**SCOPE OF WORK for the Potential Implementing Partner to deliver of Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Programme under its 10 Country Programme (2022-2026)**

**Background**

Bangladesh has made significant progress towards achieving formal gender equality. The constitution guarantees gender equality, legislative and policy frameworks are in place to address gender-based violence and harmful practices, including the National Action Plan on Violence Against Women (NAP-VAW)2018-2030. The draft 8th Five Year Plan 2021-2025 recognises priority challenges with regard to violence and harmful practices, women’s health, and economic participation. The 8th FYP gives priority to addressing the continuing high prevalence of violence against women and child marriage, including through full implementation of the NAP-VAW, as well as by amending discriminatory laws and policies, and ensuring access to justice, and strengthening the enabling environment for achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment.

However, gender-based violence (GBV) against women and girls is endemic in Bangladesh. Sexual harassment is widespread: 76 percent of female student’s report facing sexual harassment at least once on campus, and 97 percent report experiencing harassment on public transport. 72.6 percent of ever married women report experiencing at least one form of violence in their life time from their husband: half of women report physical violence, and 27.3 percent sexual violence at the hands of their husband at least once in their lifetime[[1]](#footnote-1). Son preference and discrimination in favour of boys are preconditions for gender biased sex selection: though data to date on prevalence is inconclusive, the desired sex ratio at birth is consistently higher than the observed sex ratio at birth (OSRB) suggesting strong son preference exists in Bangladesh. COVID-19 is worsening these trends with rising rates of child marriage and school drop-out among girls.

Humanitarian disasters and emergencies exacerbate pre-existing gender inequalities as a result of insecurity and displacement and increase risks of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Women and girls in humanitarian settings experience heightened risk of SGBV, including domestic and intimate partner violence. Climate change as a driver of internal migration is contributing to urbanisation and the growth of urban slums – posing specific risks for women and girls including exposure to GBV and sexual harassment.

Harmful gender and social norms persist and underpin and reinforce gender-based violence and harmful practices. Violent extremism is strongly correlated with discrimination and violence against women and girls, and is a significant risk to achieving gender equality, human rights and sustainable development. Shrinking civic space limits the ability of civil society organisations to contribute to development and implementation of laws and policies that directly impact women and girl’s lives.

Many of these challenges were highlighted in the 2018 Universal Periodic Review (UPR) as well as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Concluding Observations in 2016, which called on Bangladesh to ensure non-discrimination and gender equality, challenge and change harmful gender norms and stereotypes, and end violence and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. Recommendations stressed the need to criminalize all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, and ensure a comprehensive and multi-sectoral response to SGBV including provision of mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS), safe shelters and health sector response to GBV. Member States also called on Bangladesh to ensure equality in marriage, divorce and property rights, eliminate child marriage and ensure access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) education, information and services, and promote women’s full economic empowerment and participation.

Considering this country context, the gender programme of the UNFPA Bangladesh identified these two following outputs to achieve gender equitable social norms, an enabling non-discriminatory legal and policy environment and strengthened systems to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and harmful practices in development and humanitarian settings;

* 1. Positive change in gender norms and decreased acceptance of GBV and harmful practices, including among vulnerable groups, contributing to more inclusive and resilient communities
	2. An enabling legal and policy environment and strengthened national and subnational capacities, coordination and survivor-centered service provision to address GBV, in particular among vulnerable groups, in development and humanitarian settings

UNFPA is well placed to contribute to these two outputs, including by strengthening Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) and community engagement initiatives for prevention of GBV in urban, peri-urban and rural settings and capacity building of marginalized and excluded people, especially women and girls, and enabling environment to combat discrimination and traditional norms aligning national legislation with international standards and commitments. In addition, increase awareness, knowledge and capacity building of relevant government stakeholders to implement and monitor existing GBV related laws/policies, coordinate implementation of multi-sectoral GBV prevention and response programs in development and humanitarian settings in collaboration with UN agencies and key Government entities are the key areas for 10 CP (2022-2026).

The Country Programme Evaluation of the 9th CPD highlighted the effective contribution of the UNFPA has made at national and district level and stressed the need to strengthen a comprehensive multi-sectoral response to GBV, build capacities on GBV, and strengthen engagement of men and boys in the 10th country programme. Therefore, the gender programme is inviting potential NGOs to submit a comprehensive proposal following the guideline outlined in the Invitation of Proposal (IFP) for the followings key activities for the next four years;

**Activity 1:** Implement evidence based SBCC plan and rolling out SBCC materials to increase awareness & understanding on gender equality, GBV and harmful practices/son preference in urban and rural communities including targeted communications for specific vulnerable groups such as women with disabilities;

**Activity 2:** Engage grassroots networks, communities in peri-urban and rural settings to implement evidence-based gender transformative GBV prevention interventions, specifically targeting men;

**Activity 3:** Leverage and mainstream gender transformative GBV prevention through adolescent and youth (Adolescent & Youth programme) interventions with social and educational institutions (e.g. vocational education and training);

**Activity 4:** Orientation on life skills (soft skills) of various marginalized groups and community networks especially women and girls;

**Activity 5:** Capacity building of elected union Parishad chairman and members including women members and representative to make contributions to bring about positive change in their communities;

**Activity 6:** Following GBV minimum standards and GBV prevention and response support women led Civil Society Organizations (CBOs) and service providers and NGOs that work with men and boys at the grassroots level;

**Activity 7:** Support CSOs to implement international human rights commitments and reporting including UPR and CEDAW to align national legislative and policy frameworks and address GBV and SRHR issues in collaboration with other partners;

**Activity 8:** Capacity building to continue to strengthen One Stop Crisis Centres /cells (OCC) /health facility based GBV services in peri urban and rural areas;

**Activity 9:** Capacity building for service providers on GBV and Gender Biased Sex Selection (GBSS) prevention and response in collaboration with national and subnational institutions, including knowledge exchange for GBSS;

**Activity 10:** Research and evidence building on emerging issues relating to GBV and harmful practices including for specific vulnerable groups;

**Activity 11:** Capacity building of NGOs/CSOs and government on GBViE preparedness and response;

**Activity 12:** Support to inter-ministerial referral platform led by Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) for an effective referral system;

**Activity 13:** Joint roll-out of national guidelines for establishment and operationalization of an effective referral mechanism;

**Activity 14:** Support service providers to implement integrated SRHR and GBV response in development and humanitarian settings through GBV case management;

**Activity 15:** Develop and roll out Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS) training module for service providers/identified professionals and community networks for GBV survivors; provide (strengthen instead of provide) MHPSS services through health-based facilities in development and humanitarian settings;

**Activity 16:** Capacity building to cyclone first line early warning and rescue responders and CSOs on GBViE;

**Activity 17:** Prepositioning of dignity kits for vulnerable and marginalized women and girls including GBV survivors in emergency;

**Activity 18:** Strengthen implementation of referral system, including: development of referral protocols/localize area level referral pathway/develop referral card; capacity building of public service providers including first responders in collaboration with relevant stakeholders;

**Activity 19:** Support to service providers to collect and report on service-level administrative data;

**Activity 20:** Monitor the quality of GBV services during implementation, regular assessment and capacity development for service providers;

**Selection process and criteria:** *Refer to IFP section* **3**

Eligibility Criteria: International and national NGOs who have district branches or local partners (PNGOs) and have previous experience as well as adequate governance, management, programmatic, financial and procurement capacity to work in partnership with UNFPA to prevent and respond to GBV will be given preference. Upon receipt of the EOI from prospective implementing partners, UNFPA will review applicants for placement on a short-list of potential implementing partners. Those short-listed candidates may be invited to submit formal proposals to become an implementing partner for the 10th Country Programme of UNFPA to work in various selected districts/sub-district in Bangladesh.

**Expression of interest must be contained the following information:**

* Full legal name and address of applying organization
* Mandate or mission statement of the organization: *Max 50 words*
* Statement of the organization's expertise in the relevant area: *Max 400 words*
* Short description of the organization's existing operations in the subject matter area, including how long the operations have been carried out and where (district) they are now present with what capacity and can work in future with UNFPA if selected : *Max 600 words*

**Files to be enclosed as annexure**:

1. Signed forwarding letter on the organization’s letterhead

2. Copy of all valid legal registrations authenticated by the head of office

3. Supporting document of last two project/programmes, relevant to the two above mentioned scope of works

4. Scan copy of previous three years Audit report.

4. List of organizational relevant policies (if necessary we will ask for any policy)

**Procedure of Submission**:

1. The EoI must be submitted in English.

2. Follow the EoI format using Times New Roman font, size 12 single space

3. Deadline for submission is: 17 January 2022.

Only email submissions will be accepted using the following email address: eoi-bgd@unfpa.org

Submissions that fail to comply with the abovementioned instructions or are incomplete will be excluded from consideration.

1. Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). (2016). Report on Violence Against Women (VAW) Survey

2015. Statistics and Informatics Division (SID), Ministry of Planning, Dhaka, Bangladesh. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)