




United Nations Population Fund
 Asia and Pacific Regional Office
 4th Floor United Nations Service
 Building, Rajdamnern Nok Avenue,
 Bangkok, 10200 Thailand.
 E-mail: apro-procurement@unfpa.org
 Website: <https://asiapacific.unfpa.org>

Q&A in response to
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP Number: UNFPA/BKK/RFP/21/002
For the establishment of a:
CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

In regards to:

Provision of Service for the Development of Asia and the Pacific Big Data Strategy 2022-2025 for UNFPA APRO

No.	TOR Reference	Question	Answer
1	Section II: TOR	What are the different social media platforms UNFPA would like to connect? Is it expected to be part of the recommendation of the Big Data Strategy Report?	It is expected that the strategy will outline which platforms would be the most useful and practical for UNFPA to utilize i.e. Twitter and Facebook.
2	TOR- II: Objective. 1	How many BD/AI/ML projects are currently running? What is the Data Source for these ongoing BD/AI/ML projects in the region?	Big Data (BD)/Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) is a new area of work for UNFPA Asia and the Pacific. Four projects projects: Big Data and Family Planning in the Philippines https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/innovation-2021-

DS


Page 1 of 5
 08-Jul-2021



			<p>publication Census Implementing, COVID -19 related analysis in the Maldives https://maldives.unfpa.org/en/news/harnessing-potential-big-data-sustainable-development and two big data regional analysis projects i) violence against women and COVID-19 https://www.unfpa.org/news/digital-cry-help-big-data-study-asia-pacific-provides-key-signposts-violence-against-women and one pending big data project on harmful practices</p>
3		Which are the countries in which UNFPA projects are currently running ? Which are the countries that will be under consideration for future UNFPA Big Data and AI programs?	<p>The Philippines and the Maldives. In consultation with UNFPA Asia and the Pacific and UNFPA country offices, the strategy will outline which priority countries may implement projects first. A full list of where we work in the region is here: https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/node/15053</p>
4		Who are the existing partners/ NGOs of UNFPA working in areas of Reproductive Health, Maternal Health, gender based violence in the target region? How do we expect to grow the number of partners between 2022-25?	<p>UNFPA Asia and the Pacific currently works with: HelpAge International East Asia/Pacific Regional Office, APDA The Asian Population and Development Association, IPPF ESEAOR The International Planned Parenthood Federation, East and SouthEast Asia and Oceania Region, YouthLEAD Youth Leadership Education Advocacy and Development Foundation, University of Melbourne, Harvard School of Public Health, Women Refugee's Commission, The Macfarlane</p>



United Nations Population Fund
 Asia and Pacific Regional Office
 4th Floor United Nations Service
 Building, Rajdamnern Nok Avenue,
 Bangkok, 10200 Thailand.
 E-mail: apro-procurement@unfpa.org
 Website: <https://asiapacific.unfpa.org>

			<p>Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health, Maternity Foundation (MF), National University of Singapore, Advocate for Youth, APCASO Foundation, Good Business Lab, The Cancer Council NSW, Women Enabled International, The United Network of Young Peacebuilders, CBM Australia, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and APA Asia Population Association. It is expected during the design phase that these partners will be prioritized to engage with in big data/AI/machine learning projects if relevant and new partnerships are explored. The strategy will outline the number and type of new AI related partnerships to develop and provide recommendations on how to engage with existing partners listed above in AI related projects. During the technical guidance phase of the project, the service provider will mentor UNFPA staff and guide UNFPA to engage with new partners and/or existing partners in AI/BD/ML related projects.</p>
5		<p>How many partners are there in data and technology areas? What are their broad roles in these projects?</p>	<p>UNFPA is the lead agency for census globally and UNFPA has technical capacity in data collection and analysis. UNFPA Asia and the Pacific requires support to explore new areas of data work as per the terms of reference. UNFPA Asia and the Pacific partners primarily conduct both qualitative and quantitative research and/or support UNFPA at the country level to conduct research and analysis, however BD/AI/ML is a new area for UNFPA Asia and the Pacific. UNFPA in the region</p>




United Nations Population Fund
 Asia and Pacific Regional Office
 4th Floor United Nations Service
 Building, Rajdamnern Nok Avenue,
 Bangkok, 10200 Thailand.
 E-mail: apro-procurement@unfpa.org
 Website: <https://asiapacific.unfpa.org>

			has had smaller projects with private sector partners to support AI project design and implementation. Their role has varied from big data research design and analysis to supporting UNFPA in conducting the analysis internally. Please see the links to published materials above.
6	Section II, VII - UNFPA Inputs	How many interactions are you expecting to be conducted for gathering inputs for the Big Data strategy?	An outline of the interview and/or focus group schedule will be developed in the inception phase of the project. At a minimum, it would be expected that several zoom meetings are held with UNFPA Asia and the Pacific staff, initially 5-6 UNFPA country offices in the region and UNFPA partners. Based on discussions with UNFPA, this list may be modified to ensure the development of a sound strategy.
7		Define "Sustainability" in the Sustainability assessment? Is it referring to longevity of BD/AI/ML projects to continue delivering the value or is it sustainability considerations from the environment/social paradigms?	UNFPA Asia and the Pacific would like to ensure that our BD/AI/ML projects can continue to deliver value and evolve with programme needs. In a changing donor environment, long term financing and ongoing implementation of projects will need to be considered in the strategy and technical guidance provided. Social responsibility and ethics in BD/AI/ML is a priority for this project. All of UNFPA's projects should align with UNFPA Corporate Environmental Responsibility: https://www.unfpa.org/corporate-environmental-responsibility-unfpa



United Nations Population Fund
 Asia and Pacific Regional Office
 4th Floor United Nations Service
 Building, Rajdamnern Nok Avenue,
 Bangkok, 10200 Thailand.
 E-mail: apro-procurement@unfpa.org
 Website: <https://asiapacific.unfpa.org>

8	Phase II : Capacity Building 2022	Technical Support of up to 42 working days spread over 1 year has been mentioned. We assume that the specific days of support would be mutually discussed and agreed upon. Is that a correct assumption?	Correct.
9		As part of Phase II, We assume that the role will be of Advisory capacity and the resources are NOT expected to involve in any procurement, implementation of maintenance activity. Is that a correct assumption?	Correct.

DS


08-Jul-2021

Page 5 of 5