

# Research Funding options

## Terms of Reference

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### 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

Plan International UK, and the wider Plan International Federation, has considerable experience and expertise working with girls and young women and this remains a major strategic priority for our future policy and programming work.

A significant part of this work is ensuring that we have a strong research agenda and evidence base.

In order to inform our influencing work we currently we have two significant research agendas:

1. Understanding social norms (influence/change) in the context of girls' lives
2. Girls in emergency and humanitarian settings.

We are currently undertaking an 18-year longitudinal research study (across 9 countries), with this study entering its 12<sup>th</sup> year and with potential for new opportunities to scale/deepen the research to accompany the 'core' research approach. We also have the capacity to deliver other pieces of research throughout the year.

However, in order to maximise our ability to influence for change we are commissioning this work to provide advice and recommendations on possible future funding opportunities to scale up our evidence base.

### Objectives:

- Advise Plan International UK on current research funds and how we can access this to build up our research portfolio

- Provide recommendations on future research areas within our existing priorities that we would be able to access current or future funding
- Provide recommendations on possible future partnerships and consortium
- Advise on best practise research funding bids

## **Output**

A report outlining:

- Mapping of funders – who funds research, what their thematic interests are / what they've funded historically; how they allocate funding, including what the eligibility requirements are and for this to be mapped out based around our thematic areas
- An 'engagement plan' – how to follow-up on / or create opportunities with funders (e.g. with 'non-traditional' funders, such as foundations, an understanding of how they commission research and how we can increase our profile with them
- A timeline of funding windows

Suggested research methods

- Desk based research
- Key informant interviews with stakeholders (internally and externally)

## **Audience and how this study will be used**

The final output will be an internal document that will be used by Plan International UK research, policy, advocacy and funding staff to support the development of our internal thinking, and support the organisation to develop its future research and influencing agenda.

## **Timeframe**

The consultant is expected to develop a detailed timeline for this piece of work. The full budget will not exceed £6,000.

## **Management**

Consultant(s) will report directly to the Research Manager at Plan International UK and will be carried out in close collaboration with staff across the Policy and Programme Directorate and wider federation.

## **Skills and Experience**

- A commitment to promoting and supporting child and girls' rights
- Excellent understanding of gender equality and children's rights
- Proven background in successfully accessing research funds for similar organisations

- Strong understanding of organisations and networks that fund research and contacts within them
- Demonstrably strong analytical, writing and communication skills, with a track record of writing policy briefing papers for external audiences.
- Conversant with child protection in emergencies, education in emergencies, gender in emergencies and child rights and advocacy.
- Fluent spoken and written communication skills in English.
- Ability to deliver on tight time frames and meet deadlines within agreed budgets

## **Application Process**

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

- A summary of approach and methodology
- Costs & timescales
- A capability statement demonstrating how they meet the required qualifications and competencies;
- Examples of relevant previous work
- Copies of all relevant Curriculum Vitae (CVs). Only CVs for the specific individuals that will form the proposed evaluation team should be included.
- Two references (including one from your last client/employer).

**Responses should be sent to: Lili Loveday (Lilli.Loveday@plan-uk.org) no later than 5pm on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June. Phone interviews will be conducted that week.**