepare for – and respond to – crises and adversity. We drive changes in practice and policy at local, national and global levels using our reach, experience and knowledge.

Plan's refreshed global strategy 2022-2027 strives to achieve a world where all girls are standing strong creating global change. To achieve this ambition, our goal until 2023 is: Girls and young women in all of their diversity reach their full potential as equal and active citizens in both development and humanitarian settings.

Read more about Plan International's Global Strategy: 100 Million Reasons at <https://plan-international.org/strategy>

About the commissioning office

Plan International has been working in Nepal since 1978, helping marginalized children, their families and communities to access their rights to early childhood development, child protection, education, vocational skills, girls' empowerment and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), water sanitation and hygiene, climate crisis, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Plan International Nepal's programs are implementing in 22 districts through our local implementing partners.

SRHR (Decide) is one of the AOGD (area of global distinctiveness) of Plan International Nepal's new country strategy 2023-2028 and Plan International global strategy 2022-2027. Plan Nepal been implementing SRHR program at both country and in the districts through local partners. We work with federal, provincial and local governments at influencing, policy and implementation level. We work with community, schools and health facilities to improve access on SRHR information and services specifically for girls and young women. Plan International Nepal is considered as one of the influential actors in the area of SRHR strengthening through engagement of young girls, adolescents and women. Plan Nepal is a member of Technical committee for Comprehensive Sexuality Education chaired by Centre for Education and Human resource Development and Steering committee member of Menstrual Hygiene Management Partner Alliance. It is also a member of Reproductive health Subcommittee chaired by Family Welfare division and RH sub-cluster under health cluster which usually activates during any emergency.

Plan International Nepal has been leading development and humanitarian organization in the country. It has robust technical expertise on the Climate Crisis (CC), Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and humanitarian programming, and experience of implementing small to medium scale projects on CC, CCA, DRM, School-Based Disaster Risk Management (SBDRM), Anticipatory Action (AA), Shock Responsive Social Protection (SRSP). It has worked with multiple stakeholders, especially government for mainstreaming CC, DRM, and humanitarian issues in the government (federal, provincial, and local) processes and systems with focus on children, young girls, and women, who suffer most from climate-induced disaster events in Nepal.

2. Background/Context

The Asia-Pacific region is at the forefront of experiencing the impact of climate crisis and its related disasters, with climate change acknowledged as a global threat (IPCC-AR5 2014a). According to the estimates by the UNESCAP Asia-Pacific Disaster Report in 2019, the Asia Pacific region has its annual loss of \$675 billion due to climate-induced disasters (ESCAP 2019). Though the perceived threat of climate risks is global, the vulnerability to the risk is context-specific and more focused on non-climatic factors and pre-existing inequalities. Therefore, girls and young women, the poor, elderly, children, indigenous communities, coastal populations, and those with disabilities are more vulnerable to climate risks.

The findings of Climate change report published by Women Deliver on January 2021 states that the impacts of climate change have detrimental effects on individuals' SRHR however more evidences and analysis are needed. The study has recommended for gender-transformative climate action by addressing the linkages between climate change and SRHR across climate action processes.

Studies by the Asian-Pacific resource and research center for women (ARROW) in the region have shown that while climate change affects everyone, it is not gender-neutral due to existing gender inequalities that are perpetuated by existing social practices, political and economic structures that are largely patriarchal. Women and girls in all their diversities including indigenous peoples, internally displaced persons, persons with disabilities and women in vulnerable situations, those with limited financial means, poor education, limited access to technology and other resources are disproportionately affected by climate change, and oftentimes excluded in decision-making processes and discourses on climate change. These disproportionate impacts are a manifestation of gender inequality and are exacerbated during climate change-related disasters. In addition to this, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of specially women and girls are primarily impacted during climate related disasters, and is largely missing in the environment and climate discourses. It is integral to have bodily autonomy and access to sexual and reproductive health services to achieve gender equality and build climate-resilient societies.

Studies in Bangladesh and Nepal have found that families practice child marriage among their young daughters as means to escape poverty exacerbated by extreme weather events. Child marriage increases the risk of early pregnancy which makes the girls more susceptible to placental tears, obstruction at the time of delivery, leading to maternal mortality. Multiple and intersecting forms of violence, discrimination, stigmatization, exclusion and inequalities, for example, on the basis of age, household and relationship status, indigeneity, race or ethnicity, HIV/AIDS status, disability, immigration status, socioeconomic status, employment, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, sex characteristics, and other grounds-heighten preexisting vulnerabilities. Added vulnerability to climate change and its impact also adversely impact SRHR. Climate change has differential and negative impacts on women, girls, and gender-diverse people, including on their ability to exercise their SRHR, as a result of structural discrimination and intersecting inequalities that contribute to marginalization and vulnerability.

When climate extreme events happen, oftentimes young girls are among the first to be affected to the extent that they are forced to drop out of school. Parents withdraw their daughters from schools so that they could either help out at home or on the farm, or to find a job to supplement the household's income due to the increasing workload in the household and economic hardship experienced by the family. This in turn limits their access to information including comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), hindering their empowerment. During climate crisis, we also see an increase in sexual and gender-based violence. Women and girls in all their diversities who are mainly responsible for collecting water, food and firewood have to travel greater distances for them, making them vulnerable to sexual and gender-based violence including sexual harassment, rape and other forms of violence. People of diversified gender identities are also vulnerable to sexual and gender-based violence while living in temporary shelters and camps when they have to leave their homes during climate change disasters. An example from Pakistan showed that women and girls, especially pregnant women, lack privacy at the shelters and in toilets and face harassment and attempted gender-based violence in camps.

Though there are evidences on climate crisis and its impact on overall health and socio-economic grounds but there is a significant gap of evidence in addressing climate crisis, SRHR and gender specifically in context of Nepal. Nepal's climate change policies and plans have recognized health sector but not gender and SRHR. Nepal's health

sector program recognizes climate change-induced diseases and other factors affecting health. However, linkages of climate change with gender SRHR is not mentioned.

3. Description & Objectives

Purpose

The purpose of the assignment is to conduct a **research inquiry to identify the impact of climate change on SRHR of adolescents and young people in Dhanusha.**

The goal of the research study is to recommend effective interventions and strategies that integrate climate resilience, gender equality, and the specific needs of vulnerable groups, ensuring improved access to SRHR facilities in the face of a changing climate

Objectives:

The general objective of the research is to gain a comprehensive understanding of the existing Climate Change and SRHR resources and practices in community in targeted location, assess vulnerability on SRHR system and services to climate change, the impacts of climate change on SRHR practices, and examine the linkages Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI), including overall with SRHR system and services vulnerability to climate change.

Following are the objectives of this research:

- Generate evidence regarding climate crisis and its impact on SRHR of most at risk women and girls in targeted areas of Nepal.
- Identify local climate crisis adaptation initiatives and current gaps (considering most at-risk women and girls)
- Conduct a review of current policy (e.g. on DRR, climate change response, sectoral plans) using a gender and SRHR to identify gaps and opportunities.

Methodology/ Questions

Qualitative study including focused group discussions (FGD), in depth interviews (IDI) and key informant interviews (KII) to scrutinize weather data for insights into the occurrence of climate change within the identified study location.

Users

The primary users will be the planners and policy makers working in the sector of SRHR and climate change including those from development agencies. The research findings will be shared with communities, local government and wider groups to increase the importance of this model to build the resiliency of the community with focus to SRHR issues.

4. Deliverables and Timeline

Key Deliverables

The final deliverable of the assignment is to identify the **impact of climate change on SRHR of adolescents and young people in Dhanusha** with relevant recommendations for program planning and policy implications. Following things are expected in the report along with addressing the objectives (mentioned in section 3 above).

- Climate change analysis in the targeted location to understand the impact of CC on SRHR
- Policy analysis including gaps and recommendation to key stakeholders in relation with CC and SRHR in Nepal.

5. Timeline

The assignment should follow the following timeline for the completion

Activity	Est. No of work days
TOR finalization, EOI call and selection	20 days
Inception report	10 days
Field work	20 days

First draft of report submission	15 days
Discussion on first draft	2 days
Incorporate feedback received on first draft	5 days
Final report submission	1 day
Total assignment days	53 days

6. Budget

The consultant should submit the total budget in the proposal with detail breakdown including applicable government taxes. The payment shall be made in three instalments.

7. Expected qualifications of Consultant

The consultant(s) should have the following academic qualification and experiences:

- The consultant should have at least Master’s degree in public health, research, environment science or relevant subjects
- Experience of conducting research including analytical skills in the field of SRHR and climate change
- Experience of drafting high quality research report
- Experience of working with relevant government agencies

8. List of documents to be submitted with the Request for Proposal (RFP)

- Detailed response to the RFP/ToR
- Proposed methodology
- If applicable include any specific IT equipment, tools or materials that the Consultant will need to use/have to carry out the work
- Ethics and child safeguarding approaches, including any identified risks and associated mitigation strategies
- Proposed timelines
- CVs
- Example of previous work
- Reference
- Detailed budget, including daily fee rates, expenses, etc.

All consultants/applicant are required to agree and adhere to Plan International’s Non-Staff Code of Conduct (Annex)

Depending on the nature of the consultancy you may need to include an NDA (Non-Disclosure Agreement) Clause.

9. Submission of offers

The Offeror shall prepare and submit both the **“Technical”** and **“Financial”** Proposal by **13 February 2024**

The individual/team should prepare both the **“Technical”** and **“Financial”** proposal. Also include the electronic copy of Technical Proposal (in word version) and send to Plan International Nepal country office with detail plan of action till the event is over. Also include the electronic copy of Technical Proposal (in word version) in a CD/pen drive inside the technical proposal envelop. In the cover letter of proposal, the offeror must have to mention **“Impacts of Climate Change on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Among Adolescents and Young People in Dhanusha: A Research Inquiry”**

Sealing and marking of proposals

The Offeror shall seal the proposal in one outer and two inner envelopes, as detailed below.

- (a) The outer envelope shall be:
Plan International Nepal, Country Office
Bakhundole, Maitrimarg, Lalitpur
and, marked as: **“Impacts of Climate Change on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Among Adolescents and Young People in Dhanusha: A Research Inquiry”**

- (b) The 2 inner envelopes shall indicate the name and address of the Offeror and should be clearly marked with “**Technical Proposal**” and “**Financial Proposal**”. In summary, there will be one separate sealed envelope for the Technical Proposal and one separate sealed envelope for the Financial Proposal.

An Offeror having any queries regarding the RFP Document or Scope of Work can send an e-mail to nepal.procurement@plan-international.org. Answers to questions of the Offeror will be sent by email.

Note: If an offeror submits the financial proposal (budget) within or in the same envelop as the technical proposal, it will be automatically disqualified.

10. Evaluation of offers

Shortlisted suppliers may be invited to discuss their proposals in more detail at Plan’s discretion. Plan International, at its sole discretion, will select the successful supplier.

Plan international shall be free to:

- Accept the whole, or part only, of any submission
- Accept none of the proposals
- Republish this Request for Quotations

Plan International reserves the right to keep confidential the circumstances that have been considered for the selection of the offers.

Part of the evaluation process may include a presentation from the supplier.

Value for money is very important to Plan International, as every additional £ saved is money that we can use on our humanitarian and development work throughout the world.

Plan International may award multiple contracts and all contracts will be non-exclusive.

11. Contract & Payment terms

Please note that, if successful, Plan International’s standard terms of payment are **30 days** after the end of the month of receipt of invoice, or after acceptance of the Goods/Services/Works, if later.

Payment terms

	Milestone	Detail	Amount to be Paid (%)
1.	Right after the agreement signed	1 st instalment	30%
2.	After receiving of draft report	2 nd instalment	30%
3.	After completion of assignment as defined final deliverable:	Final instalment	40%

12. Plan International’s Ethical & Environmental Statement

The supplier should establish environmental standards and good practices that follow the principles of ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems, and in particular to ensure compliance with environmental legislation

Child protection is a term used to describe the responsibilities and activities undertaken to prevent or to stop children being abused or ill-treated. It is Plan’s duty and responsibility to reduce the risks of abuse to the children who we have contact with and keep them safe from harm. Plan’s Child Protection Policy, “Say Yes to keeping children safe”, is Plan’s overriding framework to protect children who come into contact with Plan employees, volunteers, partner organisations and individuals, including consultants, who are working on behalf of Plan.

The consultant should include statements in the proposal on how he or she will ensure ethics and child protection during the commencement of the assignment and during the field work. The consultant should also specify other

ethical protocols to be followed during the due course of the evaluation. The consultant is expected to take consent of the respondents and/or children’s guardian before taking photographs and ask if their photographs, verbatim or case stories could be used in report and for public dissemination. Such consent must be documented and submitted to Plan International Nepal along with the final report.

13. Selection Criteria

The following selection criteria will be used for technical evaluation of the proposals.

Evaluation	Criteria	Scoring Weight
Technical Proposal	1. Specific Experience of the Consultant(s) relevant to the assignment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated experience in conducting research (qualitative and quantitative) on climate change and SRHR (linkage of CC and SRHR issues), with a focus on adolescents and young people. • Proven track record of successful completion of similar research tasks. 	35%
	2. Consultant(s) qualification & Competence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth knowledge of climate change issues and their specific implications for SRHR, particularly among adolescents and young people. • Understanding with expertise on analysis of weather and climate data with scientific analysis. Proven track record of such assignments. • Expertise and knowledge on SRHR issues of Nepal. • GESI analysis is important so GESI expertise is also essential. 	25%
	3. Adequacy of the proposed methodology to the ToR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the methodology addresses the specific tasks, goals, and expectations stated in the ToR. • Familiarity with the socio-cultural context of Dhanusha and its impact on SRHR. • Methodology for analysis of climate and weather data (secondary data) that can say the Climate change is happening. • Ethical Considerations 	20%
	4. Gender Responsive Procurement	10%
	5. Realistic proposed plan (timeline)	10%
Technical Proposal		100.00%
Technical Score converted to 100% [(Total÷70%) x 100%] (A)		70%
Financial Proposal (B)		30%
Total (A+B)		100%

Gender Responsive Procurement: Plan International defines a gender-responsive business as one that meets criteria for integrating gender equality and women’s empowerment principles in its policies and practices, and which is aligned to international norms and standards. This could be:

- a. *Women-owned business: A legal entity in any field that is more than 51% owned, managed and controlled by one or more women.*
- b. *Women-led business: A legal entity in any field that has a minimum of 50% women representation in management with senior-level, strategic decision-making capabilities.*

Gender-responsive business: Legal entity that actively promotes gender equality and empowerment of women and young women through their policies and labour practices.

Evaluation and comparison of proposals

The evaluation team will evaluate and compare the proposals which have been determined to be substantially responsive in accordance to the evaluation criteria.

A two-stage procedure is utilized in evaluating the proposals, with evaluation of the technical proposal being completed prior to any price proposal being opened and compared. The technical proposal is evaluated on the basis of its responsiveness to the Term of Reference (ToR).

Financial proposal will be opened only if they meet the following condition:

- **The submission that passed the minimum technical score of 70% of the obtainable score of 100 points in the evaluation of the technical proposals.**

In the second stage, the financial proposal of all Offerors, who have attained minimum 70% score in the technical evaluation, will be evaluated. The financial proposal carries a total score of 30%. The points for the financial proposal will be allocated as per the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Lowest Bid Offered}^*}{\text{Bid of the Organization}} \times 30$$

* *“Lowest Bid Offered” refers to the lowest price offered by a proposer scoring at least 70% points in technical evaluation.*

The 70% weightage will be given to the technical proposal (which pass the minimum average Weighted Score of 7) and 30% weightage will be given to the financial proposal. The contract will be awarded to the Offeror scoring the highest combined scores.