

Terms of Reference

- *Background information on the project.*

Displacement of populations, protection concerns such as gender-based violence (GBV), and disruption to economic activities because of conflicts across Nigeria disproportionately affect women and girls and are both cause and consequence of gender inequalities. The COVID-19 pandemic has amplified pre-existing gender inequalities and revealed stark gaps in the status quo on gender equality. In particular, the sharp rise in GBV during the pandemic reveals the urgent need to scale-up efforts towards addressing GBV. The national declaration of the state of emergency on GBV on 12th June 2020, presents a critical opportunity to leverage high-level political commitment to strengthen institutional frameworks in effectively preventing and responding to GBV, particularly at the state level. Furthermore, despite the gendered impacts of the pandemic and the overrepresentation of women in frontline health-care roles, women are inadequately represented in decision-making and response planning mechanisms such as national and state COVID-19 task forces and response and recovery plans have largely been gender-blind. To date, there has been limited engagement between women-led organizations leading local response initiatives and women in decision making spaces. The issue of women's low representation in decision-making is similarly reflected in women's limited participation in formal peace dialogue and mediation efforts, which have been further challenged due to the pandemic. Despite the development of a National Action Plan (NAP) and 12 State Action Plans (SAP) on the implementation of UNSCR 1325, key gaps exist in terms of synergy and coordination amongst interventions aimed at advancing women's participation in decision-making and peacebuilding.

Responding to these challenges, the project seeks to advance the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda and enhance a gender-responsive COVID-19 pandemic response by strengthening state level institutional frameworks to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, enhancing women's meaningful participation in the COVID-19 response, and promoting women's role in formal peace dialogues and mediation processes. The project thus aims, through a combination of consultation, assessment, strategic planning, policy advocacy and advice to key government agencies, as well as direct downstream support to women organizations **to (a) advance implementation of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act, (b) enhance women's role in dialogue, mediation and formal peace processes in Nigeria and (c) increase collaboration between women organizations and women in political leadership positions to increase women's meaningful participation in the COVID-19 response and recovery.** By doing so, the project will also lay the basis for the further up-scaling of the impact upon the completion of this 6-months project, and the expansion of its innovative strategy to other areas. Success expected to be achieved under this project will then provide a major impetus for a broader recognition of the priority of gender equality and women empowerment; for stronger post-COVID-19 recovery and economic growth; for a more inclusive society; and finally for strengthened women peace and security agenda in Nigeria.

Under component (b) of the project, **enhance women's role in dialogue, mediation and formal peace processes in Nigeria**, the project will seek to **assess and develop knowledge products on women's role in formal and informal dialogue and mediation in Nigeria**. This will involve the development of an assessment on the level of utilization of formal and informal dialogue and mediation in response to farmer-herder conflict at national level with a special focus on the participation of women in the process. The result will be a comparative analysis of the participation of women in the formal state institutions (i.e. state constituted/involved/facilitated/recognized process) and in informal community-based/non-state institutions. The assessment report will be published, and a roundtable event, amongst other channels, will be organized to disseminate the findings. This report will be complemented by a mapping of women with dialogue and mediation expertise and experience who can be deployed across different conflicts as mediators at different levels. This activity will be based on a robust consultative and participatory process, that would assess the capacity of the experts and the platforms they represent and identify gaps and opportunities to strengthen capacity. A high level convening will be organised to present the list of women mediators and begin the process of linking women mediators with key peace and conflict resolution institutions and formal mediation networks, laying the ground for future capacity building support and formalisation of women mediators. These findings will inform the drafting of a learning report to guide consultations and engagements with state peacebuilding institutions to identify the best way to support mainstreaming and increasing women's participation in dialogue and mediation led by these agencies.

To achieve this outcome, UN Women seeks the service of an institution to develop a comprehensive mapping of women with dialogue and mediation capacities that could be deployed in formal processes in Nigeria. The mapping exercise would be carried out in the six geopolitical zones and would map the women and the platform they represent; identify the gaps and opportunities to strengthen mediation capacity in Nigeria. The output will be a mapping of women with existing dialogue and mediation capacities that could be deployed in formal processes in Nigeria, and a report analyzing the gaps in dialogue and mediation capacity in each zone, and the opportunities to strengthen mediation capacity in Nigeria.

- *Objectives of the assignment;*

The consulting firm would use a robust consultative and participatory process, to map women with existing dialogue and mediation capacities in the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria and produce the mapping and a knowledge product analyzing the gaps and opportunities to strengthen mediation capacity in Nigeria.

- *Scope of work, consistent with the budget;*

Specific tasks for the consulting firm are to:

1. Develop the mapping tool for a comprehensive assessment of women's mediation capacities and the platforms they represent.

2. Hold consultations with women peacebuilders in the six geopolitical zones as part of the process to assess women's dialogue and mediation capacities, and to identify the gaps and the opportunities to strengthen mediation capacity in Nigeria.
3. Produce a national mapping of women with mediation capacity that could be deployed in formal processes in Nigeria.
4. Produce an analysis of the gaps in women's mediation capacity and the opportunities to strengthen mediation capacity in Nigeria
5. Support the organization of a high-level convening to present the mapping and report.
6. Translate the mapping tool into a standardized vetting system for assessment of mediation capacities.

- *Deliverables (see sample chart below) that shall be submitted for approval;*

- A Mapping tool and standardized vetting system for a comprehensive assessment of women's mediation capacity in Nigeria.
- A national map of women with mediation capacity that could be deployed in formal processes in Nigeria.
- Concept note, agenda, participants list and report from high-level convening to present mapping and report
- An analytical report of the gaps in women's mediation capacity and the opportunities to strengthen mediation capacity in Nigeria.
- A report of the consultancy.

- *Period of performance and the review/approval time required;*

December 10, 2020– March 15 2021. (*Subject to change depending on contract issue date)

- *Selection criteria (see sample "minimum requirements", qualifications and performance or other standards the Contractor shall fulfil;*

Minimum Qualification :

- The firm should have 5-10 years proven experience of working on issues related to conflict prevention and peacebuilding and women peace and security, development work etc. as an implementing and/or evaluating firm.
- Possess in-depth knowledge of relevant international, regional and national frameworks in the above areas etc.
- Should possess demonstrable technical expertise and experience of mapping, assessment, monitoring and evaluation frameworks including the development of relevant tools, usage of tools in a participatory process, data analysis, production of assessment and presentation of findings.
- Possess 5- 10 years experience conducting assessment and evaluation for key stakeholders within government, women's organizations (NGOs/CBOs, coalitions, networks) on peacebuilding issues
- Previous experience with a UN Agency on similar area of work is an added advantage.

SELECTION CRITERIA

All interested firms should submit a technical and financial proposal. The proposals will be evaluated and selected based on the evaluation criteria presented below. All evidence documents should be provided as attachment in the proposal package.

To this end, the technical proposal shall contain the following information to allow evaluation of the tender according to the technical criteria:

- A clear understanding of the required tasks and demonstration of how the organization intends to implement the activity using a clear and coordinated approach
- A description of the organization and staffing structure (including the number of staff and subcontractors) available for the activities covered by the institutional contract.
- Relevant documentation demonstrating consideration for ethical rules and regulations in the field of peacebuilding and assessment.
- Reference letters certificates of service, and other relevant documents from past collaborations should be provided as attachments to the proposal if available
- The proposal should specify how they will ensure quality control of the services throughout the contractual period, including identification of potential risks and mitigation measures
- Provide evidence of financial capacity, including most recent Audited financial report

UN Women will provide relevant background and project documents, reporting templates, guidance on procurement processes, relevant contact information of relevant actors for the geopolitical zones as requested. UN Women will provide operational support for the organisation of the high-level meeting, as well as feedback and guidance.

A. DELIVERABLE SCHEDULE

Deliverable	Payment Amount	Timeframe
Draft Workplan and implementation plan	30%	31 January 2020
A Mapping tool for a comprehensive assessment of women’s mediation capacity in Nigeria.		15 January 2021
A national map of women with mediation capacity that could be deployed in formal processes in Nigeria.	30%	1 March 2021
An analytical report of the gaps in women’s mediation capacity and the opportunities to strengthen mediation capacity in Nigeria.		5 March 2021
Concept note, agenda, participants list and report from high-level convening to present mapping and report		7 March 2021
A standardized vetting system for assessment of women’s mediation capacity in Nigeria.	40%	10 March, 2021
A report of the consultancy.		15 March 2020