



TERMS OF REFERENCE for PARTNER INSTITUTION OR CONSORTIUM FOR MEASUREMENT OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

UNFPA-DFAT project to Strengthen Regional and National Capacities to Measure Violence against Women in Asia and the Pacific

A. Background:

Despite growing awareness of the causes and consequences of violence against women (VAW), the lack of reliable and comparable national data on VAW in most countries as well as the necessary technical capacity at country and international level to properly collect, analyze and interpret such data continues to remain a major obstacle to developing appropriate and context specific policies, programmes and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to address this serious violation of human rights.

With the UN statistical indicators on VAW (agreed by the UN Statistical Commission in 2011) and, more recently, the indicators on VAW in the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development Goal 5, there is now a renewed emphasis on the importance of reliable and comparable data on VAW, resulting in a strong push and growing demand for the collection of such data.

An assessment of current initiatives and gaps on VAW data demonstrates that both at country level and globally there is a lack of technical capacity to implement and support sound and ethical VAW measurement activities. An inventory of past and ongoing training initiatives on measurement of VAW resulted in the identification of seven different curricula and/or modalities for such capacity building. While ample training materials have been developed and are available, none of the identified courses is specifically designed to build in a sustainable way a pool of national and international experts fully skilled to measure VAW prevalence in a comparable way (including to compute international VAW indicators) using best practice survey methods such as the WHO multi-country study and DHS-DV module; nor are these training initiatives linked to actual ongoing/planned VAW measurement activities on the ground, e.g. through involvement of the institutions in providing support and further mentoring to Government staff who have been previously trained and who are implementing VAW data collection activities in their own countries.

Several of these courses are embedded in graduate school environments. While these courses are reasonably sustainable (recurrent), with their focus on training graduate students and researchers in developing their own (original) research projects on VAW related topics, they are not developed nor resourced to respond to the support countries are seeking in the area of standardized data collection for national prevalence surveys. On the other hand, several other courses (online and face to face) provided by various UN agencies (in particular UN Regional Commissions), while being more appropriate in content and target audience, are usually short, one-off, and cannot be considered a sustainable contribution to ongoing capacity building, mentoring and technical support to data collection and use in the field.

Over the past 15 years in Asia and the Pacific region, UNFPA has technically and/or financially supported surveys on VAW in more than a dozen countries. Currently a number of new studies are planned in countries where data is not yet available using either the WHO methodology, the DV module of the DHS, or both, and UNFPA is playing a key role as technical partner in preparation and conduct of such studies. Further, UNFPA is leading a number of short regional sensitization and capacity building workshops and facilitates south-south collaboration in the region in this area.

Acknowledging the emerging and increasing demand for VAW data and the lack of technical knowledge to properly measure it, UNFPA, with support from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), aims to invest in developing sustained capacity in the area of VAW measurement at national and regional level in alignment with existing global methodological, ethical and safety standards. In particular, *the UNFPA-DFAT project to Strengthen Regional and National Capacities to Measure Violence against Women in Asia and the Pacific, kNOWVAWdata* (2016-2019) hopes to develop sustained regional capacity through the support of one (or a consortium of) institute(s) in the development and use of a sound training curriculum and, as a consequence, to build a committed pool of trained professionals and researchers. In doing so and at the same time, UNFPA intends to continue its close collaboration and consultation with global actors who have made significant contributions to the development of VAW measurement methodology and standards.

UNFPA envisions that the capacity and curriculum developed through this endeavor will be expanded through engagement with a network of academic institutions in the Asia and the Pacific region as well as in other regions. UNFPA hopes that such an undertaking, conducted by UNFPA directly or in collaboration with other UN agencies will ensure long term technical support to countries conducting such VAW data collection initiatives and the expansion of a pool of experts.

B. Key Objective:

In order to create a sustainable and innovative hub that can nurture and host the expertise needed in Asia and the Pacific to measure VAW, UNFPA Asia Pacific Office is seeking to partner with institution or consortium to create a Knowledge Centre for the measurement of VAW. The partnership will be guided by implementing partner modality as per UNFPA's programming policy tools and guidelines. Institutions are invited to apply individually or as a consortium building on each other's comparative advantages.

C. Scope of Work:

In line with the long term vision to contribute to knowledge, evidence and sustained capacity development in the area of measurement of VAW, UNFPA intends to engage in a partnership with a suitable institution or consortium to:

- i. Develop a **high quality technical training curriculum and facilitators guidebook** on measuring VAW: The envisioned curriculum will build on existing materials and experience and will be uniquely different from existing initiatives in that - (a) it will be embedded in a sustainable way in an institution's ongoing course work, (b) it will focus on developing skills to measure internationally accepted VAW indicators using survey methodologies that are international accepted best practices,

(c) training activities will be supplemented by mentoring, and (d) capacity development will be linked with technical support to planned and ongoing data collection activities in countries.

ii. Deliver a **pilot training** on the curriculum and **revise the training materials** with feedback from participants and a Technical Advisory Committee

iii. Establish the training curriculum as a part of regular course delivered at the institution:

Once the curriculum is developed, tested through pilot training and revised with inputs from APRO and the Technical Advisory Committee, it is expected that the institution would be able to house the curriculum as part of graduate training course and/or a recurrent (yearly) stand-alone module (e.g. a summer course). Possible initiatives could also include establishing funds for fellowships for emerging researchers through course work, field experience and mentoring.

iv. Provide **technical assistance to VAW data collection initiatives** by countries in Asia and Pacific region through mentorship by the course faculty of the institute and/or mobilization of a trained pool of national and international researchers:

The network of course graduates - a pool of national and international researchers- are expected to be able to support country initiatives to conduct VAW prevalence surveys. The partner institution or consortium itself also has a role to play by mentoring the graduates and by collaborating with governments and local institutes as (research) partners in data collection activities. This could include the provision of commissioned/tailored training, e.g. for NSOs and ministries, prior to a country starting data collection, and/or afterwards to 'workshop' and explain the results and translate them for use.

v. Initiate/nurture a **network of VAW researchers** to support future VAW data collection initiatives both in the region and globally and to promote and advocate for quality in VAW prevalence studies: In order to ensure that the capacity built through the training and technical assistance, including mentoring, is put to full use and a sustainable network is developed, the partner institution or consortium is expected to set up a network of course graduates and VAW researchers/practitioners to ensure continuation of exchange of knowledge and sustained capacity building. It is expected that the institution or the VAW researchers trained through the curriculum would also engage in utilizing the data generated from the VAW studies for academic papers and secondary data analysis.

D. Expected profile of partner institution or consortium

- Preferably pre-existing technical engagement in the areas of VAW data collection; including demonstrated experience in conducting participatory, multi-stakeholder training on VAW data collection and previous experience in developing and delivering training curriculum in accordance with the required description in the TOR. Institutions that have expertise on data collection and analysis but not necessarily VAW data may choose to partner with another institution with expertise on VAW and submit their interest/proposal as a consortium.

- Proposed team members must have the following qualifications:

- Sound knowledge of quantitative research methods on VAW, preferably on VAW prevalence studies and all phases of research, including design, data collection, (statistical) analysis, interpretation, report writing and dissemination with a focus on ethical and safety issues throughout all these the phases;
- Specific knowledge on qualitative research methods on VAW;
- Skills/experience in knowledge translation and communication;
- Experience and knowledge of the use of participatory processes;
- Knowledge of Asia Pacific region will be desirable.

- The institute or consortium should be committed to the possibility of further partnership with other institutions within the region or beyond to expand capacity building activities on VAW data measurement.
- Interested in partnering with national/local Government institutions and/or NGO/research institutions that are concretely planning or implementing prevalence surveys, providing technical assistance and continued mentoring (as follow up on the training), also building and supporting south-to-south networks.
- Able to work effectively with a Technical Advisory Committee who will provide technical advice on curriculum and capacity development strategy/modalities.
- The institute or consortium should be willing to acknowledge that the course will build upon existing materials and efforts of other institutions to strengthen and build capacity on the measurement of VAW. The curriculum developed under this initiative will most likely be jointly owned by all the partners.
- Multiple institutions are encouraged to apply as a consortium.

E. Requirements of Curriculum on VAW measurement

It is envisioned that the basic core course curriculum will be approximately four weeks. The curriculum can include a combination of distance learning and face-to-face modules with at least two out of the four weeks as face to face training. The curriculum is expected to be holistic and highly technical. The modules will cover gender equality and violence against women and focus on what is specific and different about data collection on VAW, rather than covering generic survey processes. Content will include the following elements but not limited to: (a) Gender and power dynamics, (b) planning and budgeting of the study, (b) organization and coordination, (c) recruitment and training of interviewers, (d) adaptation/development of questionnaire, (e) data collection and processing, (f) analysis, (g) interpretation, dissemination and use of data, and (h) strong emphasis on ethics and safety. Although the course will have a strong focus on the WHO methodology for dedicated VAW prevalence studies, other methodologies may also be introduced, such as the Domestic Violence module of the DHS.¹

The course could be a stand-alone (summer) course and/or part of a regular Masters or other postgraduate training. The stand-alone version of the course should enable participants who are not ~~from academia to take the course~~ (e.g. as a summer course); such participants are expected to be professionals working at national institutes or local NGO/research institutions that are planning or implementing VAW prevalence studies; as well as technical research consultants interested in strengthening their skills in this area, to work with countries that need technical support. Participants will be expected to have reasonable level of expertise and experience in surveys/data collection/research/statistics, but not necessarily in VAW surveys. The course should also be designed to be tailored and delivered to National Statistics Offices (NSOs) and research teams in countries undertaking VAW studies as a preparatory activity to ensure knowledge and lessons from the course and previous studies are shared in advance of the study and/or once results are known to workshop and make use all relevant parties have the same understanding (especially important when results are surprising).

¹ Other related topics (such as violence against children, studies with men) will not be included in the pilot curriculum.

The target audiences for the course include technical staff from NSOs with statistics/survey background that are and/or will be involved in national VAW surveys, and staff in line ministries that may be involved in VAW surveys. Further they include (Masters and PHD) students that take the course as part of their studies, as well as research consultants that would like to be involved in supporting field work in country.

The curriculum, including a detailed facilitators' guide, will be developed by the selected institution under the guidance of UNFPA APRO. UNFPA will set up a Technical Advisory Committee comprised of technical experts from relevant UN agencies, donor, NGO/research institutions, civil society, and research institutes to provide technical advice to the project team, including the partner institution to ensure high quality content of curriculum and to ensure sustainable approach to capacity strengthening. Hence, the curriculum developed by the partner institution will be reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee for quality assurance and adherence to the overall objective of the project. The final curriculum is likely to be jointly owned by the partners involved.

The partner institution or consortium is expected to design and organise the training course, including the pilot training, in a cost –effective way. The pilot training participants will not be expected to pay for the tuition. It is expected that the partner institution or consortium will cover the cost such as travel and accommodation of course participants for the pilot training through this partnership with UNFPA.

F. Deliverables expected from the participating institute

- a) Year 1: A high quality technical training curriculum on national prevalence studies on VAW, including a facilitators' guidebook, revised with recommendations from pilot testing and the TAC.
- b) Year 2 and 3: Measurement of VAW training is embedded in ongoing graduate training options for researchers (e.g. statistics, public health, sociology, gender), as well as in regular (yearly) stand-alone training course (e.g. summer school) providing in-depth training for Government Staff and researchers on measurement of VAW
- c) Year 2 and 3: Institutional support to ongoing data collection activities at country level resulting in high quality national prevalence studies in countries in the region
- d) Year 2 and 3: institutional collaboration/partnership with other institutes rolling out similar training
- e) Year 2 and 3: establishment of or engaging with existing national/regional/global network(s) of VAW researchers available to provide technical support to national data collection activities and on site capacity building
- f) Year 3: Development of a sustainability plan

G. Technical guidance and oversight

Under the supervision of UNFPA APRO Gender and Human Rights Advisor and with the support of the Technical Specialist on Violence against Women, UNFPA APRO's Senior Technical Advisor on Violence against Women Research will provide overall guidance to the selected institute(s).