

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF THE CONSULTANT TO CONDUCT A RAPID ASSESSMENT TO IDENTIFY EXISTING EMOTIONAL ISSUES OR BARRIERS, GENDER AND SOCIAL NORMS AS WELL AS THEIR ROOT CAUSES DRIVING ADOLESCENTS TO UNHEALTHY BEHAVIOR AND PRACTICES

Introduction on the project

YWCA Rwanda in partnership with UNICEF with funding from the people of Japan is implementing the project titled “**Improving Adolescents health and well-being**” in Kirehe and Nyamagabe districts that is empowering 40,000 Adolescents and young people both female and male. The project seeks to improve access to comprehensive healthcare for vulnerable adolescents and young people between the ages of 10-19 who are at a high risk of HIV infection, teenage pregnancy, sexual exploitation and abuse and malnutrition. These individuals include teen mothers, out-of-school adolescents, those from humanitarian settings, street children, orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs), and school dropouts.

Project expected results

- ❖ Communities demonstrate improved awareness, knowledge, attitudes and support inclusive programmes for adolescents' health (including mental health), nutrition and well-being.
- ❖ Health care providers, community health workers and other social service providers are providing quality, comprehensive and inclusive adolescent-friendly health services (including mental health, HIV, SRHR, nutrition and child protection).
- ❖ Vulnerable adolescents have improved knowledge, skills and self-efficacy to adopt positive behaviours and are accessing quality and inclusive health and nutrition services in and out of school, including in refugee settings through multiple platforms (peer education, digital, community mobilisation).
- ❖ Vulnerable adolescents have developed competencies in livelihood, financial literacy, vocational knowledge, and entrepreneurship, and are linked with initiatives promoting economic empowerment.

Justification:

The importance of carrying out this behavioral assessment (both qualitative and quantitative) is to identify and better understand underlying social norms, beliefs as well as identify enablers/motivation for improved prevention of HIV and mental health issues among adolescents and young people in Kirehe and Nyamagabe districts including utilization of associated services (cultural beliefs and values affect decisions about HIV prevention). The assessment will help to reveal key information that may not be easily got from other available studies – given the fact that HIV relation behaviors are very intimate and personal and influenced by various factors and may vary from district to district.

Objectives:

- ❖ To assess key social norms barriers, gender norms, behaviours and practices associated with HIV spread and mental health issues among adolescents of 10 to 19 years in Kirehe and Nyamagabe districts.
- ❖ To gain deeper understanding of socio-cultural barriers that hinder the utilisation of HIV services-related to behaviour change, including the adoption of best practices, and emotional barriers regarding accessing mental health services.
- ❖ To identify key influences and/or motivation factors at individual, households and communities' willingness to adopt proper HIV prevention practices and overcome stresses, worries and difficult situations.

Methodology:

- ❖ The assessment will use mixed methods which will be designed to capture explicit as well as implicit data, actions as well as words, and uncover both what is said as well as what is not said. Proposed methods will include participant observation in communities and households and informal interviews with adolescent girls and boys of 10 to 19 years in target districts including adolescents from humanitarian setting.
- ❖ Key informant interviews will also be used as triangulation to find out if behaviours, emotions or beliefs that are observed are more individual or shared. Interviews should also be used to gather more data on beliefs, emotions, norms and practices. Interview guides will be developed based on the findings from participant observations. Key informants can include parents, caregivers, youths/adolescents (boys and girls), religious leaders, service providers at health centers (who could be well versed with the notion of HIV, reproductive health and mental health), community health workers, local authorities namely, sector social affairs officers etc.
- ❖ The data collection will be carried out in sampled sectors of Kirehe and Nyamagabe districts. The consultant must develop an inception report that clearly articulates the approach to conducting the study first before delve into the details of the study, which will be done in consultation with district authorities including district hospital, health centers and UNICEF.

Description of the assessment

- ❖ Development of assessment methodologies
- ❖ Data collection tools
- ❖ Data analysis
- ❖ Compilation of the report
- ❖ Presentation of the preliminary report to YWCA team for comments or inputs
- ❖ Power point presentation of the assessment findings.
- ❖ A brief paper of the findings and recommendations on how to use these findings to inform our social behaviour change communication strategies.
- ❖ Presentation of the findings to YWCA, UNICEF and key stakeholders in both districts.

Duration of the assessment

This assessment will be conducted within 20 days.

Consultant profile and requirements

The minimum qualifications, skills, and experience required are:

- ❖ Proven Experience in assessment related to Social Behaviour Change interventions for HIV prevention, Mental health and health seeking behaviour,
- ❖ Master's degree in public health or social sciences with at least 3 years' experience or Bachelors' degrees with at least 5 years professional experience.
- ❖ Fluency in Kinyarwanda and English is required;
- ❖ Not presenting any restriction of timework forecast by YWCA, and is ready to hand over the final report on time.

VI. APPLICATION SUBMISSION

- A motivation letter addressed to the YWCA Executive Director
- Current detailed CV of the key consultant(s) involved in the assignment with copies of their degrees/certificates;
- Detailed proforma invoice of estimated budget showing the cost to carry out this assessment;
- Valid tax clearance certificate from Rwanda Revenue Authority,
- Proof of similar assignments previously performed is an added advantage;
- Any other documents stated in the requirements above.

All interested and qualified consultants are invited to submit their bid documents accompanied by all above specified documents to info@ywca.rw and ywcarwa@yahoo.fr . Applications should be submitted not later than 31th July, 2023 with a subject “**Consultancy of adolescents’ health and well-being project in Kirehe and Nyamagabe**”.

Done at Kigali on 24th July, 2023.