

Invitation for Proposals

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, an international development agency, invites qualified organizations to submit proposals for the study on child marriage in humanitarian settings in South Asia. The purpose of the Invitation for Proposals is to identify eligible institutions for prospective partnership with the UNFPA Asia-Pacific Regional Office (APRO) to support achievement of results outlined in this study (see section 1.3 below for details on the initiative). The study project is a collaborative initiative between UNFPA APRO and the UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia.

Institutions that wish to participate in this Invitation for Proposals are requested to send their submission through email or mail clearly marked “Invitation for Proposals-Child Marriage Study in Humanitarian Settings” at the following address:

UNFPA APRO email: apro.office@unfpa.org

Or

UNFPA APRO Mailing Address: United Nations Population Fund, Asia and the Pacific Regional office, UN Service Building, 4th Floor, Rajadamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand. by 5 pm Bangkok time, **26 June 2018**.

Proposals received after the date and time may not be accepted for consideration.

Applications must be submitted in English language.

Any requests for additional information must be addressed in writing at least 1 week before the deadline of submission at the latest to fitzgerald@unfpa.org (by 19 June). UNFPA will post responses to queries or clarification requests by any applicants who submitted on UNFPA APRO website before the deadline for submission of applications.

UNFPA shall notify applying institutions whether it is considered for further action.

Section 1: Background

1.1 UNFPA mandate	UNFPA is the lead UN agency for delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.
1.2 UNFPA Programme of Assistance in Asia and the Pacific	The advancement of gender equality and women and girls’ empowerment is a key priority outcome of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Asia and the Pacific. In its new Strategic Plan 2018-21, UNFPA is also committed to supporting governments and civil society to address determinants and adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health and strengthen responses to eliminate harmful practices including child, early and forced marriage. Similarly, ending child marriage is a targeted priority in UNICEF’s Child Protection Strategy (2009), UNICEF’s Gender Action Plan (2018-2021), and an explicit results area in UNICEF’s new Strategic Plan 2018-2021, under Goal 3. UNFPA and UNICEF work in close partnership with governments, other UN agencies and civil society networks to address harmful practices and violence against women, girls and boys. UNICEF and UNFPA jointly implement the Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage (2015-2018) aiming to enhance investments in and support for married and unmarried girls and provide evidence for the corresponding benefits; engage key actors – including young people as agents of change – in catalyzing shifts towards positive gender norms; increase political support,

resources, positive policies and frameworks; and improve the data and evidence base.

At the regional level of Asia and Pacific, UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office (APRO) and UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA) have been collaborating to build an evidence-base of successful programming to end child marriage and to provide technical assistance in adaptation of strategies with a focus on priority South Asian countries of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan. Below are some examples of recent activities and initiatives UNFPA APRO and UINEF ROSA that show the organizations' leadership and engagement in the area of the violence against children and child marriage.

A. Knowledge Management and Evidence Generation

UNFPA APRO and UINEF ROSA developed the [Mapping of Child Marriage Initiatives in South Asia](#), which provides an overview of major regional initiatives as well as country level initiatives covering government, UN and civil society/NGO. The report also identifies key strategies per initiative, together with number of policies, key studies, and national plans for a better understanding of the legal foundation of child marriage and adolescent empowerment work.

Two agencies published **advocacy publications** for [Bangladesh](#), [India](#) and [Nepal](#). Each publication includes an overview of the situation of child marriage in the country (child grooms and child brides), an overview of the global programme, a synopsis of what the programme is going to achieve in the country based on the five pathways of the Theory of Change, and human interest stories on how the results are being achieved drawn from both agencies.

UNICEF ROSA and UNFPA APRO also commissioned a **study on the drivers of child marriage**. This study aimed to provide empirical evidence on the extent to which macro-level drivers (in addition to micro-level factors) explain child marriage dynamics in South Asia, including key questions, such as association of declines in the prevalence of child marriages in parts of South Asia with changes in the macro-environment, how developments can be most effective in reducing rates of child marriages. The analysis in this study focuses on three countries: Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan.

UNICEF ROSA has conducted a **review on developments in child protection systems** in the region to improve child protection systems to better protect children including from child marriage. The review informs efforts to strengthen systems in the area of child protection, including understanding the results of the mapping and assessment exercises, including both intended and unintended consequences.

UNICEF ROSA conducted a **literature review on the nature of structural violence against children**, including adolescent girls and boys in South Asia. The study looked at country and cultural contexts in order to understand the way age, gender, caste (in countries where relevant) and class (including poverty), among other social constructs, intersect and further influence the response of institutions and their reactions to violence against boys and girls. In the study, child marriage was analysed through all these aspects. Sexism, adultism, and poverty in which caste-based inequalities are reflected were identified as strong influencers on the practice of child marriage.

UNICEF ROSA conducted a **study on child marriage, teen age pregnancy and school drop-out** to explore a relationship between all three of these areas.

In September 2016, UNFPA APRO and the UNICEF ROSA hosted a three-day **Expert Group Meeting** to examine the evidence around programming and policies to end child marriage in South Asia. The meeting convened representatives from the host organizations, as well as UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women country offices in South Asia and surrounding countries, experts from academia and representatives from organizations implementing programmes in the region.

B. Engagement of Regional Institutions

UNFPA APRO and UNICEF ROSA engage with regional institutions in support of regional efforts to address child marriage in South Asia.

South Asian Coordination Group to end Violence Against Children (SACG) is a network of UN agencies, INGO's and other actors working together at the regional level in South Asia to coordinate actions against violence against women and children. SACG collaborates closely with other global and regional forums and bodies working on ending violence against women and children such as SAARC, the Office of the UN Special Representative to the Secretary General on Violence against Children and the Working group on violence against children in South East Asia. UNICEF ROSA served as chair of the SACG in 2015-2016, and UNFPA APRO currently chairs together with Plan International.

South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) is an intergovernmental regional body comprising of 8 SAARC countries- Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka- with the purpose to effectively implement measures to end all forms of violence against girls and boys including women. It is an Apex body of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

1.3 Specific results

Acknowledging the emerging and increasing demand for knowledge and data on child marriage, UNFPA APRO and UNICEF ROSA aims to invest in generating evidence base in the area of child marriage in humanitarian settings with a specific focus on disasters (including natural and man-made disasters) and climate related emergencies in South. Countries of focus will be Nepal, India, Bangladesh and Pakistan, and study should be in alignment with existing global methodological, ethical and safety standards.

Key Objective: UNFPA APRO and UNICEF ROSA are seeking to partner with an institution or consortium to generate knowledge and data on child marriage in humanitarian settings in South Asia.

Scope of Work: In line with the objective of improving the data and evidence base for accelerated action to end child marriage, UNFPA APRO and UNICEF ROSA intend to engage in a partnership with a suitable institution to:

- i) examine rates of child marriage for girls and boys before, during and after periods of disaster and crisis.

- ii) review and analyse the key drivers and factors that are considered to contribute to an increase (or decrease) in child marriage in humanitarian settings as well as how crises impact and exacerbate underlying drivers of child marriage such as poverty, lack of access to education, and gender norms, gender inequality and gender based violence
- iii) identify examples of existing interventions to prevent and address child marriage in emergencies, as well as challenges in designing, funding and implementing such interventions
- iv) examine the extent to which humanitarian action plans identify child marriage as an issue, and identify and budget for response activities
- v) assess the extent to which strategies to address child marriage in development settings can be successfully adapted for humanitarian settings, and/or whether different strategies are needed
- vi) examine the contribution of efforts to address child marriage to broader recovery and resilience building efforts, as well as to security and stability.
- vii) make recommendations for more effectively addressing and responding to child marriage in emergencies and for integrating interventions into humanitarian preparedness and response.

A detailed TOR is attached for further details of the project and expected deliverables.

UNFPA APRO's Technical Adviser, Gender and Human Rights will provide overall management and technical guidance to this work in close consultation with UNICEF ROSA's Child Protection Adviser and will facilitate input from relevant stakeholders and country offices in the region.

Section 2: Application requirements and timelines

2.1 Documentation required for the submission	<p>The proposal shall include the following documentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Full proposal of a study encompassing all required elements identified in the terms of the reference together with how field level data collection will be conducted ● Itemized budget and workplan with a timeline ● Copy of provisions of legal status of the applicant institution or consortium of institutions. <i>[Required to be eligible for review]</i> ● Attachment I – Institution Profile ● CVs of the core study team members ● Samples of reports of relevant studies conducted by the applicant institutions ● Latest annual report and audit report as separate documents or hyperlink to the documents 	
2.2 Indicative timelines	Invitation for Proposal issue date	28 May
	Deadline for submissions of proposals	26 June
	Deadline for requests of additional information/ clarifications	19 June
	Review of submissions	2 July

	Shortlisting and oral presentations by shortlisted institutions	9 July
	Notification of results communicated to submitting institutions	16 July

Section 3: Process and timelines

3.1 Review & evaluation of submissions	<p>Applications will be assessed by a review panel to identify organizations that have the required knowledge, skills, and capacity to support achievement of results <i>using criteria outlined in section 3.2 below</i>.</p> <p>It should be noted, however, that participation in this Invitation for Proposals does not guarantee the organization will be selected for partnership with UNFPA. Selected institution will be invited to enter into an implementing partner agreement and applicable UNFPA programme policy and procedures will apply.</p>	
3.2 Selection criteria	<p>Eligible organizations will be selected in a transparent and competitive manner, based on their capacity to ensure the highest quality of service, including the ability to apply innovative and sustainable strategies to meet programme priorities in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.</p> <p>UNFPA APRO and UNICEF ROSA will review evidence provided by the institution submission and evaluate applications based on the criteria below.</p>	
	Quality of Study Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Proposal has clear objectives for the research. • The proposal has a sound study design with a suitable mixture of methodologies (quantitative and qualitative) and a realistic sample size for the purpose. • The proposal has well detailed consideration of ethical dimensions and how these would be addressed • The proposal clearly demonstrates value for money for the proposed methodologies. • The timeframe proposed is feasible with consideration of potential risks.
	Governance, Leadership and vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The institution or consortium has a clearly defined mission and goals that reflect the organization’s structure and context, as well as alignment to UNFPA and UNICEF priority areas, in particular the objectives of generating evidence on child marriage. • The institution or consortium is able to work effectively with the UNFPA APRO and UNICEF ROSA that will provide technical advice. • The institution or consortium does not have a history of fraud, complaints or service delivery issues.
	Human Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The institution has sufficient and relevant human resources and technical expertise to implement the proposed activities.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated analytical, statistical, research and communication skills • Excellent command of English, knowledge of languages in the region is considered an asset • Demonstrated ability to deliver high-quality written work in the English language • Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of child marriage, dynamics of social change, drivers of harmful practices, and gender inequalities. • Demonstrated experience in conducting research in complex development and humanitarian settings, including experience in quantitative and qualitative survey and research design, data collection, and analysis. • Experience of working in an international context, and in the Asia Pacific region will be desirable • Organization does not have conflicts of interest with UNFPA or UNICEF or their personnel that cannot be effectively mitigated.
	Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The institution or consortium has its logistics and suitable contacts to conduct a country-based data collection.
	Comparative Advantage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The institution or consortium has experience in child marriage and data collection.
	Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The institution or consortium has systems and tools in place to systematically collect, analyse and use programme monitoring data
	Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The institute or consortium should be committed to the possibility of further partnership to expand the knowledge base on child marriage and conduct follow-up studies.
	Environmental Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The institute or consortium has established policies or practices to reduce the environmental impact of its activities. If no policies exist, the organization must not have a history of its activities causing negative impact to the environment.
3.3 Prospective partnership agreement	UNFPA will inform all applicants of the outcome of their submissions in writing to the email/ postal address indicated in the submission.	

Attachment I: Institution or Consortium Profile and Study Proposal (To be completed by institution or consortium submitting proposal)

The purpose of this proposal is to provide the following information: a) overview of the institution or consortium, b) an outline of the activities the institution is proposing to partner with UNFPA and c) provide UNFPA with sufficient evidence to show it meets the criteria outlined in section 3.2 of the IFP. For application from a consortium of institutions, it is expected that one consolidated proposal will be submitted clearly identifying what role each participating institution will play.

Information provided in this form will be used to inform the review and evaluation of submissions as outlined in the Invitation for Proposals.

Section A. Institution Identification		
A.1 Organization information	Organization name	
	Address	
	Website	
A.2 Contact information	Name	
	Title/Function	
	Telephone	
	Email	
A.3 Conflict of interest statement	To your knowledge, do any staff members of your organization have personal or financial relationships with any staff of UNFPA, or any other conflicts of interest with this programme or UNFPA? If so, please explain.	
A.4. Fraud statement	Does your organization have fraud prevention policies and practices in place?	

Section B. Overview of the organization		
B.1 Annual budget	Size of annual budget (previous year, USD)	
	Source of funding	<i>Outline funding base, including local, international, and private sector donors</i>
	Main funding partners/ donors	
B.2 Staff capacity	<i>List of number and key functions of core organization staff</i>	
B.3 Institution or Consortium mandate and background	<i>Outline the organization's mandate and field of work, and how it aligns to UNFPA's mandate.</i>	
B.4 Available expertise and specialists	<i>Outline the distinctive technical capacity of the institution or consortium to achieve results in the proposed programmatic area</i>	
B.5 Experience in proposed area of work	<i>Outline a summary of experience in supporting measurement of child marriage either through participation in survey, or analysis of data.</i>	

B.6 Knowledge of the local context/ Accessibility to target population	<i>Outline of presence and community relations in the location(s) the activities will be implemented in: include access to vulnerable populations and hard-to-reach areas, if any)</i>
B.7 Credibility	<i>To what extent is the institution recognized as credible by the government, and/or other key stakeholders/partners?</i>
B.8 Monitoring	<i>Outline the systems in place (policies, procedures, guidelines, and other tools) that systematically collect, analyse and use programme monitoring data</i>

Section C. Proposal overview	
C.1 Programme title	
C.2 Results to which the programme contributes	<i>Refer to Section 1.3 of the Invitation for Proposal</i>
C.3 Proposed programme duration	<i>From MM/YYYY to MM/YYYY</i>
C.4 Proposed Programme budget	

Section D. Proposed interventions and activities to achieve intended results	
D.1 Study Summary	<p><i>This section should provide a brief summary of the study.</i></p> <p><i>It should include a problem statement, the context and the rationale for the Study:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Overview of the existing problem;</i> ● <i>Detailed methodologies of data collection</i> ● <i>Ethical consideration</i>
D.2 Organizational background and capacity to implement	<i>This section should briefly explain why the proposing institution has the experience, capacity and commitment to successfully implement the study.</i>
D.3 Description of activities and budget estimate	<i>This section includes a detailed description of budgeted activities to be undertaken to produce the expected results. It should provide details on data collection at the country level and logistic. The applicant should include a separate excel spreadsheet with full details of activities and associated budget.</i>
D.5 Gender, Equity and Sustainability (optional)	<i>Explain briefly the practical measures taken in the study to address gender, equity and sustainability considerations</i>

D.6 Environmental impact	<i>Outline the likely environmental impact of the study, if any.</i>
D.7 Other partners involved	<i>This section outlines other partners who have a role in the study, including potential sub-contractees and other organization providing technical and logistical support for the study</i>
D.8 Implementing Partner contribution	<i>This section briefly outlines the partner specific contribution to the programme (monetary or in-kind)</i>
D.9 Additional documentation	<i>Additional documentation can be mentioned here for reference</i>

Section E. Programme Risks and Monitoring	
E.1 Risks	<i>Identify major risk factors that could result in the proposed activities not being successfully implemented and any key assumptions on which the proposed intervention is based. Include any actions the organization will undertake to address/reduce identified risk(s).</i>
E.2 Monitoring	<i>This section briefly outlines the monitoring activities</i>

Section F. References	
Please provide 3 references to support your proposal. Include name, title, contact information and brief summary of relationship.	
Reference 1:	
Reference 2:	
Reference 3:	