

**Terms of Reference for Short Term Evaluation of the project
Promoting Rights Through Inclusion and Empowerment (PRiTiE)
Implemented by BLAST and CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University
Funded by Riksförbundet För Sexuell Upplysning (RFSU – The Swedish Association for Sexuality
Education)**

Duration –2018-2021

1. Background:

Bangladesh has undertaken policies to address gender discrimination, signed up to SDGs and human rights treaties (including CEDAW, albeit with reservations), and has a plethora of laws, policies and programmes that target gender discrimination. Broad political commitments are also in place. However, sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) continue to be denied through the prevalence of patriarchal institutions, social norms, and discriminatory laws and practices. Child, early and forced marriage still remain widespread, with Bangladesh having, globally, the fourth highest rate of marriage under the age of 18. In such cases, as with forced/coerced marriage, an individual's choice to marry remains largely unaddressed. The recently enacted Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017 includes a special provision exempting underage marriages in 'special circumstances' from its ambit, which also results in forced and early marriages where one's ability to give consent is negated. Besides this, gender and sexual diversity is not widely recognised (there is recognition of gender identity in a very limited capacity through a Social Welfare Ministry gazette recognising the Hijra community), resulting in significant violations related to the denial of information and decision making connected to personal lives, in particular rights within the family and regarding sexuality. For example, Section 377 of the Penal Code 1860 is treated as criminalising same sex relationships. Under such social circumstances, young adults often do not receive necessary information growing up about their SRH rights and are not aware of possible violations which can cause severe and lasting harm. The absence of dialogue also affects young men in a society where discrimination against women and girls is already prevalent, who are ignorant of, or unwilling to respect women's rights to choose and consent. The experiences of LGBT individuals in this matter are almost wholly unaddressed (except now in the context of Hijra communities). There is also generally a lack of SRHR training for service providers. Innovative frontline services such as one-stop crisis and victim support centres exist, but these are limited to certain urban centres. Despite legislative developments, social norms continue to sanction violence in the family, and a culture of victim blaming and stigma means that women and adolescent girls are discouraged from speaking about sexual harassment and violence they experience.

There is a lack of availability of SRH services catering to the needs of young people, including young people who are gender and/or sexually diverse, such as non-stigmatised and non-discriminatory access to information on and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases and infections, reproductive health services beyond family-planning, pregnancies, deliveries and pre-natal healthcare, access to contraception regardless of marital status, and access to counselling support, among others. This absence of a positive, enabling legal and socio-political atmosphere is particularly restrictive for young people seeking to exercise their SRHR, even more so for young individuals in marginalised communities who have non-normative gender identities and sexual orientations, and persons with disabilities whose agency and participation in the SRHR discourse is completely overlooked.

It is particularly essential to build the spirit of combatting issues of discrimination, upholding and respecting SRHR, and working towards bringing about reforms to address the gaps in laws and policies.

Based on this context, BLAST initiated a project *Promoting Rights through Inclusion and Empowerment (PRITIE)*, supported by RFSU (The Swedish Association for Sexuality Education), the first phase of which commenced in May 2018 and concluded in December 2020. Through this initiative, BLAST has sought to address issues relating to the recognition and realisation of SRHR, particularly for young people in Bangladesh. This intervention aims to target laws, practices, delivery of services, and enhanced participation (in dialogue and movement building) and capacity of rights holders and duty bearers with regards to SRHR through its activities. It is expected that by engaging rights holders and service providers (seeing as they are young professionals and/or students) through innovative initiatives, selected individuals' knowledge, and capacity to stand for their own rights as well as for others will increase. BLAST's mandate through this intervention has been not only to advocate for the rights of individuals, but also to create safe spaces, opportunities, and methods for them to be directly involved in advocating for their own rights and protecting them.

2. Project Objectives:

- To address **discriminatory laws, policies and practices** related to marriage and sexual violence in the context of Bangladesh and international human rights standards.
- To create **platforms for University students and young professionals in the project area** to express their views and experiences on their freedom to express, choose and consent to matters related to their own lives, and **strengthen their knowledge and understanding and** increase their participation in ensuring their rights.
- To enhance the **capacity of service providers on sexual and reproductive health and rights**.

3. Beneficiaries:

The PRITIE project implemented in six selected public and two private universities in Bangladesh. The primary beneficiaries of this project, the primary group of rights-holders, were the students of these six universities, including, in particular, students who are members of the Safe Space Groups established by the project in each university. The project worked to build the knowledge and capacity of Safe Space Group members on SRHR issues and engage them in dialogue on human rights and SRHR violations, particularly in the context of Bangladesh. Secondary beneficiaries of the project include academics, young professionals, lawyers (staff and panel lawyers of BLAST), and paralegals, who have received capacity building trainings on SRHR and human rights mechanisms, particularly within the context of the Bangladeshi legal system. The project is estimated to directly benefit approximately five hundred individuals, including 240 students, 24 academics, and lawyers (both staff and panel lawyers of BLAST) and paralegals.

4. Implementing Partners and Funding Support:

The project was implemented by BLAST in collaboration and partnership with the Centre of Excellence for Gender, and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (CGSRHR), BRAC James P. Grant School of Public Health (BRAC JGPSHP), BRAC University. Project activities are supported, by six public universities, through individual MoU partnerships with BLAST. The PRITIE project is funded by RFSU – the Swedish Association for Sexuality Education.

5. Purpose of the Short-term Evaluation:

The first phase of the project commenced in 2018 and will be concluded in 2021. The aims of the proposed Short-term evaluation are to assess the continued relevance of the project and to assess the effectiveness of session facilitation process, content relevancy, practice scenario of the learnings, learnings, and challenges of the project, measure the progress made and results achieved so far, through five key lenses.

In reminding the possibility of second phase implementation or scaling up approach First, the Short-term evaluation will assess the **appropriateness of the project**: through reviewing its objectives, assessing the suitability of its target population, analyzing the problems which the intervention identified and sought to address, evaluating the extent to which the needs and demands of the target population were unmet, assessing whether the project design was suited to addressing these needs, and whether the activities planned were appropriate in meeting the needs of the target population.

Second, the Short-term evaluation will measure the **effectiveness of the project**: through assessing the approaches used in the implementation of project activities and evaluating these against the key objectives of the project, focusing on activities implementation process, content relevancy, outcomes and measuring changes in perspectives around SRHR amongst stakeholders and within the wider society, assessing.

Fourth, the evaluation will measure the **immediate results / short-term impacts** achieved through the project, assessing whether these are aligned with project objectives, and assessing progress against stated outputs. The evaluation should also identify any challenges affecting the effective and efficient implementation of outputs and how these have affected outcomes and the impact of the project and recommend goal-based activities/courses/modules corrections going forward as learning and current practice.

4. Specific objectives of the Short-term evaluation:

The Short-term evaluation has following objectives:

- To measure the extent to which the PRITIE project has met its immediate objectives, expected results and outcomes over the project duration of intervention.
- To assess which interventions and strategies have proved to be most effective and least effective, and to assess the quality and sustainability of the same.
- To assess the relevance of the problems identified which the project sought to address, and the appropriateness of the project design, target population/beneficiaries, and aims and objectives.
- To explore and identify any good practices within the project period, that led to positive changes in the realization of and access to SRHR for young people, and increased young people's engagement with the SRHR dialogue and movement within the local/national context.
- To understand the intervention impact upon the project beneficiary and stakeholder's awareness and behavior level.

6. Study areas:

The intervention is supported by the following six public and two private universities in Bangladesh: Jagannath University, Jahangirnagar University, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Sylhet, Khulna University, Islamic University, Kushtia and the University of Barishal. The project successfully set up Safe Space Groups in each of these six public universities, with third and final year students from

various faculties/departments as members of these Groups. The total number of Safe Space Group members across all six universities is approximately 240, and the total number of faculty members supporting the implementation of activities across these universities is 24.

7. Scope of work and methodology need to address:

The Short-term evaluation shall adopt both qualitative and quantitative methods to collect information for both primary and secondary sources. It would be preferred to use qualitative method if the time and resource is constraint. This study will focus on participatory method that actively engages all stakeholders. It is envisaged that the following methods will be applied:

- Review all relevant project related documents (including project proposal, log frame matrix, annual narrative and financial reports, baseline survey report, Experience sharing meeting reports) and any other background documents. Documents will be provided by project staff.
- Conduct 3 (Three) FGD with safe space group members, 1 (One) FGD with the advisors of Safe Space group and 2 (Two) FGD with the training participants of SRHR Short course and national and international human rights mechanism on SRHR to evaluate the training facilitation process, content relevancy, impact of those training, learnings.
- Conduct KII with SRHR training facilitators.
- Conduct in depth interview with safe space group members to show the practice of SRHR and find out the challenges with the discussion of SRHR issues to others.
- Conduct in depth interview with the advisors of safe space group to assess the modality of fellowship program and photo exhibition program. Also trace out the researches, progress of policy level changes and the issues raised for advocacy regarding SRHR.
- Develop a concept note for the short-term evaluation. This will include a timeline, methodology and workflow. The concept note should also include details on the evaluation methodology, data collection and plans for data analysis.
- Develop all relevant sampling and data collection tools, to be shared with the PRiTIE team/ M&E team/ relevant project persons and finalized after feedback.
- Hold consultative meetings with PRiTIE/M&E team to discuss the assigned task and progress.
- Conduct the Short-term evaluation, collect and analyse data, and prepare a draft report.
- Arrange a debriefing session for the PRiTIE team or relevant project persons.
- Generate final report (after incorporating feedback from PRiTIE team, M&E and others) with short term impact of the project and include assessment of future program needs and recommendations for interventions and strategies for possible scaling up approach.

8. Deliverables:

The consultant will be responsible for the following deliverables:

- Inception report of the Short-term evaluation, based on the consultant's initial review of relevant project documents, which will set out the overall evaluation framework (methodology, key evaluation questions, data sources, timelines, etc.) they aim to adopt in conducting this review.
- Carrying out review of secondary data (including relevant project documents, e.g. project proposal, logframe matrix, annual narrative and financial reports, baseline survey report, Experience sharing meeting)
- Developing evaluation methodology and specific evaluation questions.
- Data collection tools developed focusing the study objective and expected results

- Carrying out field review, including data collection through survey questionnaires, in-depth interviews, Key informant interviews, focus group discussions etc.
- Conducting process evaluation (e.g. evaluation of training facilitation, content relevancy, fellowship modality, photo exhibition, short film competition, advocacy in policy level, implementation)
- Analyzing qualitative and quantitative data collected in the course of the evaluation
- Producing and presenting draft report
- Producing physical and electronic copies of cleaned data sets (After the study BLAST will be the rightful owner of these data set.)
- Producing final evaluation report

9. Dissemination:

The consultant will be responsible for disseminating the findings, learnings, challenges amongst the PRITIE project team and M&E team at BLAST through the evaluation report and power point presentation.

10. Timeline:

The Short-term evaluation is planned to conduct within **45 working days** of signing the consultancy agreement.

11. Payment Schedule

- 30 % at the time of signing of the contract.
- 40% after the completion of field work and submission of draft report.
- 30% on submission and acceptance of the final report.
- VAT and Income tax will be deducted at source from the total contracted amount as per applicable Government rules.

12. Responsibilities of Contracted Agency

- Will maintain the agreed time frame.
- Will ensure the quality, accuracy and integrity of data collection and data processing
- Will address any feedback from the contracting agency (i.e. BLAST) as and when required
- Will work in consultation with BLAST and its implementing partners
- Will arrange interviews and appointments with stakeholders as necessary, for the purpose of the assignment.
- Will receive project related documents from BLAST and partners, and will receive and address feedback on data collection tools, data sets, and draft and final reports as well any other relevant feedback.
- Will always maintain confidentiality while undertaking this contract, and particularly while handling project documents and during data collection and will be expected to exercise all caution and sensibility when handling, storing, and sharing information during the course of this contract, including in relation to any individual's gender and sexuality, and sexual and reproductive behaviour.

13. Eligibility for Submission of Proposal

Consultant(s) must meet the following requirements:

- Must have at least 4/6 years of professional experience in conducting research, evaluation, data collection and reporting in the field of SRHR and public health.
- Must have a strong background in gender analysis, legal and policy framework analysis, and socio-legal research.
- Must have prior experience in evaluating programmes and activities implemented by NGOs and CSOs, with a focus on SRHR, gender justice, gender-based violence and discrimination, and legal and policy advocacy.
- Must have proficiency in applying qualitative and quantitative research methodologies.
- Experience in working with rights based organizations and local communities. Experiences in working with young people/university students and gender diverse communities are appreciated.

14. How to Apply

Interested applicants are requested to submit a brief proposal outlining:

- a) Personal profile
- b) Prior experience with similar assignments
- c) Conceptual framework/understanding of the assignment
- c) Proposed methodologies for conducting the assignment
- d) If working in a team, composition of team and staffing
- e) Financial offer.

15. Preparation of the Proposal:

The technical and financial proposals should be marked properly and should include the name and detail contact address of the lead consultant/agency mentioning. Mention the specific name while submitting the proposal.

16. Confidentiality:

All the outputs such as reports, documents, information produced by this assessment are the property of BLAST and cannot be sold, used, or reproduced in any manner by the assigned reviewer/team without prior permission from BLAST.

17. Others Terms & Conditions:

- a) Proposal must be sent from vendor's own email ID and receiving more than one proposal from same email ID will be treated as non-responsive.
- b) BLAST reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Proposals /tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever
- c) **Delivery time and place:** Awarded consultant will complete the work and send through online in after signing agreement at BLAST Head Office.
- d) **Inspection/supervision:** BLAST authorized person will inspect the work and provide

certification, which will be given based on the satisfactory completion of work otherwise payment may deduct based on situation.

- e) **Offer Validity:** 60 days from the date of submission.
- f) **Evaluation:** Proposal evaluation will be made based on BLAST Procurement Guideline 2018.
- g) **VAT & Tax:** VAT and Tax will be applicable as per Government rule. **VAT (15%) and Tax (10%) will be applicable at source under the term as 'consultation service' as per govt. rules.**
- h) **Payment:** Payment will be made by account payee cheque in favor of your consultant after satisfactory delivery and a notation on the completion report by the recipient (with name, designation & date).
- i) **Partial Payment:** Partial payment may be allowed.
- j) **Alternative Offer:** Alternative offer will not be accepted.

The proposal should not exceed 7 pages, and should be divided into two components: (i) the Technical Proposal (weight: 75 points); and the Financial Proposal (25 points). The CVs of consultant/all team members within a consultancy firm undertaking the assessment, work plan, and detailed proposed budget (part of the Financial Proposal) must be annexed to the proposal. Individual consultants are encouraging to apply.

The complete proposal must be submitted **by email** to purchase@blast.org.bd **within 3:00 pm, 20, September, 2021**

BLAST reserves the right to terminate the contract if the work produced by the consultant(s)/contracted firm is not of satisfactory quality or fit for the purpose of the contract. In case of termination, payment will not be made.

Bid Clarification: Queries regarding this RFP can be raised by September 16, 2021, 3:00 p.m. through this email ID purchase@blast.org.bd. All clarifications will be given to individual Consultant by September 19, 2021, 5:00 p.m.

Primary Contact	Secondary Contact
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