



Terms of Reference for to conduct an evaluation on adolescent and youth sexual reproductive health and rights - “Reducing Harmful Traditional Practice (RHTP) project ”

Introduction

VSO is the world’s leading independent international development organization that works through volunteers to fight poverty in developing countries since 1958. VSO’s high impact approach involves bringing people together to share skills, build capabilities, and promote international understanding and action, and change lives to make the world a fairer place.

VSO has been working in Bangladesh since 1974 to ensure that marginalized communities in some of the poorest districts can participate in, contribute to and benefit from the country’s economic and social development. VSOB seeks to increase the impact and longevity of existing services and opportunities, by strengthening communities’ ability to access them and increase service delivery capacities to deliver them equitably and with quality.

Background

Bangladesh is the 6th highest ranked of child marriage practice in the world and the 1st ranked in South Asia. 52% of girls are married by their 18th birthday, and 18% by the age of 15 (UNICEF, 2016). This practice is more prevalent in rural areas where 71% of girls are married before the age of 18, compared to 54% in urban areas (Human Rights Watch, 2015). VSO Bangladesh is working in the most needed area which covers the northern and southern rural of Bangladesh with the highest rate of child marriage.

Child marriage has torn apart millions of girls’ futures. A social mapping which has been done in the northern part of Bangladesh showed the causes which seeing a child marriage as a practical solution of poor economic condition, dowry system, lack of awareness of SRHR (Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights) and bad consequences of child marriage, as well as social pressure and cultural stigma. All these causes are wrapped in gender inequality. The life after child marriage itself is always ugly. Not being able to continue education, physical and psychological problems, domestic violence and fully independent of the husband, have resulted in the inferior quality of life of the girl's victims of child marriage.

Communities are practicing harmful practices traditionally which is creating a huge negative impact on the lives and livelihoods of youth and adolescents including child marriage, improper management of menstruation, dowry, violence against women. VSO works to improve AYSRHR by reducing the impact of HTPs such as SGBV, early forced marriage, taboos around menstruation and puberty, eve-teasing and sexual harassment, etc.

Adolescent and Youth Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (AYSRHR) program focus on eliminating harmful traditional practices and social norms around sexual and reproductive health. VSO empowers youth



and facilitates community members to address these issues at an individual, family, community, and health service delivery level.

VSO has been implementing Reducing Harmful Traditional Practices project in two Upazila including Palashbari and Mithapukur under the districts of Gaibandha and Rangpur. VSO Bangladesh has been working by building a partner organization's capacity by empowering them and upholding and ensuring the rights of the citizen through practicing a rights-based approach.

Goal

To contribute to improving the SRHR of young and adolescent females and males by reducing the incidence and impact of harmful traditional practices (HTPs) in Gaibandha and Rangpur.

The specific objectives of this project

- To improve SRHR practice at individual, family, and community levels by leading young women and adolescent girls to adopt SRHR good practices and have access to SRHR services.
- To revitalize local SRHR service mechanisms to drive the effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery.
- To strengthen inclusive coordination involving local government and civil society and service providers.
- To improve SRHR by reducing HTPs for increasing demand for effective and accessible SRHR services by leading community youth, community-level organizations, institutions, and influencers drive.
- Youth leads local, district and national level policy advocacy around SRHR and other youth issues.
- To Improve behavioral change of community people by implementing school sessions and courtyard meetings and of the youth club member.

Approaches

- Community-based youth advocates, peer educators, peer mentors, peer monitors, and peer researchers.
- Male advocates and peer educators.
- Boys' and girls' clubs (in and out of school).
- Courtyard, community and health facility AYSRHR sessions.
- Local leadership engagement to enforce laws prohibiting HTP's.
- Increase in the number of early marriage prevention committees.
- Increase awareness about and advocacy against HTPs using e.g. Theatre, sport, and film.

The target group in north and south

- 5,600 young women and adolescent girls.
- 1,200 community youth through 40 Youth Clubs.
- VSO Volunteer Alumni, National Youth Engagement Network (NYEN) and other local and national youth and volunteer networks.
- Government-mandated community governance committees of health facilities, Union Standing Committees for Health, Youth Clubs, Girls Club, Teachers, Parents-Teachers Association and School Management Committees (SMCs), Madrasah Management Committee.



- Department of Family Planning; Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE); Front-line workers in Community Clinics (CCs), Upazila Health Complexes (UzHCs) and Family Welfare Centers (FWCs).

Estimated outputs of the project

- Young women and adolescent girls adopt SRHR good practices and have access to SRHR services, leading to improved SRHR at the individual, family, and community levels.
- Revitalized local SRHR service mechanisms to drive the effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery. and have strengthened and more inclusive coordination involving local government and civil society and service providers.
- Community youth, community-level organizations, institutions, and influencers drive improved SRHR by reducing HTPs and increased demand for effective and accessible SRHR services.
- Youth leads local, district and national level policy advocacy around SRHR and other youth issues.

The specific objectives of the research

- To assess the overall impact in reducing child marriage and improvement of Adolescent and Youth Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights.
- To assess the change in knowledge, attitude, and behavior of primary actors including adolescents and youth, Community people, students, and health workers of Community clinics.
- To assess how the three core approaches including social accountability, social inclusion, and gender and resilience have been integrated and brought positive changes in the working area. The impact of using Community-Led Monitoring (CLM) tools in attaining AYSRHR services.
- To assess how adolescent-friendly services through the AYSRHR corner (community clinic) and menstrual hygiene management corner (in schools) have been improved.
- To assess the sustainability and scale-up component of the project through the volunteering approach.

Deliverables

- Provide a detailed report on the impact of reducing harmful traditional practice project.
- Provide recommendations to improve the AYSRHR-Reducing Harmful Traditional Practice (RHTP) project.

Duration

All the fieldwork, data collection, interviews, KAP survey, and FGDs must be completed by the Mid of **March 2020** and the final complete report is submitted on or before the **3rd week of March 2020**. Before submitting the final report, the draft report will be presented to VSO management to have feedback and suggestions.



significant tasks and deliverables against dates in a table as shown in the example below:

Evaluation of task/output	Deadline
Closing date for the proposal submission	20 January 2020
Interviews	26-31 January 2020
Appointment of contractor	01 February 2020
Initial meeting with contactors	1 st week of February 2020
Inception report delivered	1 st week of February 2020
Steering group give feedback on the reception report	2 nd week of February 2020
Inception report signed off	2 nd week of February 2020
Fieldwork (may want to specify dates for any primary research if there are any restrictions although it is for the contractor to establish how many days they need depending on their proposed methods)	2 nd – 3 rd week of February 2020
Data collection, analysis, and compilation.	1 st week of March 2020
Draft final report	2 nd week of March 2020
Steering group give feedback on the draft final report	2 nd week of March 2020
Delivery of final report	3 rd week of March 2020
Presentation of the findings to the steering group	4 th week of March 2020

Resources

VSO is implementing AYSRHR Programme in the northern and southern parts of Bangladesh. VSO will make available existing program documents and facilitate engagement with partners and primary actors in the project areas, where VSO operates. The consultant/consulting firm will collect data from Rangpur, Dinajpur, Gaibandha, Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira and Barisal district, where VSO implements project activities through local partners.

Supervision

The consultant/consulting firm will work under the direct supervision of VSO's Programme Manager-youth supported by the Country Director.

Overall approach

The consultant/consulting firm will employ a mixed-methods approach (qualitative+ quantitative) to conduct the documentation study. S/he will produce a full report with other documentation, data tables, and analysis in compliance with these Terms of Reference.

Expertise required

The proposed consultant/consulting firm should include the technical expertise and practical experience required to deliver the scope of work and study outputs with regards to:

- Master's degree in social science for the key proposed expert(s).
- Experience in MPH, Gender right base project experience, Adolescent Health or SRHR based project experience.
- Experience in conducting AYSRHR or similar study/research in the context of poor and marginalized community engagement.
- Extensive experience in using qualitative methods.



- Demonstrated success in conducting evaluations in culturally diverse contexts.
- Understanding of the Volunteering for Development Approach.
- Access to local language researchers to ensure smooth communication with primary actors.
- Minimum 10 years' experience in undertaking similar work.
- Fluent in Bangla and English language for the clear understanding of multi-lingual participants.
- Skills in quantitative and qualitative data collection and presentation with appropriate methods.

Proposal submission and selection process

Interested organizations/individuals should submit a **hardcopy** of technical proposal and financial proposal (professional fees and estimated direct costs) to the "Procurement Committee" VSO Bangladesh, House # 382 (1st & 5th floor), Road # 28, New DOHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka 1206 by **20 January 2020**.

CVs of the proposed team/individual should be included as an annex to the proposal. The proposal should be a maximum of 20 pages (excluding Annex) and should include the following;

- Understanding of the study; Detailed approach and methodology; Work plan, team formation, and information about previous similar work experience in the last five (5) years. Risk factors and risk mitigation strategy
- The proposal will be evaluated based on the following criteria;
 - Approach and methodology including the understanding of the study.
 - Team formation and qualification of proposed key expert(s).
 - Relevant record of accomplishment.
 - Work plan.
 - Personnel schedule.
 - Overall presentation.
 - Detailed costing for the study.

Payment

The consultant/consulting firm will be paid through A/C payee Cheque/online bank transfer in the name of the bid winner (organization or individual). Applicable Tax and VAT will be deducted at source during the payment made. Please mention the bank information in your proposal as appropriate. Payment will be processed only based on the satisfaction of the final report. Mode of payment will be paid after draft report submission as 40% (1st installment), 30% (2nd installment) will be paid after receiving 1st draft and the remaining 30% (3rd installment) will be paid after submission of the final report. All payments will be made upon receiving satisfactory deliverables according to the VSO requirement.

Policy and practice

Any document, information or data entrusted to or produced by VSO in connection with this agreement shall remain confidential and cannot be used by the service provider for any other purpose. This ToR will be followed by VSO corruption policy, data protection policy and child protection policy which will incorporate in detail in the final agreement. This provision shall remain valid even after the completion of this assignment.



Termination

Either of the parties possesses the right to terminate the contract giving one-week notice, paying for all deliverables completed at the time of termination, and a pro-rata share of any deliverable in progress of this contract.

Following documents to be delivered to the contractor:

Appendix: 1) Project profile of RHTP

Appendix; 2) Baseline survey

Appendix; 3) Brief of core approaches

Appendix 4) AYSRHR signature program

Appendix 5): List of policies that the contractor should sign off

Appendix 6) : Evidence quality principal