Invitation for Proposals Sexual and Reproductive Health Inequities

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| UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund, an international development agency, invites qualified organizations to submit proposals for **generating evidence that assists in analyzing the social and structural foundations of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) related inequities. The programme is foreseen to be implemented in a maximum of five countries representing the diversity of socio-economic development situation in the Arab region. The proposal focuses on inequities related to the different elements of sexual and reproductive health, therefore, sector scope is not limited to ministries of health. It should include civil society, ministries of social development, women, families, communities and relevant stakeholders and development partners. Given the nature of the topic, the bidder should have access to local representation and expertise to facilitate reaching out to national partners and stakeholders.**  The purpose of the Invitation for Proposals is to identify eligible non-governmental organizations, including academic institutions for prospective partnership with the UNFPA Arab States Regional Office to support achievement of results outlined in the 2018-2021 Regional Interventions Action Plan (RIAP) and section 1.3 below.  Organizations that wish to participate in this Invitation for Proposals are requested to send their submission through email or mail clearly marked “ **Invitation for Proposals #2 SRH Inequities”** at the following address:  [asro-proposals@unfpa.org](mailto:asro-proposals@unfpa.org)  By **9 January 2018**  Proposals received after the date may not be accepted for consideration.  Sections C and D of Annex A must include the following  Clear outline of countries of focus and the research methodology  Detailed budget breakdown  Proposal should not exceed US$125,000  Applications must be submitted in English.  Any requests for additional information must be addressed in writing by 1 week before deadline for submissions at the latest to afifi@unfpa.org. UNFPA will post responses to queries or clarification requests by any applicants who submitted, on UNFPA ASRO website before the deadline for submission of applications.  UNFPA shall notify applying organizations whether it is considered for further action. |
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| **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 Arab States | In the Arab States, UNFPA works with the governments and other partners to **ensure that every woman, adolescent and youth everywhere, especially those furthest behind, has utilized integrated sexual and reproductive health services and exercised reproductive rights, free of coercion, discrimination and violence.**  Further information on the programme can be found on <http://unfpa.org/arabstates> ] |
| 1.3 Specific results | Within this framework and as set out in 2018-2021 Regional Interventions Action Plan (RIAP) working with government and other partners, UNFPA will contribute to achieve the following results:  -Informed policy dialogue about effective, measurable health equity solutions.  -Governments form policies and develop programs that engage civil society and communities to promote an equitable approach to health and development  -Overall reduction of health inequities in the Arab Region    **The programme is designed to take place over two phases as summarized below:**  **Phase one:**   * **Desk review** * **Development of methodology and tool(s) to be used for the subject analysis** * **Country level data collection and analysis** * **Drafting and finalization of regional report consolidating and synthesizing the result of the national analyses** * **Drafting of a policy brief**   **Phase two:**   * **Using the outcome of phase one to develop draft road map for addressing the identified inequities** * **Organizing consultation with the participating countries to cost the proposed roadmap by activity** * **Finalizing the drafted policy brief integrating the results of the costing analysis.** |

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| **Section 2: Application requirements and timelines** | | |
| 2.1 Documentation required for the submission | The expression of interest shall include the following documentation:   * Copy of provisions of legal status of the NGO / Academic Institution [*Required to be eligible for review]* * Copy of provisions of legal status of the NGO (for INGOs ) * Attachment I – Institution Profile and Programme Proposal * Latest annual report and audit report as separate documents or hyperlink to the documents | |
| 2.2 Indicative timelines | Invitation for Proposal issue date | 18 December 2017 |
| Deadline for submissions of proposals | 9 January 2018 |
| Deadline for requests of additional information/ clarifications | 27 December 2017 |
| Notification of results communicated | 16 January 2018 |

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| **Section 3: Process and timelines** | | |
| 3.1 Review & evaluation of NGO submissions | Applications will be assessed by a review panel to identify organizations that have the required knowledge, skills, and capacity to support achievement of results *using criteria outlined in section 3.2 below*.  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 NGOs/Academic Institutions will be invited to enter into an implementing partner agreement and applicable UNFPA programme policy and procedures will apply. | |
| 3.2 Selection criteria | 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 strategies to meet programme priorities in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.  UNFPA ASRO office will review evidence provided by the NGO submission and evaluate applications based on the following criteria:  NB: Any proposal not submitted in specified working language will be excluded from consideration. | |
| Governance & Leadership | * The organization has a clearly defined mission and goals that reflect the organization’s structure and context, as well as alignment to UNFPA priority areas. * Organization does not have a history of fraud, complaints or service delivery issues. |
| Human Resource | * Organization has sufficient staff resources and technical expertise to implement the proposed activities. * Organization does not have conflicts of interest with UNFPA or its personnel that cannot be effectively mitigated. |
|  | Comparative Advantage | * The organization’s mission and/or strategic plan focuses on at least one of the UNFPA’s programme areas. * The organization has experience in the country or field and enjoys prominence in areas related to UNFPA’s mandate. * The organization has a proven track record in implementing similar activities and is seen as credible by its stakeholders and partners. * The organization has relevant community presence and ability to reach the target audience; especially vulnerable populations and hard-to-reach areas. |
|  | Monitoring | * The organization has systems and tools in place to systematically collect, analyse and use programme monitoring data |
|  | Partnerships | * The organization has established partnerships with the government and other relevant local, international and private sector entities. |
|  | Environmental Considerations | * The organization 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 NGO submission. | |

Attachment I: NGO/Academic Institution Profile and Programme Proposal (To be completed by NGO/Academic Institution submitting proposal)

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| The purpose of this proposal is to provide the following information: a) overview of the NGO, b) an outline of the activities the organization 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.  Information provided in this form will be used to inform the review and evaluation of submissions as outlined in the Invitation for Proposals. |

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| **Section A. NGO/ Academic 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? |  |

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| Section B. Overview of the organization |

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| B.1 Annual budget | Size of annual budget (previous year, USD) |  |
| Source of funding | *Outline funding base, including local, international, and private sector donors* |
| Main funding partners/ donors |  |
| B.2 Staff capacity | *List of number and key functions of core organization staff* | |

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| B.3 NGO mandate and background | *Outline the organization’s mandate and field of work, and how it aligns to UNFPA’s mandate.* |
| B.4 Available expertise and specialists | *Outline the distinctive technical capacity of the organization to achieve results in the proposed programmatic area* |
| B.5 Experience in proposed area of work | *Outline of type/scope and key results achieved in proposed programmatic area in recent years, including any recognition received at local / global level for the work in the proposed area. Include a summary experience in [country] and prior experience with any organization of the United Nations* |
| B.6 Knowledge of the local context/ Accessibility to target population | *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)* |
| B.7 Credibility | *To what extent is the NGO recognized as credible by the government, and/or other key stakeholders/partners?* |
| B.8 Monitoring | *Outline the systems in place (policies, procedures, guidelines, and other tools) that systematically collect, analyse and use programme monitoring data* |

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| Section C. Proposal overview | |
| C.1 Programme title |  |
| C.2 Results to which the programme contributes | *Refer to Section 1.3 of the Invitation for Proposal* |
| C.3 Proposed programme duration | *From MM/YYYY to MM/YYYY* |
| C.4 Proposed Programme budget |  |
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| Section D. Proposed interventions and activities to achieve intended results | |
| D.1 Programme Summary | *This section should provide a brief summary of the programme.*  *It should include a problem statement, the context and the rationale for the Programme:*   * *Overview of the existing problem;* * *How the problem is linked to global/regional/national priorities and policies; and* * *The relevance of the programme in addressing problem identified* |
| D.2 Organizational background and capacity to implement | *This section should briefly explain why the proposing organization has the experience, capacity and commitment to successfully implement the workplan.* |
| D.3 Expected results | *“What” this programme will achieve - programme objectives and expected results* |
| D.4 Description of activities and budget | *This section includes a detailed description of budgeted activities to be undertaken to produce the expected results. Clear linkages between activities and results must be indicated. The applicant should include a separate excel spreadsheet with full details of activities and associated budget.* |
| D.5 Gender, Equity and Sustainability (optional) | *Explain briefly the practical measures taken in the programme to address gender, equity and sustainability considerations* |
| D.7 Other partners involved | *This section outlines other partners who have a role in programme implementation, including potential sub-contractees and other organization providing technical and financial support for the programme* |
| D.8 NGO contribution | *This section briefly outlines the partner specific contribution to the programme (monetary or in-kind)* |
| D.9 Additional documentation | *Additional documentation can be mentioned here for reference* |

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| Section E. Programme Risks and Monitoring | |
| E.1 Risks | *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).* |
| E.2 Monitoring | *This section briefly outlines the monitoring activities* |

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| 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: |  |

# Background

Improvements in sexual and reproductive health have been significant in the Arab region over the past few decades, but still wide disparities exist across and within countries. Such disparities among countries are well documented and justified by the differences in socio-economic development and health system performances. Disparities in health within countries and between population groups in the region are less well known and more difficult to justify. In these countries, national averages mask significant disparities within them.

Regardless of a country being poor or rich, health and illness follow a social gradient—the lower the socioeconomic position, the worse the health. These systematic differences in health are known to be complex, but also in many circumstances preventable and avoidable.

Health inequities stem from the cultural and traditional practices, conditions that people live in, and the actions they perform on a daily basis. Several of which can be traced back to the bigger structural and policy level underpinnings.

The global development agenda and the sustainable development goals provide an opportunity to build on governments’ commitment to “reach the furthest behind first” and “leave no one behind”. Unfortunately, it’s always poor women, children, vulnerable youth, migrants, refugees and internally displaced people, and disabled persons and elderly that are most of the time left behind. Such groups are no scarcity in the Arab region. In a region that is going through natural disasters and man-made conflicts and wars and suffering from its repercussions in neighbouring countries, more complex challenges are being faced by the already weak or non-resilient systems. Now is the time for Arab governments to seize the opportunity and reconsider their approach to health by looking deep into the causes of inequities through a lens of social justice. They are encouraged to reform policies and develop programs that engage the civil society and the communities and promote equity approach to health and development, and include building the capacity for research to create an informed policy dialogue about effective, measurable health equity solutions.

UNFPA Arab States Regional Office covers the following countries. Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Tunisia, Oman, Libya, Morocco, Yemen and Palestine.