

## Adolescent Girls in Fragile and Conflict Affected Setting – Consultations

### Terms of Reference

Project	Adolescent Girls in Fragile and Conflict Affected Setting – Consultations
Assignment	To develop a methodology and conduct consultations with groups of young people, particularly adolescent girls living in fragile and conflict affect areas
Location	Nigeria and Rwanda (with a third country TBC)
Timeframes	Project to be completed by January 2020
Budget	Up to £25,000
Application deadline	Sunday 15th September
Submit to	<a href="mailto:Amelia.whitworth@plan-uk.org">Amelia.whitworth@plan-uk.org</a>

### About Plan International UK

Plan International UK strives to advance children’s rights and equality for girls all over the world. We recognise the power and potential of every single child. But this is often suppressed by poverty, violence, exclusion and discrimination. And its girls who are most affected. As an independent development and humanitarian organisation, we work alongside children, young people, our supporters and partners to tackle the root causes of the challenges facing girls and all vulnerable children.

### Background and Rationale

Ahead of the next Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) meeting taking place in Rwanda in June 2020, Plan International UK will be developing a Call to Action (CTA) that will call on Governments and other key stakeholders to make make strong commitments towards achieving Sustainable Goal 5 on gender equality (with specific reference to adolescent girls) in fragile and conflict affected settings (FCAS). We will be urging the Commonwealth to take a leadership role in taking forward and championing the Call to Action.

In order to develop the CTA we are commissioning a series of consultations with young people (both girls and boys), particularly adolescent girls living in FCAS to ensure that their voices are central to our ongoing advocacy. In addition to the CTA, we will also develop a policy report that will be heavily influenced by the findings of the consultations.

A selection of the young people involved in the consultation process will also attend CHOGM in person and potentially a series of events in the UK as well as being involved in our Because I am a Girl campaigns and communications work.

### Objectives

The selected consultant(s) will be responsible for developing a methodology with strong youth led elements throughout the project to deliver on the following:

- To understand the priority issues affecting adolescent girls living in FCAS in their own words – particularly those that relate to SDG 5 - and how these are or are not shaped by gender inequalities. (This will include consulting with both boys and girls in order to generate comparisons and enable a gender analysis)
- To understand the actions that they feel need to be taken by local, national and international leaders in order to meet SDG Goal 5 in FCAS.
- We are specifically interested in (but not limited to) education, SRHR, VAWG and political empowerment.

### **Audience and purpose of the consultations**

The consultations will form the basis of our upcoming policy report and CTA that will be used in Plan International UK's influencing of CHOGM 2020.

It is intended to be presented at a range of high level events in the UK, in the countries that the research took place, as well as during CHOGM.

Following CHOGM we will look to expand this work to ensure sign on to the CTA from other targets and stakeholders beyond Commonwealth Governments.

It will be used to support Plan International UK's engagement with, and influence of, decision makers, civil society and other actors in policy making and programming working in this field. These include government officials, civil servants, UN agencies and other actors.

### **Outputs**

1. Lead a workshop with key Plan International staff to design the consultation methodology
2. Delivery / co-ordination of the consultations
3. Country specific summaries alongside a full summary report featuring evidence and findings of the consultations

Plan International staff members will develop the CTA and subsequent policy report.

### **Suggested Research Methods**

Central to this project will be a youth led methodology and commitment to involving a diverse range of adolescent girls in each of the settings.

Suggested participatory techniques could include:

- **Groups:** Focus Group Discussions; particularly with adolescent girls themselves to understand their concerns, perspectives, barriers and aspirations as a collective. The consultant should suggest appropriate and safe FGD participatory methodologies.
- **Individual adolescent girls and boys:** semi-structured Interviews.

- We would particularly like to see creative and participatory methodologies such as photo / film voice diary-keeping, community observations, drawings etc.
- Researchers should consider peer-to-peer elements used in these approaches

**NB:** In addition to the consultations being conducted, we may also commission a separate videographer to film interviews and some of the focus groups (where appropriate) with some of the participants for use in our communications and campaigns work leading up to CHOGM. This will also be done in line with our ethics and child protection policies.

### **Countries and Study Sites**

The consultations will take place in 3 countries. This will include Nigeria and Rwanda. A third country will be identified with Plan staff. The Nigeria consultations will need to take place first.

The exact sites will be identified in collaboration with Plan International country staff who will support identifying suitable groups of young people.

### **Timeframe**

The work will need to be completed in January 2020.

The Nigeria consultation will need to take place in October / early November 2019

1. Nigeria – October / early November 2019
2. Rwanda – December 2019 / January 2020
3. Third country - TBC
4. Final summary – January 2020

### **Protection and Ethical Standards**

Any research commissioned by Plan will need to abide by our set of international and country office child protection standards and research ethics before commencing data collection.

Due to the sensitive nature of the research there needs to be special considerations made before research commences to ensure there is adequate psycho-social protection and support available during the research process.

It is suggested that prior to data collection tools should be reviewed by Plan's in-house team of gender and child protection experts who will ensure questions are both sex and age appropriate. It is also suggested that these are shared with local partners and/or local experts in gender and child protection in order to review the questions in respect of each study site and whether they are culturally appropriate, and ensure the necessary support and protection is available before starting the data collection.

It is expected that at a minimum the consultant(s) will ensure that they abide by Plan International's Research Policy and Standards and the following principles when working with participants:

- Treat them with care and sensitivity
- Be objective and transparent

- Avoid ethnocentricity: show respect for their ethnicity, language, religion, gender and sexual orientation
- Rigorously safeguard the dignity, wellbeing, autonomy, safety and security of their family & friends
- Respect their values and right to make their own decisions
- Give special protection to participants with diminished autonomy, such as unaccompanied minors — for example, by involving NGOs or national authorities (e.g. National Refugee Councils) with relevant experience, to provide legal advice, psychological support, language interpreting and/or legally appointed supervision.<sup>1</sup>

Where possible, working with local partners and researchers with a good understanding of the local context is supported. Any partners/researchers involved must be in a position to take an objective and fair approach and comply with Plan's research policy and standards .

## 10. Research Management

Consultant(s) will report directly to the Senior Policy and Advocacy Manager.

The work will be carried out in close collaboration with the Plan Gender Adviser and other members of the policy and advocacy team

## 11. Qualifications and Experience

Consultants would need to have:

- A commitment to promoting and supporting child rights and gender equality
- Significant knowledge and understanding of participatory / youth led research methodologies
- Good experience of evaluating youth and / or participation projects
- Experience devising and managing multiple country primary research / consultation programmes
- Demonstrable analytical skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills & communication skills – including extensive report writing experience
- Ability to deliver on tight time frames and meet deadlines

## 12. Budget

Please shape your proposal based on an available budget of up to **£25,000**

## 10. Application Process

Plan UK welcomes a response to these Terms of Reference, with a CV and short written statement including:

- the consultant(s)' suggested approach including methodology, schedule and proposed research matrix
- an outline of costs & timescales
- examples of relevant previous work

Responses should be sent to: Amelia Whitworth (amelia.whitworth@plan-uk.org) **no later than 5pm on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September**. Phone interviews will be conducted that week.

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