

Research Study:

“Enabling environments for adolescent SRHR in humanitarian responses”

Terms of Reference

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

125 million people need humanitarian assistance worldwide, a number that has increased fivefold over the past 10 years¹ which includes a staggering 26 million women and girls in their child bearing years². In these fragile and conflict affected settings women and girls are disproportionately affected due to increased vulnerability to gender-based violence, unwanted pregnancy, HIV infection, maternal death and disability, rape, trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse³.

HIV prevention and family planning are particularly important in a crisis situation, as risky behaviour, including transactional sex, often increases at times of emergencies. A UNHCR survey across refugee camps in five countries – Djibouti, Kenya, Uganda, Jordan and Malaysia, found very little information nor access to contraception. It was even more difficult for adolescent girls to access any SRHR services or information, as premarital sexual relations were disapproved of in the refugee cultures. Condom dispensers, which would allow for anonymity, were often empty.

Marginalised adolescents, including those who are HIV-positive, face additional barriers in accessing services and are at a greater risk of increased poverty and exploitation due to their lack of power and participation.

¹ OCHA World Humanitarian Data and Trends 2016

² Adolescent Girls in Disaster & Conflict: Interventions for Improving Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services, UNFPA 2016

³ Adolescent Girls in Disaster & Conflict: Interventions for Improving Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services, UNFPA 2016

Recent commitments at the London Family Planning Summit in 2017 and World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 have included greater focus on SRHR and provision for young people but significant gaps still exist in providing the necessary support for girls and young women in humanitarian settings.

Plan International has recently published a series of research reports of Adolescent Girls in Crises, hearing directly from girls and young women in South Sudan, Lake Chad and Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. This research will build on the findings from these reports and help inform policy and influencing strategies for Plan International UK's work on Girls in Crises.

Purpose and objectives

This multi-country (up to two countries) research project will support Plan International UK's policy and advocacy work on adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights in humanitarian contexts. It will also provide a valuable contribution to wider sector knowledge on the issue and help inform programming in this area.

This research will explore SRHR in fragile and emergency contexts, with a particular focus on adolescent girls. The research has the following objectives:

Overview

- To understand the barriers to delivery and implementation of good quality adolescent SRHR programming in humanitarian response.
- To examine and highlight enabling factors and solutions that allow good quality adolescent SRHR programming in humanitarian response.

Literature review and key informant interviews

Primary research questions

- What are the main barriers, key issues and trends for inclusion of adolescents in SRHR programming (particularly HIV integration) in humanitarian response and at the humanitarian-development nexus? What evidence already exists to demonstrate this? What are the evidence gaps that still need to be addressed?
- What examples of good practices in programming are there? And what are the enabling factors that allow this?

Secondary research question

- Which agencies and donors are currently delivering adolescent SRHR programming and advocating for it? What is their approach and understanding of ASRHR barriers and solutions to good quality programme implementation?

Recommendations:

- What can humanitarian and development actors do to enable systematic inclusion of quality adolescent SRHR, particularly HIV integration, programming in humanitarian responses?

- What different approaches should humanitarian and development agencies be taking to enable this?
- To propose 2 future focus areas where more in-depth research is needed.

Suggested research methods

- Desk based research
- Key informant interviews including with: global stakeholders in relevant humanitarian clusters such as health, education and protection; members of IAWG; donor governments (particularly DFID); UNFPA.
- Key informant interviews with agencies operating at country level in two case study responses, including: UNFPA, humanitarian and development agencies, WHO, donor agencies.
- Observation of cluster meetings, and IAWG meetings

Countries and study sites

The countries in which the research will take place will need to be discussed and agreed with Plan International UK. However, the short-list of potential countries includes the following: Lake Chad (Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon, Chad), South Sudan, Tanzania, Bangladesh.

Outputs

1. Workshop with key Plan International staff to design research
2. A report outlining the findings to the objectives outlined above including:
 - a. Summary of the main barriers identified to delivering good quality adolescent SRHR programming, at global and country levels, in humanitarian responses
 - b. An analysis of the factors and potential solutions that can enable better integration of ASRHR programming in humanitarian responses
 - c. Recommendations to different target stakeholders (DFID, donor agencies, UN agencies, humanitarian and development organisations) on addressing inclusion quality ASRHR programming in humanitarian responses
 - d. 2 recommendations for areas for further in-depth research
3. PowerPoint presentation for use as part of the report dissemination
4. Appendix – List of documentation reviewed, people and organisations interviewed.

Audience and purpose of the research

The final report will be used to inform a policy briefing on adolescent SRHR in humanitarian responses to be used by Plan International UK policy, advocacy and programmes staff as part of its influencing agenda.

Timeframe

The consultant is expected to develop a detailed timeline for this piece of work. The full research and report should be delivered no later than 31st August 2019.

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.

Research Management

Consultant(s) will report directly to the SRHR Policy and Advocacy Manager at Plan International UK. The work will be carried out in close collaboration with the Plan International UK International Policy and Programmes directorate and wider federation.

Skills and Qualifications

The desired specifications and qualities of the consultant(s) are:

- A commitment to promoting and supporting child and girls' rights
- Excellent understanding of sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Excellent understanding of gender equality and children's rights in fragile settings and humanitarian contexts.
- Key contacts across Government, UN Agencies and NGOs working in humanitarian contexts including in country.
- Demonstrably strong analytical, writing and communication skills, with an excellent track record of writing high quality research reports for consumption by external policy and programme audiences
- Experience of evaluating child protection and gender-based violence projects in fragile settings and humanitarian contexts is desirable
- Ability to deliver on tight time frames and meet deadlines
- Fluent spoken and written communication skills in English. Knowledge of French would be an asset.

Budget

Please shape your proposal on an available budget of up to £14,000 including all time and travel costs as well as any other associated costs. All expenses will need to be covered by this budget.

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
- An outline of 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: Aoife Nic Charthaigh (aoife.niccharthaigh@plan-uk.org) no later than COB Tuesday 19th March 2019. Phone interviews will be conducted on 26th March 2019.