

# TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AN ETHNOGRAPHIC STUDY OF THE FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION PRACTICE

## SECTION A

### i. Purpose of Assignment: (attach background documents, if necessary)

The prevalence of female genital mutilation (FGM) in Nigeria is high (about 1 in 4 girls) and is common in the South of the country. Due to its large population, Nigeria has the third highest absolute number of women and girls (19.9 million) who have undergone FGM/C worldwide. In 2013, the National prevalence in Nigeria was 25%, while the five States with the highest prevalence, which are part of the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Program (UNJP) intervention States, were Osun (77%), Ebonyi (74%), Ekiti (72%), Imo (68%) and Oyo (66%), (NDHS 2013). The practice of FGM is most prevalent among Yoruba women (55%), followed by Igbo women (45%). The UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Program aims to contribute to accelerate efforts towards the reduction of FGM, fulfilling the rights of girls and women by realising social and gender norms.

The 2016-2017 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) however shows a decline in prevalence among women aged 15-49 years when comparing MICS (2011) data from 27% to 18.4%. It also revealed significant increases in prevalence among girls aged 0-14 years and new hotspots for FGM in Zamfara (5.0% to 58.2%), Kaduna (38.3% to 63.1%), Jigawa (36.9% to 66.9%), and Kano (51.4% to 71.0%).

The key drivers for FGM in Nigeria are social, religious, and cultural beliefs (linking FGM with purity); lack of knowledge and implementation of existing policies and laws; limited capacity of key service providers to deliver FGM prevention and an increased medicalization of the practice (12.7%) which provides an income for practitioners and community leaders

Past studies carried out to understand the practice of FGM in Nigeria have been limited in scope and depth, and carried out by agencies for their internal use. An ethnographic study will provide thoroughly established evidence that will guide the development of programmes and policies required for reducing, and ultimately ending, FGM in the country.

In this context, UNICEF, in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, is requesting consultancy services to carry out an ethnographic study into the practice of FGM in the five states (Imo, Osun, Ebonyi, Ekiti and Oyo) of the UN Joint Programme, particularly in communities where the rate of prevalence of FGM in girls aged 0-14 years is on the increase such as Imo State and the highest such as Osun or Ekiti State. A technical working group (TWG) will be constituted by the National Technical Committee on FGM at national level to support the consultant(s) to carry out the study.

The ethnographic study will be carried out in parallel to the dissemination of the National Policy and action plan to End FGM. Evidence generated from the ethnographic study will support the dissemination process which will be led by the Federal Ministry of Health and Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, as well as provide the measure for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the action plan and to plan the next phase of the UN Joint Programme to end FGM.

### 2. Programme ID & Specific Project Involved: Outcome 6

**Outcome 6:** Children who are victims or at significant risk of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation, including those in humanitarian settings, receive quality preventive and responsive services from a functioning child protection system at federal level and in targeted states.

**Output 2:** Government and key stakeholders have strengthened capacities and increase the availability of quality child-sensitive Social Welfare and Justice services that prevent and respond to violence against children.

### 3. Terms of Reference / Detail Requirements of the Job:

This consultancy is in line with UNICEF Nigeria CP Workplan Output 6.2: Government and key stakeholders have strengthened capacities and increase the availability of quality child-sensitive Social Welfare and Justice services that prevent and respond to violence against children.

The consultancy institutions will work directly with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs in collaboration with UNICEF and UNFPA to understand the practice of FGM and attitudes that promote it. In this regard the undertaking of an ethnographic study in communities will allow to learn about 1) the cultural values and attitudes surrounding the practice; 2) how FGM is practiced and the regional variations; 3) how the decision-making process within families to support the practice takes place; 4) the perceived social benefits and consequences of practicing or not practicing FGM; and 5) what changes, if any, have taken place over the years with regard to the practice of FGM.

It is envisaged that an ethnographic study will generate evidence that will guide decision-making and program-planning processes to ensure interventions aimed at reducing and ending FGM are strategic and well-targeted and, will achieve outcomes for children, particularly girls at risk. In particular an ethnographic study will provide evidence that will inform the next phase of the UN Joint Programme to end FGM. An inter-agency approach will be employed in the development, validation, and finalization of the study report, which will be widely disseminated and used at national and sub-national levels.

There are three expected results of this study: 1) the development of an analytical report on the ethnographic study on the practice of FGM in Nigeria; 2) the existence of qualitative baseline data on the current status and practice of FGM in Nigeria; and 3) the provision of key recommendations for ways forward on the interventions to address FGM in Nigeria.

4. **Duty Station:** UNICEF Abuja

5. **Supervisor:** Child Protection Systems Strengthening Manager

#### 1. **Major Tasks to be accomplished: (estimated time required to complete tasks. Attach additional sheets, if necessary, to describe assignments)**

During the assignment, the consultant(s) will need to work with the TWG for the overall conduct of the ethnographic study. The TWG will provide oversight and technical support to the consultant(s). It will be important to promote an inter-agency approach to conduct the study through consultations with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and UNFPA on the development of the research methodology and tools, as well as on the selection of research assistants. In addition, it will be necessary to engage with chiefs and community stakeholders on the protocols of the study.

The specific tasks of the consultant(s) are as follows:

- In collaboration with the National Technical Committee on the elimination of FGM, develop the research design for carrying out the ethnographic study on FGM;
- Work with the TWG to design the research protocols and a detailed workplan for carrying out the study;
- Submit the research protocol for approval to the ethical committee;
- Train the research assistants (community-based volunteers can be also used as research support if necessary) on the protocols and ethical frameworks for the study;
- Provide quality control through regular debriefing with research assistants and monitoring of data collection;
- Lead the validation of the findings from the ethnographic study to ensure accuracy, acceptance, and ownership at community and national levels;
- Submit an analytical report on the ethnographic study at the end of the research with evidence-based recommendations from key stakeholders at community level as well as policy makers;

- Generate qualitative baseline data to guide monitoring and evaluation of interventions to end of FGM especially the National Strategy for Ending FGM

More specifically, the following elements will need to be incorporated into the research methodology:

The initial findings of the desk review will need to:

- Strategically inform the data collection tools and the components of the research that need to be investigated further, including elements on beliefs and attitudes attached to FGM, inter-state and intercommunity cross-border practice and existing community-based efforts to protect children;
- State the objectives, the rationale and purpose of the research;
- Have information that flows in a logical order throughout the report and is properly referenced / backed up by strong evidence;
- Describe the research methodology:
  1. problem formulation or research question or theory to be reviewed;
  2. ethical clearance process;
  3. research design and technique: is the ethnographic research appropriate and why; what elements the ethnographic research would specifically entail; information on the research setting and how communities will be accessed (official permission from the gatekeepers, acceptability by the groups, etc.); on recording, archiving and gathering information beyond the interviews; on the stages of the research, the preparation steps before conducting the research, and where the researchers will travel to and for how long in each location (as this kind of study usually involves extensive field work);
  4. selection of the sample size backed up by statistical designs so it is representative for an ethnographic study and reliable enough to make generalisations, indicate on what basis, clarify elements related to the heterogeneity of the population, number of subgroups in the analysis, size of the subgroup, and how precise the sample statistics should be;
  5. data collection system: will there be an application used for it? Will that be done manually by the two researchers?
  6. data analysis and methodology: will there be a robust statistical approach to analyse the data? How will the volume of data collected be managed? How will control of quality be maintained across the research? What will be the data be using a coding system, suggestions for patterns to do the sorting, identification of outliers, clarify constructs and theories, clarify interpretations, analysis, cause and effect of the results.

The study will consist of three phases:

Interventions	deliverables	Timeline	Payment
<b>a) Inception report: 5 days</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct desk review of relevant documents and through preliminary discussions with UNICEF and the joint Technical Working Group to ensure a common understanding of the scope and focus of the study and to refine the methodology.</li> <li>The desk review will be conducted along the preparation of methodology (including preparation and pre-testing of data collection tools), identification of potential risks (especially ethics-related) and mitigating measures in line with international good practices.</li> <li>The inception report must include: - Introduction, context and purpose - Methodology, including: data collection methods, tools, identification of key informants and specific settings, sampling, limitations; - Analysis of risks and identification of mitigating measure. Risks related to ethical issues, especially in consideration of the involvement of girls in data collection, must be clearly addressed taking into account the above-mentioned standards; - Work-plan detailing schedule, team members' roles and responsibilities, and logistics.</li> </ul>	Prepared inception report shared with Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, UNICEF, UNFPA and the National Technical Committee  Clearance from the Ethical Committee	20-25 June 2022	20%
<b>b) Data collection and analysis phase: 40 days.</b> Data collection and analysis will be qualitative as described in the Methodology section.	Data analysis	27 June – 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	50%
<b>c) Reporting phase</b> with at least one draft report to be submitted for comments to UNICEF that will consolidate inputs and comments from the Technical Working Group, before the final report is prepared. This phase should allow sufficient time for consultation and feedback processes. The final report must include key findings responding to research questions, and conclusions and recommendations ways forward on the interventions to address FGM in Nigeria.	Draft report validated by stakeholders.	12 <sup>th</sup> Sept – 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct. 2022	30%

## 2. End Product: (e.g. final report, article, document etc.)

Ethnographic Study into the Practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Nigeria.

### Qualifications or specialized knowledge/experience required:

- Proven experience and capacity in undertaking ethnographic studies;
- Proven experience in addressing sensitive protection issues;
- Ability to work with various stakeholders such as high ministry officials, donors, and grassroot organisations;
- Proven knowledge and experience in the fields of child protection and gender;

- Strong communication capacity in written and spoken English;

Application requirements:

- The consultancy will take 65 working days over the period of 5 months;
- It will be both home-based and field-based as it will require travel through Nigeria for some of the inception phase and all of the data collection phase;
- Submission to include cover letter, summary capacity statement of submitting institution in similar areas of work, 3 examples of previous work, and CV's of core staff to be dedicated to the project;
- Submissions to include proposed working schedule, budget, breakdown of consulting fees, living and logistics costs and flight tickets (economy) where appropriate.

#### TECHNICAL CRITERIA AND RELATIVE POINTS FOR EVALUATION OF SUBMISSIONS

The table below outlines the technical criteria and relative points for evaluation of submissions

Technical Criteria	Technical Sub-Criteria	Maximum Points
Overall Response	Completeness of response	10
	Overall concord between request for proposal requirements and proposal	10
Maximum Points		20
Company and Key Personnel	Range and depth of experience with similar projects	10
	Number of customers, size of project, number of staff per project	5
	Client references	5
	Key Personnel: relevant experience and qualifications	10
Maximum Points		30
Proposed methodology and Approach	Project management, monitoring and quality assurance process	10
	Technologies used, and compatibility with UNICEF	10
Maximum Points		20
Total Maximum		70

#### 9. Estimated time of consultancy and deadline for submission of end product:

Start Date:

End Date:

The bidder is requested to provide an all-inclusive cost in the financial proposal, including return air tickets (economy class) and DSA and field visits to up to five States. The costs of accommodation and transport should be specified in the financial proposal.

#### 10. Official Travel involved (*Itinerary and duration, if applicable*):

UNICEF will not provide any cost of transportation or accommodation for the bidders for their assessment visit to the project sites will be arranged by themselves.

#### 12. Suggested Contractors:
