

Terms of Reference

Request for Proposal - Technical and operational support to create and maintain the Platform for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls for Achieving Three Transformative Results in China

Background

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency. Our mission is to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled. In 2018, UNFPA launched efforts to achieve three transformative results by 2030: ending unmet need for family planning, ending preventable maternal deaths and ending gender-based violence and harmful practices. UNFPA is one of the UN's lead agencies to further gender equality and women's empowerment and to prevent and respond to gender-based violence through supporting programmes in over 150 countries and territories worldwide in humanitarian, peace and development settings.

UNFPA started working with the Chinese Government in 1979 and is currently implementing the ninth country programme (CP9) over a five year period (2021-2025) which complements the Chinese government's development vision, including those set out in China's 14th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development and is consistent with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for the same period. CP9 is supporting policy reforms and development at the national and local levels, through research, capacity-building, advocacy and pilot projects and interventions aimed at providing high-quality, rights-based SRH services to women and girls in need of protection and care, and promoting positive social norms to support the realization of gender equality and women and girls' rights.

Strengthening partnership with civil society organizations including women-led organizations is critical for the effective implementation of UNFPA gender programme in CP9. Working with civil society organizations provides a strategic entry point to empower and strengthen the capacity of entire communities in mobilizing and engaging them to promote gender equality and advance women and girls' sexual and reproductive health and rights in China. In 2022, the amendment of the Law on Protecting Women's Rights and Interests has been reviewed by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) for the second time, and public opinions and suggestions are being solicited. The NPC Standing Committee is expected to approve revisions to the law later this year. In this process, civil society organizations actively participated in the amendment of the law, provided a large number of opinions and suggestions, and can continue to seize this opportunity to promote the further expression of women's needs and voices to the public and policymakers. In addition, China's implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the CEDAW will be reviewed in August and October 2022 respectively. All of these will provide valuable opportunities for civil society organizations in China to be engaged to promote women and girls' rights and interests.

Under the above context, UNFPA plans to support a network to promote gender equality and empowerment of women and girls with focus on addressing GBV, gender and social norm change, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and gender transformative agenda with members of civil society organizations, women's groups and gender experts on a voluntary basis. The network would serve as a platform for learning, experience sharing among the members, providing advisory to UNFPA/UN and Government agencies on gender issues and bringing voices of women and girls. UNFPA is seeking a civil society organization

(hereafter “organization”) that can provide technical and operational support to set up and maintain the network.

Expected outputs of the Network

- To generate motivation and synergistic among different stakeholders in China for gender equality and empowerment of women and girls for achieving 3 transformative results in China including civil society organizations, women’s groups, academia, government agencies, UN system, donors and private sectors;
- To increase NGOs/CBOs’ understanding of national laws/regulations/policies and international conventions and guidelines related to gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR);
- To share experiences and lessons learned of advancing SRHR for women and girls in China including GBV prevention and response, identify gaps and needs from women and girls, particularly most marginalized groups like GBV/DV survivors and women with disabilities, and provide advisory to promote gender equality and advance SRHR for women and girls in China;
- To explore the innovative concepts and measures to promote gender equality and empowerment of women and girls for achieving 3 transformative results in China.

Scope of work:

The organization is expected to conduct the following tasks:

- Undertake mapping of civil society organizations working on gender equality including GBV/DV prevention and response and SRHR in China including women-led organizations, women associations, women foundations, women rights associations and individual experts, etc. and propose the list of the network members;
- Reach out the civil society organizations working on gender/GBV and SRHR (15-20 CSOs) as per the list agreed and confirm membership of the network;
- Develop the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the network;
- Develop the 2022 work plan for the network including a series of capacity building and consultation workshops which may include, but not limited to: Interpretation of amendments to the Law of China on Protecting Women’s Rights and Interests with focus on SRHR and GBV related issues; Introduction of Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with focus on SRHR, GBV and disability; Introduction of CEDAW and review of China ninth periodic report; Release of monitoring report on the sixth anniversary of the implementation of the Anti-domestic Violence Law and consultation with CSOs to gather inputs and CSO prospective on the impact of 3-child policies on gender equality and women’s SRHR;
- Co-chair the network with UNFPA and provide technical and operational support for the implementation of the network 2022 workplan and ensure timely delivery of quality products/results.

Expected deliverables

Based on the activities to be performed, the organization is expected to deliver the following:

- List of the network membership (name of organizations, brief introduction, contact persons, etc.);
- Terms of Reference (TOR) for the network;
- 2022 work plan of the network;
- A narrative report which describes all the activities performed and results achieved together with a financial report itemizing all of expenditures incurred;
- The final knowledge products as per approved 2022 Work Plan of the network such as research report, training materials, training/ consultation workshop reports, etc.

All the expected deliverables will be submitted in both English and Chinese.

Suggested budget and timeframe

The organization is expected to conduct the tasks and activities during the period from September 1 to December 31, 2022 and a modest financial support (around US\$ 15,000 - US\$ 20,000) will be provided for establishment and maintenance of the network.

Required competencies

The organizations must possess the following credentials:

- Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and non-government organizations (NGOs) working on gender and/or SRHR in China;
- Rich experience in implementing gender/SRHR projects/programmes in China;
- Established experience in capacity building and information sharing for CSOs/NGOs on gender;
- Strong network of the gender community in China;
- Demonstrated data analysis and report writing skills;
- Institutional bank account receiving the funds.

Proposal requirements

Interested organizations are requested to submit a proposal (both in English and Chinese) to UNFPA with the following information:

- Cover letter with the motivation and contact information
- Background (context and rationale)
- Expected outputs/deliverables
- Description of proposed activities to deliver the expected outputs
- Estimated budget with rough breakdown of costs
- Institutional capacity statement (brief introduction of the organization, profile of relevant qualification, profile of relevant past experience and examples of related work, etc.)
- Composition of the team (CVs)