



TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR RESEARCH ON PROOF OF CONCEPT OF WORKING IN CONSORTIUMS AND THE VALUE OF THE MULTI-COMPONENT APPROACH IN ADDRESSING YOUTH SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (SRHR) ISSUES IN UGANDA

1. ABOUT THE SRHR ALLIANCE UGANDA

The Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights Alliance Uganda (SRHR-AU) is a consortium of eight organizations dedicated to promoting and protecting the SRHR of adolescents and young people in Uganda; the SRHR Alliance Uganda works towards ensuring that all young people, including vulnerable groups, have access to high-quality, youth-friendly SRHR information and services in a supportive environment. The consortium operates with a multi-component approach, focusing on various aspects of SRHR programming for marginalized and vulnerable populations, such as adolescent girls and young women, young people living with HIV/AIDS, young people in emergency settings, young people living with disabilities, and those among key populations.

2. ABOUT THE ASSIGNMENT

Uganda is home to one of the youngest populations in the world¹, with over 77% of its citizens below the age of 30². Adolescents and young people face significant challenges in accessing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) services, contributing to poor health outcomes, including high rates of teenage pregnancies, unsafe abortions, and sexually transmitted infections (STI's), including HIV³. The Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS) 2016 reported that 25% of adolescent girls aged 15-19 had begun childbearing, a rate that is among the highest in sub-Saharan Africa. Moreover, young people account for 34% of new HIV infections, with young women being disproportionately affected⁴. The marginalized and vulnerable sub-groups, such as adolescent girls, young people living with HIV/AIDS, young people in emergency settings, and those living with disabilities, face even greater barriers in accessing SRHR services. Stigma, discrimination, and a lack of youth-friendly services exacerbate their vulnerabilities. Despite numerous interventions by various organizations, these issues persist, highlighting the need for innovative and coordinated approaches to effectively address them.

Recognizing the complexity of SRHR challenges among youth, the Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights Alliance Uganda (SRHR-AU), a consortium of eight organizations, was formed. This consortium leverages the unique strengths, expertise, and experiences of its members to implement a multi-component approach to SRHR programming. This approach integrates multiple interventions, including education, service provision, advocacy, and capacity building, to create a comprehensive and supportive environment for young people's SRHR.

However, the effectiveness of working in a consortium and the value of the multi-component approach remain underexplored. There is a critical need to systematically assess whether this collaborative model enhances the

¹ UNFPA, 2021. *Uganda's Demographic Dividend: Accelerating Socioeconomic Transformation*.

² Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), 2020.

³ UNICEF, 2020. *Adolescent Pregnancy and Motherhood in Uganda: Addressing the Root Causes*.

⁴ Uganda AIDS Commission, 2022. *Uganda HIV and AIDS Country Progress Report 2021*. Kampala: Uganda AIDS Commission.



delivery and impact of SRHR services for youth, particularly the most vulnerable. A robust evaluation will provide evidence to inform the future strategic direction of SRHR-AU, ensuring that resources are utilized effectively and interventions are optimized for maximum impact.

To address this need, SRHR-AU seeks to onboard a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Consultant to conduct research on the proof of concept of working in consortiums and the value of the multi-component approach in addressing the SRHR issues young people in Uganda grapple with. This research is essential to validate the consortium model, identify best practices, and refine strategies to better serve the SRHR needs of Uganda's youth, ultimately contributing to improved health outcomes and the empowerment of young people across the country. The findings will be pivotal in shaping policy and programming not only within the consortium but also for broader SRHR initiatives in Uganda and similar contexts. The engagement of an M&E consultant will be to assess the proof of concept for working in consortiums and to evaluate the value of its multi-component approach in addressing youth SRHR issues in Uganda. This is not only timely but imperative to ensure that SRHR-AU's efforts are both evidence-based and strategically sound.

3. PURPOSE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The primary objective of this consultancy is to conduct a comprehensive research study aimed at strengthening the effectiveness and efficiency of the Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights Alliance Uganda (SRHR-AU) initiatives. The study seeks to achieve the following specific objectives:

1. **Assess the Proof of Concept of Working in Consortiums within the SRHR-AU Framework.**
 - a) Examine how the consortium model has leveraged the diverse expertise, resources, and networks of its eight-member organizations to enhance the delivery of SRHR services to adolescents and young people. This includes analysing collaborative efforts, shared learning, and coordinated interventions that have led to improved outcomes.
 - b) Explore the obstacles and limitations encountered in the consortium approach, such as coordination difficulties, resource allocation issues, and varying organizational cultures. Understanding these challenges will aid in developing strategies to mitigate them and improve collaborative efficiency.
 - c) Measure the effectiveness of the consortium model in achieving its intended SRHR objectives. This involves assessing indicators such as increased access to services, improved health outcomes, enhanced awareness, and empowerment among youth populations.
2. **Evaluate the Value of the Multi-Component Approach Employed by SRHR-AU in Addressing Youth SRHR Issues**
 - a) Analyze the various components of SRHR-AU's approach, including education, healthcare service provision, policy advocacy, community engagement, and capacity building. The evaluation will determine how each component contributes individually and collectively to addressing the complex SRHR needs of young people.

- b) Focus on how the multi-component approach addresses the unique challenges faced by vulnerable and marginalized groups such as adolescent girls, young people living with HIV/AIDS, those in emergency settings, individuals with disabilities, and key populations. The study will evaluate the inclusivity, responsiveness, and impact of interventions tailored to these groups.
- c) Investigate how the different components interact and complement each other to create a holistic and sustainable impact. This includes assessing coordination mechanisms, integration of services, and the seamless delivery of comprehensive SRHR programs.

The findings from this research will provide evidence-based insights that will inform SRHR-AU's strategic planning and decision-making processes. By comprehensively understanding the efficacy of the consortium and multi-component approaches, SRHR-AU will be better positioned to optimize its efforts, allocate resources effectively, and scale successful interventions.

4. SCOPE OF WORK

Technical Scope

The technical scope of the consultancy includes designing and implementing a mixed-methods research approach, ensuring the research tools are valid and reliable, and utilizing advanced data analysis software to interpret qualitative and quantitative data. The consultant will also ensure ethical standards are maintained, particularly when engaging with vulnerable populations. Moreover, the technical work will involve developing actionable recommendations based on the research findings that are aligned with SRHR-AU's strategic goals and the broader context of SRHR programming in Uganda. This assignment will involve 8 founding and 93 affiliate members.

During this assignment, all progress and updates will be shared with the MERL Coordinator at SRHR Alliance. The M&E Consultant will undertake the following tasks:

1. **Inception Meeting:** Participate in an initial briefing with SRHR-AU to clarify research objectives, refine expectations, and confirm deliverables. This will be a kick off meeting with SRH Alliance team that will introduce the team that will support the research process, agree on documents for desk review, inclusive sampling framework, ethical guidelines and safeguarding to be considered during primary data collection, timelines for draft inception report and timeline for receipt of research data collection tools.
2. **Literature Review:** The consultant will Conduct a thorough review of existing literature, including previous evaluations, periodic reports, field reports, and academic studies on consortium-based approaches and multi-component SRHR programming. This will provide a foundational understanding of the project context, stated objectives of the project and its current state of implementation and approaches used and identify gaps for the research

Methodology Development: Design a comprehensive research methodology tailored to the study's objectives. This will include developing qualitative and quantitative data collection tools, such as interview guides, surveys, and focus group discussion outlines, ensuring they are culturally sensitive and appropriate for the target groups. The consultant will ensure data quality, protection and safeguarding of respondents.

3. **Data Collection:** Conduct fieldwork using the sample size calculated to gather primary data through interviews, focus group discussions, and surveys. This will involve engaging with consortium members, key stakeholders, and project participants, including marginalized and vulnerable groups, to ensure diverse perspectives are captured.
4. **Data Analysis:** Perform rigorous analysis of the collected data using appropriate statistical and thematic analysis techniques. The aim is to assess the impact, effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, challenges, lessons learnt and sustainability of the consortium model and the multi-component approach.
5. **Report Writing:** Prepare a detailed report that synthesizes the findings from the research. The report will include an executive summary, project background, detailed approach and methodology, sample sizes, sampling methodology key findings, lessons learned, and practical recommendations to enhance SRHR-AU's strategic planning and implementation.
6. **Presentation of Findings:** Present the research findings in a validation workshop with SRHR-AU and relevant stakeholders. Feedback from this workshop will be integrated into the final report to ensure it is comprehensive and actionable.

5. DELIVERABLES

The consultant is expected to deliver the following:

1. **Inception Report:** Outlining the proposed project background, research approach and methodology, sample sizes, sampling methodology, costed workplan for data collection exercise, data collection tools for both qualitative and quantitative approaches, data analysis methodologies and timelines.
2. **Literature Review Summary:** A document summarizing key insights from the literature review.
3. **Data Collection Tools:** Finalized tools for qualitative and quantitative data collection.
4. **Draft Research Report:** A comprehensive report based on the data analysis, including findings, conclusions, and recommendations.
5. **Validation Workshop:** Presentation of key findings by the consultant to SRHR-AU and stakeholders. A PowerPoint presentation will be developed for use during the validation workshop.
6. **Final Research Report:** A refined report incorporating feedback from the validation workshop.

6. DURATION AND TIMELINES.

The consultancy is expected to be completed within 30 working days from the date of signing the contract. A detailed timeline will be agreed upon during the inception meeting.

7. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

The consultant should have the following qualifications and experience:

- Advanced degree in Public Health, Social Sciences, Population Studies, Development Studies, or a related field.
- Proven experience in monitoring and evaluation of SRHR programs, particularly in consortium settings.
- Demonstrated expertise in conducting research on multi-component approaches in health or development sectors.



- Strong understanding of youth SRHR issues in Uganda, including challenges faced by vulnerable and marginalized groups.
- Excellent analytical, writing, and communication skills.
- Experience working with NGOs or consortiums in the East African region is an asset.

8. BUDGET AND PAYMENT MODALITY

The consultant shall submit a detailed budget proposal, including fees, travel, and other related costs. Payment will be made in instalments based on the completion of agreed-upon deliverables, as follows:

- 40% upon submission and approval of the Inception Report.
- 30% upon submission and approval of the draft Research Report.
- 30% upon dissemination, validation, and submission of the approved final research report.

9. APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested candidates should submit the following:

1. **Cover Letter:** Expressing interest and suitability for the consultancy.
2. **Technical Proposal:** Detailing the proposed approach, methodology, and work plan.
3. **Financial Proposal:** Including a detailed proposal budget.
4. **CVs:** Of the lead consultant and any team members, highlighting relevant experience and qualifications.
5. **References:** Contact information for at least two references from previous similar assignments.

10. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Relevance and clarity of the proposed methodology and approach.
- Demonstrated experience of a minimum of 5 years and expertise in conducting similar assignments.
- Cost-effectiveness of the financial proposal.
- Understanding of youth SRHR issues and the Ugandan context.

11. CONFIDENTIALITY AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The consultant must adhere to strict confidentiality regarding all information, data, and findings related to this assignment. Ethical considerations, especially when engaging with vulnerable populations, must be prioritized throughout the research process.

12. SUBMISSION DETAILS

All applications should be submitted by **November 4, 2024** to procurement@srhrallianceug.org. Late submissions will not be considered. In the subject line, please state the consultancy you are applying for, your company name or last name. i.e. (SUBJECT: SRHRMCA-Last Name or company name).



Application materials should include:

1. A short background briefing clearly summarising your experience as it pertains to this assignment, a brief description of your firm or institution (for applicants other than individual contractors) and three professional references.
2. For individual consultants, please submit your full CV for the team.
3. Technical proposal not exceeding eight (8) pages expressing an understanding and interpretation of the TOR, the proposed methodology, and a time and activity schedule for the assignment.
4. Financial proposal itemising estimated costs for services rendered (daily consultancy fees), and any other related supplies or services required for the evaluation.
5. At least one sample of an evaluation report similar to this request.

We thank you in advance for understanding that only short-listed candidates will be contacted for the next steps in the application process.