

Terms of Reference to conduct a Gender, Youth and Social Inclusion Analysis

In Bihar

Organizational Background

EngenderHealth is a leading sexual and reproductive health and rights organization working in 15 countries around the world to achieve gender equality in and through sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). EngenderHealth takes a holistic and adolescent-centred approach to SRHR programming, recognizing that adolescents and youth are experts in their own health and well-being, and seeks to meaningfully engage young people across all phases of program implementation. EngenderHealth's successful AYSRH strategies include partnering with youth-led organizations, involving young parents, expanding provider capacity to deliver high-quality and adolescent/youth-centred services, engaging with boys and young men, and integrating gender and youth transformative approaches to reflect on, challenge, and change harmful gender and social norms.

Working in India since 1988, EngenderHealth has contributed to the improvement of public health through strong evidence based, technical public health policy and programming to expand and improve reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health (RMNCHA) services in many regions of the country. EngenderHealth's India program has made important contributions to RMNCHA health care, including family planning, maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS, youth engagement, and gender at the national, state, and district levels. Through our most recent Tarunya Project's implementation phase, we reached a total of 75,070 adolescents (54% girls and 46% boys) with SRH and other health information and services, while making functional all 17 AFHCs in the Sitamarhi district, and conducting a baseline survey of 1,632 adolescents (816 girls and 816 boys) to measure sexual and reproductive health (SRH) knowledge, attitudes, and practices to help inform and guide future national plans and program interventions. From 2014-2018, EngenderHealth in India worked in 748 health care facilities with 9,919 healthcare providers, and oriented 21,928 community health workers

About the project

EngenderHealth is working to change the reality for adolescents in India. Through the Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health (TARUNYA-ARSH) Project, EngenderHealth has partnered with the governments of Jharkhand and Bihar states to improve young people's access to and use of quality and sustainable reproductive and sexual health services.

EngenderHealth has been working in all blocks of the Sitamarhi district of Bihar since April 2019, assisting the GoB in implementing the RKSK program. Our efforts thus far have focused on strengthening the operationalization of existing RKSK program elements such as Adolescent Health Days (AHDs), Adolescent-friendly Health Clinics (AFHCs), Adolescent Health Resource Centres (AHRCs), and the peer educator (PE) program.

The long-term goal of the project is to ensure that state and non-governmental actors have the capacity and commitment to support the healthy growth and development of adolescents in Bihar by facilitating access to the information, services, and enabling environment they need. The purpose of the proposed project is to increase access to SRH information and services for

adolescent girls and boys in Bihar by strengthening the institutional capacity of government and local CSO partners to deliver high-quality RKSK program activities.

The project objectives are as follows:

1. To support local CSOs in facilitating increased awareness of SRH information and services among adolescents, parents, and other influential stakeholders in the lives of adolescents.
2. To support district governments and local CSOs in improving spaces and structures for adolescents to access SRH information and services.
3. To facilitate convergence by improving coordination amongst government departments and civil society to leverage existing initiatives and resources for adolescent health.
4. To document and share with key stakeholders and influencers the NGO-government implementation model for RKSK for further adaptation and replication to other geographies.

Purpose of this assessment

EngenderHealth is integrating a GYSI lens into all activities to support stakeholders involved in the project to reflect, challenge, and change personal gender-, youth-, and social marginalization related biases and beliefs that impact adolescents' access to health information and services. To systematically monitor GYSI integration, we apply internal accountability and monitoring tools to assesses the degree of gender and youth integration within programming. Through this analysis, we want to assess the gender and youth determinants that affect the adolescents. We will include feedback-gathering mechanisms for adolescents across different service points and stakeholders

The study will assess

- Resources and assets available to adolescent girls and boys from marginalized communities
 - Learning and reading comprehension of adolescent girls and boys
 - Differential access to services for adolescent girls and boys such as health, formal education, career pathways, skill building opportunities
 - Access and control of adolescent girls and boys over resources and financial services
 - Availability and utilization of RKSK health services among adolescent girls and boys
- Practices, roles and participation of adolescent girls and boys
 - Gender equality/girls rights and non- discriminatory practices promoted at family, school and community level.
- Knowledge, beliefs, and perceptions of social norms, gender norms, and health information of adolescent girls and boys
 - Knowledge and gender equitable and non-discriminatory attitudes of parents and care givers to adolescents
- Decision-making power of and rules that adolescent boys and girls follow formally and informally
 - Self-protection abilities of girls, boys (to prevent from and respond to GBV)

Geography and Target group for the study:

We will be conducting this study in three districts of Bihar- Gaya, Jamui and Sitamarhi. The sample distribution of In-depth interviews and focus group discussions of the target groups of interest is as follows:

Sample distribution of in-depth interviews (per district)

	Marginalized villagesⁱ	Other villages
Parents of adolescents	2	2
Teachers	2	2
ASHA	2	2
ANM	2	2
Counsellor at AFHC	2	2
Pradhan / Village Heads	1	1
Religious leaders	1	1

Sample distribution of Focus Group discussions: (per district)

	Marginalized villagesⁱⁱ	Other villages
Boys 10-14 years	1	1
Girls 10-14 years	1	1
Boys 15-19	1	1
Girls 15-19	1	1
Fathers of adolescents	1	1
Mothers of adolescents	1	1

Specific Task for the Agency/ Research Consultant

The scope of work under this assignment includes finalizing and translation of research tools, obtaining ethics approval, sampling, data collection, data coding, and report development.

The detailed scope would include the following:

1. Translate, pilot test and finalize study tool/ instruments
2. Obtain ethics approval from local IRB boards (E.g. Sigma Research and Consulting Pvt Limited or Centre for Media Studies)
3. Hiring of survey team
4. Training of survey team
5. Developing a field work plan and quality check protocols
6. Data collection
7. Transcribing, translation and summarizing interviews / focus group discussions
8. Report writing

Deliverables

- a. Final tools / instruments in English and Hindi.
- b. Ethics approval
- c. Training agenda
- d. Data collection plan
- e. Interview / FGD completion report
- f. Transcripts and summaries of interviews and focus group discussion.
- g. Final report based on agreed analysis plan

The assignment is estimated to be undertaken within Jul –Oct 2021 with the tentative timeline of different activities.

Activity	July 1-15	July 16-21	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sept 1-15	Sept 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31
Protocol and Tool Finalization and Ethics approval								
Translation of tools and Investigator training								
Data Collection								
Transcribing and translation								
Report draft								
Report finalization after incorporation of comments from EngenderHealth								

ENGENDERHEALTH WILL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING SUPPORT:

1. Ensuring necessary approvals and steering communication at all levels
2. Participation in product quality checks and providing inputs/feedback during all stages of the project
3. EngenderHealth will be involved in selection of villages and individuals to be interviewed.

ESSENTAIL REQUIREMENTS:

- Substantial experience of agency/consultant in conducting qualitative research
- Substantial experience in conducting research in adolescent and gender issues
- Substantial Experience in producing high impact publications including articles
- Experience in conducting research in Bihar would be an added advantage

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Interested agencies should submit separate technical and financial proposals. Technical proposal should include methodology, work plan with timelines, experiences and CVs of key team members. Independent researchers who have the capacity to conduct similar studies are encourages to apply, specific tasks and deliverable would remain same. Financial proposal should include professional costs and out of pocket expenses. Please provide financial proposal per district as well as combined for all 3 districts. Proposals needs to be sent to the following Email address: The cost quoted should be inclusive of all taxes (in INR).

The proposal should be submitted to VAgrawal@engenderhealth.org

ESTIMATED DURATION OF CONTRACT

4 months from signing of the contract

LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

June 18, 2021 5.30 PM IST

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

We also request the agencies to attach the following along with the proposal.

1. Evidence of registration
2. Goods & Service Tax Registration
3. PAN Card & TAN letter copy
4. Total Annual turnover in last 3 years

EVALUATION OF THE PROPOSAL

- a) Once a proposal is received by the due date and time, EH team will review all proposals and disqualify those that fail to meet the terms set out in the instructions. EngenderHealth may reject any bid that (1) is not signed and dated by authorized employee (2) is not substantially responsive to the terms and conditions of the RFP, (3) is incomplete, including and without limitation, does not have requested supporting documents, (4) and, is otherwise not generally in order. Such proposals shall be deemed inadmissible.

EngenderHealth reserves the right:

- ✓ To accept or reject any and all proposals and/or to annul the RFP process prior to award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected respondents or any obligation to inform the affected respondents of the grounds for EH's actions prior to contract award
- ✓ To negotiate with Respondent(s) invited to negotiate - the proposed technical approach and methodology, and the proposed price based on the respondent's proposals.
- ✓ Amend this RFP at any time

DISCUSSIONS AND AWARD

EngenderHealth reserves the right to seek clarifications, enter into discussions or negotiations, or to make award on initial submissions without discussions or negotiations of any kind. EngenderHealth reserves the right to exclude from further consideration any proposal at any time, including after discussions or negotiations have been entered into.

OFFER VERIFICATION

EngenderHealth may contact offers to confirm contact person, address, bid amount and to confirm that the bid was submitted for this solicitation.

FALSE STATEMENTS IN OFFER

Offerors must provide full, accurate and complete information as required by this solicitation and its attachments. At any time EngenderHealth determines that an offeror has provided false statements in the proposal, EngenderHealth may reject the proposal without further consideration.

RESERVED RIGHTS

All RFP responses become the property of EngenderHealth, which reserves the right in its sole discretion to:

- Disqualify any offer based on offeror failure to follow solicitation instructions;
- Waive any deviations by offerors from the requirements of this solicitation that in opinion are considered not to be material defects requiring rejection or disqualification; or where such a waiver will promote increased competition;
- Extend the time for submission of all RFP responses after notification to all offerors;
- Terminate or modify the RFP process at any time and re-issue the RFP to whomever deems appropriate;
- Issue an award based on the initial evaluation of offers without discussion;
- Award only part of the activities in the solicitation or issue multiple awards based on solicitation activities.

¹ Marginalized villages have been identified by the Tarunya project on the basis of socio-economic status, other developmental indicators and availability of amenities.