

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Professional Services on Promoting Women's Participation in Promotion of Social Cohesion and Women Economic Empowerment

I. BACKGROUND

Grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, UN Women works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; the empowerment of women; and the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security. Placing women's rights at the centre of all its efforts, UN Women leads and coordinates the efforts of the United Nations system to ensure that commitments on gender equality and gender mainstreaming translate into action throughout the world. UN Women provides strong and coherent leadership in support of Member States' priorities and efforts, building effective partnerships with civil society and other relevant actors.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an acute, multifaceted impact that leads to a deeper global crisis or feed additional conflict with especially dire consequences for women and girls. Women and girls deeply affected by the pandemic. Economic uncertainties due to lockdowns have left many women and men vulnerable to insecurities and many forms of violence. Likewise, a rise in hate speech targeted at women further heightens women's vulnerability. Civil society and women's groups, who have been on the frontlines of preventing violent extremism and promoting social cohesion in their communities in Asia, have now mobilized to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to respond to the aftermath of lockdowns and related restrictions. With stretched capacity and limited financial support, they are still a lifeline in their communities but in dire need of support. These inherently regional problems of violent conflict as well as COVID-19 must consider a regional response, be gender sensitive, and learn from best practices and lessons learned in a rapidly changing context.

Since the re-emergence of conflict in 2004, women and other marginalized groups in the southern border provinces of Yala, Pattani, Narathiwat and some districts of Songkhla of Thailand have suffered the heaviest casualties. Women have been made widows and heads of households but are deprived of their opportunities to earn the necessary income and raise their young families in a secure environment. Those who became widows or have lost their sons in the violent incidents are struggling to gain access to justice in the judiciary process and to reintegrate themselves in the communities. The violent conflict does not only bring threats to personal safety, but also affects economic survival and the overall quality of life in the deep southern region. The impact of COVID-19 has proved to further reverse the limited progress that has been made on gender equality and women's rights in the southern border provinces with social and economic consequences for women and girls. These include unemployment, increased unpaid care work, limited access to services such as education and health and increased risks of violence against women and girls.

UN Women Thailand in partnership with governments, civil society, research institutes and think tanks will implement the project "PEACEBUILDING IN A PANDEMIC: Empowering Women to Promote Social Cohesion and Prevent Terrorism and Violent Extremism in the Context of COVID-19 in South and Southeast Asia"

("Empowered Women Peaceful Communities- Asia") in Thailand with the aim to empower women in the Southern Border provinces of Thailand to build resilient and peaceful communities and prevent extremist violence as well as to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. In realizing this goal, UN Women Thailand will focus on achieving the following two outputs: (i) Women have increased resources and capacity to lead efforts that build resilience and social cohesion in their communities; and (ii) Governments have increased access to the necessary gender expertise and women's groups have increased capacities to influence the development of gender-sensitive policies to prevent and counter terrorism, violent extremism and hate speech.

In addition, UN Women, under the "DFAT contribution to Women, Peace and Security Global Facility: From Resolutions to Accountability and Leadership in the context of COVID-19 pandemic", have also promoted women and girls' meaningful participation in sustaining peace processes including conflict resolution, prevention of violent conflicts, and preventing violent extremism (Outcome 2) with the expected outputs including Output 2.2: Peace process actors have increased evidence-based knowledge and Output 2.3: Peace process actors have strengthened knowledge, capacity and expertise. It intends to address the needs and amplify the voices of women and girls in conflict-affected areas and will continue to provide the technical support to women and girls in promoting social cohesion and resilient communities through capacity building on media and information literacy, as well as to monitor, report and counter hate speech.

In this connection, UN Women is seeking a professional service provider to promote the women's participation in the promotion of social cohesion and women economic empowerment in the Southern border provinces of Thailand through livelihood improvement, capacity building, and awareness raising of hate speech, women, peace and security, and emergency and crisis responses for women groups, women CSOs, and local government agencies.

The purpose of this contract is to:

- Provide a package of women economic empowerment services for selected vulnerable groups of women with a focus on female headed households and women in vulnerable situations and heavily affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes leadership skill to be drivers for social cohesion in their communities.
- Produce awareness advocacy materials on prevention of hate speech and promotion of positive message and social cohesion in the Southern Border Provinces of Thailand for distribution through traditional media and non-traditional media channels.
- Conduct capacity building for the Coordination Center for Children and Women in the Southern Border Provinces (CCCW-SBP), the Ministry of Social Development and Human security (MSDHS), and responsible provincial government agencies through the provision of technical support on gender sensitive approaches to mainstream gender into policies to prevent violent extremism and hate speech.
- Conduct capacity building for civil society and women's groups and networks to inform and support the implementation of government policies and strategies on preventing violent extremism and hate speech, and violence against women and girls and marginalization of women's rights.

II. SCOPE OF WORK

The selected service provider is expected to undertake the following tasks in close collaboration with UN Women and national consultants to develop economic empowerment programme for women groups, to build capacity of government agencies and women civil society organisations to support the implementation of government policies and strategies on hate speech, and to produce awareness advocacy materials on advancement of Women, Peace and Security, prevention of all forms of violence and hate speech, and promotion of positive message and social cohesion in the Southern Border Provinces of Thailand, with the engagement of women in order to facilitate their positive social participation and countering of misinformation and hate speech and empower women to build resilient, cohesive and peaceful communities for the prevention of radicalisation and all forms of violence. Followings are the key tasks of the service provider;

1. Develop a concept note and agenda for capacity building programme for the Coordination Center for Children and Women in Southern Border Provinces (CCCW-SBP), the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS), and responsible government agencies on gender responsive approaches, and for women's groups/CSOs on necessary knowledge and skills to support the implementation of government policies and strategies on PVE and hate speech.
2. Develop women economic empowerment programmes focusing on the needs of selected women groups in the Southern Border Provinces with progress reports and a capacity building programmes on gender sensitive approaches to prevent hate speech for CCCW-SBP, MSDHS, and women CSOs in the Southern Border Provinces of Thailand.
3. Produce awareness advocacy materials on advancement of Women, Peace and Security, promotion of social cohesion and prevention of hate speech.
4. Produce a final progress report of economic empowerment programme, and capacity building programme with best practice, lessons learned, and recommendations on future interventions.

III. DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINE

Payments for this selected organization will be based on the achievement of each following five deliverables and certification that each has been satisfactorily completed. Payments will not be based on the number of days worked but on the completion of each stated deliverable within the indicated timeframes.

Key Tasks	Deliverables	Target Date
Develop a concept note and workplan including selected women groups and targeted communities (in Thai)	- Concept note and workplan including list of selected women groups and targeted communities in Thai Language	5 October 2021
Develop women economic empowerment programmes focusing on the needs of selected women groups in the Southern Border Provinces with progress reports and a capacity building programmes on gender sensitive approaches to prevent hate speech for	- Women economic empowerment programmes - Capacity building programmes	20 November 2021

Key Tasks	Deliverables	Target Date
CCCW-SBP, MSDHS, and women CSOs in the Southern Border Provinces of Thailand (in Thai)		
Produce awareness advocacy materials on advancement of Women, Peace and Security, promotion of social cohesion and prevention of hate speech	- Awareness advocacy materials	10 March 2022
Produce a final progress report of economic empowerment programme, and capacity building programme with best practice, lessons learned, and recommendations on future interventions (in Thai).	- Progress report with best practice, lesson learned, and recommendations	15 June 2022

IV. DURATION OF ASSIGNMENT

The total duration of the engagement is tentatively 9 months from **20 September 2021 to 30 June 2022**.

V. PAYMENTS

Payments will be made into instalments upon submission of invoices with committed deliverables certified and approved by Country Programme Coordinator for Thailand.

VI. COMMUNICATION AND REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

The supplier will work under the direct supervision of Country Programme Coordinator for Thailand who will be responsible for the quality assurance of the deliverables.

VII. ETHICAL CODE OF CONDUCT

The content of the radio drama series should reflect up-to-date information from local authorities, UN system and other credible sources. It should have strong basis in human rights and gender analysis. The key messages and their delivery must be gender-sensitive and consistent with human rights, and do not reinforce negative stereotypes about women and men, and their roles.

VIII. REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

Qualifications of the Organization:

- Legally constituted organization with a valid registration.
- Minimum 5 years of experience working in the area of women economic empowerment, capacity building, hate speech awareness raising.
- Working experience with the UN and international organizations is an advantage.

Qualifications of Team Leader:

The Lead Expert with the following qualifications.

- Advanced university degree in Social Sciences, Economics, Political Science, Women and Gender Studies or related disciplines. At least 7 years of experience and technical knowledge in developing and implementing economic empowerment, women empowerment, capacity building, advocacy and awareness raising.
- Substantive experience in cooperating with government agencies and CSOs in the Southern Border Provinces (SBPs) is preferred.
- Familiarity with the Thai local context particularly on gender in the SBPs is considered as an asset.
- Excellent report drafting ability and fluency in Thai is required.

Qualifications of team member:

- Bachelor's degree in social sciences, Economics, Political Science, Women and Gender Studies or related disciplines.
- At least 5 years of experience and technical knowledge in developing women economic empowerment, communications, social and economic areas.
- Familiarity with the local context particularly on digital literacy and hate speech for women groups/youth is considered as an asset.
- Excellent report drafting ability.
- Fluency in Thai is required.

IX. EVALUATION METHOD

Quotations will be evaluated based on "**Lowest priced, technically compliant offer methodology**". The contract will be awarded to the organization who meet the requirements and provided the lowest price.

X. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

UN Women will provide technical guidance where possible. The service provider is required to bear all the related costs e.g. travel related costs, logistics and administrative costs and work independently to successfully achieve the end results.

The service provider will be responsible for following costs:

- Professional fee must be quoted in lumpsum amount per deliverable. The lumpsum amount must be detailed of how the professional fee of each team member is calculated.
- Indirect costs such as printing, stationeries, communications in relation to the scope of work of services must be included in the financial proposal.
- Travel costs for technical team members of service providers: all envisaged travel costs such as most direct and most economic local travel, living allowance, terminal expenses etc. must be included in the financial proposal if any. In the case of unforeseeable travel, payment of travel costs including tickets, lodging and terminal expenses shall be agreed upon, between UN Women and Service provider, prior to travel and will be reimbursed upon Contract Amendment.
- All costs related to management/administration including logistics arrangements for conducting empowerment programme or capacity building, field visits, interviews, etc.

XI. SUBMISSION PACKAGE

Submission packages will need to include the following items.

- Updated CVs for the team members

- Company profile
- Company registration
- Proposal with breakdown of budget lines as per required deliverables. The quotation shall specify a lump sum amount breaking down the professional fee for each deliverable, travel and other related cost
- Names of two former clients for reference checks
- Sample of previous work undertaken