

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

(Re-advertise) Professional technical assistance to utilizing and contextualizing a framework to monitor progress on prevention of Violence against Women and Girls in countries in Asia and the Pacific

The purpose of this contract is to provide technical assistance and capacity building to UN Women country offices and government partners in selected countries in the region to use and contextualize a monitoring and evaluation framework for violence against women and girls (VAWG) prevention programmes, in order to monitor changes at the programme and national levels, including for the context of COVID-19. The framework, titled '[Making Progress in Prevention Possible – A monitoring framework for the prevention of violence against women and girls in the Asia-Pacific region](#)' was developed by The Equality Institute for UN Women and will contribute to strengthening monitoring and evaluation of violence against women and girls prevention and social norms change initiatives. The work under this assignment will contribute to a DFAT-funded project to address root causes and risk factors of VAWG through prevention.

ABOUT UN WOMEN

UN Women, grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, 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 UN 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.

UN Women has a universal mandate that encompasses a normative, an operational/programmatic as well as a coordination role, all of which are closely linked with its unique structure. At the core of its mandate, UN women plays a leading role in supporting governments in delivering on their gender equality and empowerment of women (GEEW) commitments in the SDGs. UN Women is mandated to stimulate and coordinate improved action on gender equality across the whole UN system.

ASSIGNMENT BACKGROUND

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is one of the most widespread violation of human rights worldwide, globally affecting around one in three women in her lifetime. Regional evidence suggests that a similar ratio applies in the Asia-Pacific region. Forms of VAWG may vary, and there are variations across sites, however, current available data indicates that in 2018, 19% of women in South Asia, 9% in Southeast Asia and between 19% and 30% in the Pacific experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence in the past 12 months.¹ Lifetime prevalence of intimate partner violence is as high as 52% in Fiji² and 50%

¹ WHO. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240022256>, p. XIII.

² Ibid., p. 70.

in the Solomon Islands³ and Bangladesh⁴, 19% in Cambodia,⁵ 38% in Timor-Leste,⁶ Violence against women is firmly rooted in gender inequality, discrimination and harmful cultural and social norms. It is grounded in unequal power relations between women and men and reinforced by discriminatory and gender-biased attitudes, norms and practices. Violence against women and girls occurs at home, in workplaces, in public spaces and online, and can culminate in femicide, the murder of women and girls. Violence against women and sexual harassment are expressions of power and control of men over women. Harmful notions of masculinity, the sense of sexual entitlement that many men have over women and their bodies, and the widespread cultural acceptance of violence drive violence against women and allow it to continue unchallenged.

During public health emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, women and girls are at an increased risk of VAWG: as the past year has shown, cases of VAWG worldwide have increased significantly since the onset of the pandemic and lockdowns – confining millions of women with their abusers, including in the Asia Pacific region. While violence increases, these circumstances contribute to the impunity of perpetrators. Taking immediate measures to mitigate the increased risks during COVID-19 while addressing the root causes through medium-to-longer term strategies is critical to stem prevalence rates and buffer rollbacks to hard earned gains.⁷ As such, prevention remains critical to UN Women’s immediate and recovery responses to COVID-19. Continued prevention efforts are required to change the social norms, structures and systems that reinforce gender inequalities which underpin violence against women and girls. Prevention activities will be integral, not only during the crisis to mitigate the immediate risks that are exacerbated by COVID, but also following the crisis, to address the continued fallout (especially those relating to economic stability) and harmful norms that may be perpetuated by the crisis.

A growing body of prevention practice and evidence demonstrate that it is possible to prevent VAWG before it happens. The past decade has seen significant investment in frameworks, approaches, interventions and infrastructure to support the prevention of violence against women and girls globally and in the Asia-Pacific region. Frameworks such as RESPECT Women: Preventing violence against women (WHO and UN Women) emphasize the need for monitoring prevention progress at a whole-of-population level. Prevention monitoring enables rigorous tracking of change toward the long-term goal of reducing violence against women and girls, using quality data to ensure that prevention and response strategies are grounded in evidence and promising practices. Monitoring also builds accountability and shared approaches in national- and regional-level investment in prevention.

Supported by UN Women, the Equality Institute developed a Monitoring Framework for the Prevention of VAWG specifically in the Asia-Pacific Region. The aim of this assignment is to provide technical assistance and capacity building to UN Women country offices and partners in selected countries in the region to use and contextualize the framework.

³ Ibid, p. XIV, 73.

⁴ Ibid., 68.

⁵ Ibid., p. 69.

⁶ Ibid., p. 73.

⁷ For more information, see: UN Women (2020). Prevention – Violence against Women and girls & COVID-19. Available from: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/05/brief-prevention-violence-against-women-and-girls-and-covid-19>

contextually relevant to countries in the Asia-Pacific region, and to illustrate how to measure change in the short, medium and long term. The framework offers guidance to build consistency in monitoring of VAWG prevention, promote comparability of data, and support both shared learning and capacity building across the Asia-Pacific region. The Framework outlines root causes and risk factors of VAWG and the expected progress of change, and presents the key principles, considerations, and options for countries and civil society organisations to consider when undertaking programming, data collection and policy monitoring related to VAWG prevention.

Purpose and aim

The purpose of this assignment is firstly, to support UN Women country offices and partners to contextualize and utilize the *‘Making Progress in Prevention Possible’* Monitoring Framework in selected countries in the Asia-Pacific region by providing technical assistance to operate the framework. This will enable UN Women and its partners – including government agencies – in operationalizing the available tool and to better understand what works to prevent VAWG. Technical assistance to utilizing and contextualizing the framework will build the capacity of partner agencies, particularly statistical offices and government entities, VAWG professionals and researchers, including UN Women staff, of the Asia-Pacific region on how to measure social norm change related to the prevention of VAWG using the publication and other relevant tools, including the first inter-agency Framework to Underpin Action to Prevent Violence against Women (2015) and the updated RESPECT Women: Preventing Violence against Women Framework (2019).¹⁰

Scope of Work

The contractor should provide technical assistance and capacity building to UN Women country offices staff (particularly ERAW and data/statistics teams) and partners, particularly government agencies, in selected countries to utilize and contextualize the *‘Making Progress in Prevention Possible’* Monitoring Framework in the Asia-Pacific region and support the documentation of knowledge generated and lessons learned. The contractor shall identify and support selected countries in the Asia Pacific region to utilize and adapt to national contexts elements of the Monitoring Framework, with UN Women. Following initial introductions between the contractor and UN Women country offices, the contractor should lead organization and taking forward of the deliverables in this assignment, in coordination with UN Women.

Expected Deliverables, key tasks and timelines

Baseline Assessment

- Undertake a rapid assessment of countries in the Asia Pacific region (depending on interest and capacity), their National Action Plans (specifically prevention and social norms change components) and data collection methods, including through consultations with UN Women country offices, to identify selected countries in which to utilize and contextualize the framework,

¹⁰ Available from: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2019/05/respect-women-preventing-violence-against-women>

and needs for technical assistance. Gather relevant data about the countries to complement the rapid assessment and inform the further work, including from official data bases where indicators relate to these, such as the SDG database, databases of UN agencies, or using DHS microdata.

Knowledge creation, management and sharing for UN Women Offices and Partners in selected countries

- Introducing the Monitoring framework and facilitating knowledge sharing with country offices in the Asia Pacific region and engage donors, governments and other partners in the region with the framework;
- Capture learning from utilizing and contextualizing the Framework, drawing upon experiences of selected countries in advancing national level prevention measurement throughout this assignment. This should include lessons learned and reflections on which indicators work well, and which may need further refining going forward.

In-depth support to utilizing and contextualizing the Framework

- Facilitate technical conversations and direct technical assistance in an estimated 2-3 selected countries in the Asia-Pacific region on operationalizing and measuring progress on prevention components of NAPs, and the Monitoring Framework (with a focus on measurable national indicators that go beyond process indicators).

No.	Key Tasks	Expected Deliverables	Target Date
1.	Baseline Assessment		
	Undertake a rapid assessment of countries in the Asia Pacific region (depending on interest and capacity), their National Action Plans (specifically prevention and social norms change components) and data collection methods, including through consultations with UN Women country offices, to identify selected countries in which to utilize and contextualize the framework and needs for technical assistance. Gather relevant data about the countries to complement the rapid assessment and inform the further work, including from official databases where indicators relate to these, such as the SDG database, databases of UN agencies, or using DHS microdata.	<p>1.1 – Short baseline report which recommends selected countries and targeted support to each of these.</p> <p>1.2 – Annex to the baseline report with relevant data and analysis on the implications of this data for the assignment and selection of countries to support.</p>	31 March 2023

No.	Key Tasks	Expected Deliverables	Target Date
2.	Knowledge creation, management and sharing		
	Introducing the Monitoring framework and facilitating knowledge sharing with country offices in the Asia Pacific region, and engage donors, governments and other partners in the region with the framework.	2.1 – Facilitate interactive webinars to introduce/refresh the Monitoring Framework to UN Women country offices and partners in the Asia-Pacific region (including donors).	12 May 2023
3.	In-depth support to utilizing and contextualizing the Framework		
	Facilitate technical conversations and direct technical assistance in up to 3 selected countries in the Asia-Pacific region on operationalizing and measuring progress on prevention components of NAPs, and the Monitoring Framework (with a focus on measurable national indicators that go beyond process indicators).	3.1 – Organize an in-depth seminar/workshop with UN Women staff and government partners in up to 3 selected countries on National Action Plans, prevention and monitoring/measuring national-level progress on prevention of VAWG by utilizing the Monitoring Framework.	11 August 2023
		3.2 – Quarterly updates regarding in-depth technical support/accompaniment to up to 3 countries on how to contextualize, operationalize or integrate prevention of VAWG measurement components in their National Action Plans, including indicators to measure and monitor prevention as outlined in the Monitoring Framework, as well as data collection tools and modalities.	12 August 2023 - 16 August 2024
	Capture learning from utilizing and contextualizing the Framework, drawing upon experiences of selected countries in advancing national level prevention measurement throughout this assignment. This should include lessons learned and reflections on which indicators work well, and which may need further refining going forward.	2.2 – Final and approved lessons learned report (ca. 20 pages)	15 November 2024
		2.3 – Organize and facilitate a learning and reflection session with country offices, partners and donors.	10 January 2025

QUALIFICATIONS OF THE ORGANIZATION:

- Legally constituted organization with a valid registration.
- Minimum 3 years of experience working in the area of prevention of violence against women and girls, and measurement practices

QUALIFICATIONS OF KEY PERSONNEL:

The team leader should have:

- Master's degree in the field of international development, gender studies, social work or other related area.
- A minimum of 7 years of relevant experience in research or project development and implementation related to violence against women and girls.
- Demonstrated experience in developing, supporting, adapting and piloting VAWG prevention approaches, preferably in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Demonstrated experience in monitoring, evaluation and research related to VAWG and prevention.
- Strong research and writing skills, with strong analytical skills.
- Excellent command of English.

The team member(s) should have:

- Bachelor's degree in the field of international development, gender studies, social science, health, education, monitoring and evaluation, or other related area, or equivalent in experience.
- A minimum of 3 years in developing and implementing EAWG projects or research on VAWG, preferably on VAWG prevention.
- Demonstrated experience related monitoring and evaluation related to VAWG, preferably on VAWG prevention, including at national level.

DURATION OF ASSIGNMENT

The total duration of the engagement is tentatively **24 months from February 2023 to January 2025**.

PAYMENTS will be made into instalments upon submission of invoices with committed deliverables certified and approved by EAW Programme Manager.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

UN Women will provide technical guidance where possible. The contractor shall be required to bear all the related costs and work independently to successfully achieve the end results.

COMMUNICATION AND REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

The contractor will be supervised by the EAW Regional Programme Manager; will work closely with the UN Women EAW Team of the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific as well as with UN Women Country Offices and personnel of the Asia-Pacific region.

The contractor will work remotely with the exception of visits to countries to meet with partners and facilitate meetings (at least one visit per country). They will have to report on the achievement of deliverables quarterly with a progress report.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

The Submission package includes:

- Updated CV(s) of Key Personnel highlighting how they meet the required Qualification
- Technical proposal
- Financial proposal: the financial proposal shall specify a lump sum amount in United State Dollar (USD) breaking down in detailed and inclusive of how the professional fee of each team member is calculated. Management fee (if any), tax, travel costs for technical team members of suppliers and indirect costs such as printing, designing, stationeries, communications in relation to the scope of work of services must be included in each deliverable of the financial proposal
- Company Profile
- Company registration
- Names of 2-3 former clients for reference checks
- Sample of previous work undertaken

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY AND CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated based on UN Women **Lowest-Price Technically Compliant** methodology to the Terms of Reference as per the criteria mentioned under Minimum Requirements. The contract will be awarded to the Supplier who meets the requirements and provides the lowest price.