



TERMS OF REFERENCE for PARTNER INSTITUTION FOR CAPACITY BUILDING ON HEALTH SECTOR RESPONSE TO GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

A. Background:

Gender-based violence (GBV) continues to remain extremely pervasive in Asia and the Pacific region. The percentage of women who have experienced physical and/or sexual violence at the hands of an intimate partner over their lifetime ranges from 64 percent to 15 percent. Analysis of lifetime and last 12 months' experience of violence reported by women shows that in most countries, women are unable to come out of the situation of violence or make the violence stop.

Across the region, women and girls experience unequal access to services, and discriminatory practices and policies that prevent the realization of their agency and rights. Gendered norms, structures and practices both underpin GBV and create substantive barriers to effective implementation of prevention and response interventions.

Gender-based violence (GBV) has detrimental and long lasting consequences to the well-being, health and safety of women and girls, along with economic consequences, effects on educational outcomes, and impact on the productivity and development of societies and countries.

Despite growing awareness of GBV and extensive work done by governments, women's organization and other partners, many women and girls who are subjected to violence still lack access to essential services that support their safety, health, and access to justice. Lack of survivor-centered approach to GBV service provision - ensuring that service provision is tailored to the unique needs and wishes of each individual survivor- is another key challenge in the delivery of GBV response services in the region.

Health-care providers (such as nurses, midwives, doctors and others) are often the first professional contact for women who have been subjected to GBV. Women and girls often seek health services, including for their injuries, even if they do not disclose the associated abuse or violence. For many women, a visit to a health facility may be her first effort to seek help and the only chance to receive support and care, as well as to escape a situation of abuse.

It is, therefore, crucial that all health-care providers are equipped with adequate knowledge and skills to effectively identify and treat survivors of violence, including through clinical interventions, provision of emotional and psycho-social support and referral to other specific services that the survivor may wish to access.

Although GBV has been accepted as a critical public health and clinical care issue, the critical role that the health system and health-care providers can play in terms of identification, assessment, treatment, crisis-intervention, documentation, referral and follow up is poorly understood or accepted within national health programmes and policies in various countries.

B. Key Objective:

In order to support capacity strengthening of health systems in Asia and the Pacific to address gender based violence in line with global standards, UNFPA Asia Pacific Office is seeking to partner with an

institution. The partnership will be guided by implementing partner modality as per UNFPA's programming policy tools and guidelines.

C. Scope of Work:

In line with the long term vision to contribute to sustained capacity development in the area of health sector response to gender-based violence, UNFPA intends to engage in a partnership with a suitable institution to provide technical support to:

- i. Adapt international guidelines on health sector response to GBV to country contexts
- ii. Utilise GBV quality assurance tool to conduct assessment of health sector's response capacity to GBV incidents
- iii. Contextualise in-service training package for health sector providers on responding to GBV based on international guidelines
- iv. Develop contextualised teaching aid materials to integrate content about identification of, response to and referral of GBV cases in pre-service curriculum building on international guidelines and tools
- v. Strengthen health care providers' participation in GBV referral pathways and case management systems to ensure a strong multi-sectoral response to GBV
- vi. Conduct implementation research on utilisation of global guidelines of health sector response to GBV in select sites
- vii. Roll out regional capacity building initiatives on recent global guidelines on health sector response to GBV

D. Expected profile of partner institution

- Established and demonstrated technical expertise in area of health sector response to GBV
- Proposed team members must have the following qualifications:
 - Sound knowledge of latest international guidelines and tools on strengthening health sector response to GBV
 - Experience in capacity building at country level in partnership with national stakeholders
 - Technical knowledge and experience in conducting implementation research
 - Knowledge of Asia Pacific region will be desirable