



## **Terms of References**

### **For Designing UNFPA's 2<sup>nd</sup> National Survey On Young People**

#### **Background**

The transition from childhood into adulthood exposes young people to rapid physical, cognitive and social changes. It is a time in which young people (10-24 years) start gaining independence from their caregivers, build peer relationships, manifest self-esteem and make important choices related to academics and career paths. Sexual and reproductive health is inherently part of this transition and can have a significant impact on young people's lives and their future.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals endorsed by member states put 'Universal Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights' as one of the priorities on the agenda, including access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) services and information for young people. The International Conference on Population and Development Program of Actions emphasized that individual human rights and dignity, including SRHR, are central to eradicating poverty and a key component to achieving sustainable social, economic development and environmental protection. These international agreements are also in line with China's National Development Plans, for example Healthy 2030 Strategy, China Women's Development Plan, China Youth Mid and Long Term Development Plan, where ensuring young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights are explicitly stated.

However, when looking into the adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights (ASRHR) issue in China, the situation is concerning. Young people are contributing a big proportion of 9 million abortions every year; comprehensive sexuality education is still not available in school; and free family planning services are only provided to married couples in many provinces, declining young people from access to free contraceptives and counselling.

In this regard, it is critical to generate solid and up-to-date empirical evidence to support policy and programme development on ASRHR in China. In 2009, UNFPA- UN's lead agency on sexual and reproductive health and rights, collaborated with the Office of the State Council National Working Committee for Women and Children (NWCCW) and the Institute of Population Research of Peking University (PKU) to conduct the NWCCW/UNFPA joint study on youth (15-24 years) access to reproductive health in China. A mixed-method research design was utilized to produce national findings on sexual and reproductive health for unmarried youth, including in- and out-of-school youth. The report of the research is attached as annex to this terms of reference.

The 2009 survey was one of the first national surveys on this topic and the results have been extensively used by media, UN agencies, NGOs and other organizations in China for informing programming and planning. The findings were also utilized by the National Working Committee

for Women and Children (NWCCW) to inform the Program of Action for the Development of Chinese Women and the government's Program of Action for the Development of Chinese Children (2011-2020).

Ten years have passed since the completion of the 2009 NWCCW/ UNFPA joint research on ASRHR. China's social and economic development have advanced significantly. Many indicators show that young people are living a better life, in terms of their access to health services and education. However, at national level, there are very few representative and good quality data on the status of ASRHR, jeopardizing the collective efforts to develop evidence based policies and effective interventions to improve the status quo.

Therefore, UNFPA and National Health Commission are planning to conduct the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Survey on young people. The concept note is attached with this terms of reference, which defined broadly the scope of the survey that could be elaborated further.

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> National Youth Survey that UNFPA as planned will include the following features:
  - Be nationally representative
  - Target young people between 10 -24 years old from different backgrounds and
  - Be policy oriented, in order to support relevant policy reviews, developments, legal framework development, exploring of research directions and etc
  - Use internationally recommended concepts, definitions, methodologies and instruments that are applicable to local context in order to ensure the survey results are internationally comparable and respond to data needs for monitoring and reporting on national progress towards meeting targets of international development frameworks such as the SDGs and ICPD
  - Significant contribution from multi stakeholders, including international and domestic experts from all relevant areas
  - Main stakeholders, such as parents, teachers, service providers to be included in the survey
  - Employ quantitative and qualitative methods for data collection

### **Objective of the consultancy**

To conduct a systematic review of the relevant empirical literature on ASRHR in China and key national and international policy documents, and use the insights therefrom to define the objectives and scope of the survey design and develop the main survey questionnaire and the overall sampling design for the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Survey on Young People.

### **Timeframe**

October 2018 – December 10<sup>th</sup> 2018

### **Main tasks**

1. Desk-top review (55% of the budget):

- Policy review (10% of the budget)

To review relevant national policies regarding ASRHR in China during 2009- 2018. This

will contribute to discussing the results of the research and help track the policy changes. This part should also help identify what policies exist, M&E frameworks of those policies and what are data needs for monitoring, reporting, etc.

- Evidence review (20% of the budget)

To conduct a systematic review of recent empirical studies (2009-2018) on ASRHR in China with a view to appraising and synthesizing the evidence on the levels, patterns, trends and key factors in major ASRHR outcomes based on well-defined inclusion criteria. The main review findings should be organized or tabulated to highlight the study design (site, sub-population covered, sample size, data and methods, etc), the main results/conclusions, the key policy recommendations, identified knowledge gaps/issues requiring further research, and study limitations;
- International indicators, frameworks and tools review (20% of the budget)
  - To review available international and national indicators, frameworks and tools relevant for designing the survey. The indicators, frameworks and tools should be centered on ASRHR while expanded to other topics related to adolescent and youth development;
  - To compare international indicators, frameworks and tools and select appropriate ones to be reflected in the survey questionnaire.
- Based on the insights from the desk-top reviews, refine the concept note, to ensure the document adequately guides the design and implementation of the Survey on Young People. (5% of the budget)

## 2. Development of data collection instruments (35% of the budget)

- Upon consultation with technical experts on the objectives and scope of the survey, to take the following elements into consideration when designing the questionnaire: Concept note of 2<sup>nd</sup> Survey on Young People, NWCCW/ UNFPA 2009 Youth Survey, recently conducted experts' consultation on 2<sup>nd</sup> Survey on Young People, and reports from desk-top reviews; This analysis will help understand what should be included in the questionnaires.
- To conduct regular and close consultations with technical team, UNFPA and NHC on the progress and direction of the main survey questionnaire development;
- To construct questionnaires for out-of-school young people, in- school young people, and young people in household. Proper feasibility analysis on collecting data from young adolescents aged between 10- 14 should be conducted, and, provide the procedures that need to be comply, based on which a separate questionnaire to be designed for collecting data.
- To construct questionnaires for stakeholders, including parents/ guardians, teachers, and service providers;
- Qualitative and quantitative instruments should both be developed to ensure the survey captures the most from target population

## 3. Sampling design development (10% of the budget)

- The sampling strategy should be comparable to 2009 NWCCW/ UNFPA Youth Survey and be nationally representative;
- Based on insights from the systematic literature review, appraise the different adaptations of the simple random sampling design used in the recent past for conducting ASRH-related surveys in China and recommend one for the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Survey with a detailed

justification;

### **Deliverables**

1. Policy review report completed on relevant national level policies relevant to ASRHR in China;
2. Tabular summary of the empirical evidence on ASRHR in China focusing on levels, patterns, trends and determinants of key outcomes;
3. A review report on international tools, indicators and frameworks that could be drawn upon for the questionnaire development;
4. Youth Survey questionnaire developed on the basis of consultations with key stakeholders and insights from the desk-top reviews;
5. A proposed sampling design based on insights from the desk-top reviews.

### **Requirements**

We are looking for an institute/ team of experts with following qualifications

1. Extensive academia experience on adolescent health, in particular on ASRHR;
2. Experience undertaken government funded relevant research projects;
3. Experience of working with the UN on relevant projects;
4. Able to communicate fluently both in English and Chinese;
5. Understanding of global level frameworks on adolescent and youth health issues;
6. Well connected to the resource persons in the field of ASRHR in China and globally;
7. Proven ability to deliver high quality products on time.

### **How to apply**

Eligible candidates should submit your proposal, budget plan, and team lead and team members' resumes to [yawang@unfpa.org](mailto:yawang@unfpa.org) and copy [gaoshan@unfpa.org](mailto:gaoshan@unfpa.org) [jia@unfpa.org](mailto:jia@unfpa.org). Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted for further discussions. The deadline is 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

### **Evaluation of the proposal**

After UNFPA has collected the proposals, an expert panel will be organized to evaluate all the proposals. 3 candidates will be shortlisted for further discussions. The panel will evaluate the proposals based on the content quality (40%), team lead and team members' capacity (30%) and the budget plan (30%).

### **References**

1. Report on youth access to reproductive health services, Peking University (supported by UNFPA and NWCCW)
2. Questionnaire for the national research on youth access to reproductive health services;
3. Concept note of 2<sup>nd</sup> NHC and UNFPA national survey on youth;
4. Meeting minutes of 1<sup>st</sup> expert consultation meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> NHC and UNFPA national survey on youth