Q & A:

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| Question | Answer |
| In the mentioned RFQ “Is Consortium allowed ?” | As per the RFQ you are required to have local and international experts for which you could set up partnerships. However, UNFPA will enter into an agreement with a single entity. That entity is allowed to enter into partnership with other organizations and will need to manage the partnership on its own. |
| Master’s qualification – is it compulsory? i.e. would not having a master’s (even of one expert) disqualify the proposal? Or only reduce the chances/score? | As mentioned in the RFQ all experts are required to have Master's qualification. Score will be deducted if this criteria is not met. |
| International expertise – does this include local residents who have had experience working internationally? | Yes, local residents who have extensive international experience will be considered international experts. Evidence of recent international experience should be provided. |
| Sample size – other than population and statistical considerations by the research team, does UNFPA have guidelines on size, range and/or minimum representational categories for the sample? | No, we do not have guidelines on the size, range and/or minimum representational categories. However, the sub population categories to be covered in the sample are listed in the RFQ.  *The study should cover women and girls aged 15 years and above in urban, rural and estate sectors including those living in disaster prone areas. The sample should be robust and nationally representative not excluding any specific vulnerable sub-populations. The study should cover vulnerable subgroups through quantitative and qualitative measures. The sub-populations include*   * *women with disabilities, those in extreme poverty, and women with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities* * *Women living with family/partner, living alone.* * *Women living in government and private residential care facilities, quarantine centers, shelters etc.* * *Migrant returnees* * *Sex workers and women living with HIV* |
| Are there any predetermined positions of Experts for the team of the consultancy? | As mentioned in the ToR the team should include at a minimum   * One project coordinator * One international expert or agency or institution * Two national experts * One research assistant   The team should comprise international and local experts on the subjects – gender and sexual and reproductive health. |
| In addition to experiences required, what are the minimum Education qualifications required? | Team leader and experts - Master's degree  Research assistance - Bachelor's degree  Please see ToR for details (pages 13 - 14) |
| The ToR says the sample should be a robust one. Can you please elaborate on what number of sample based on what admin boundaries? Or else can we propose what we consider as a robust sample?  a. Number of samples for entire Sri Lanka?  b. Number of sample for a district?  c. Number of sample for a Divisional Secretariat area? | We have not defined a number for the sample size. You are required to propose the sample. |
| Does UNFPA take required approvals of authorities for primary and secondary data collection? | No. The vendor is required to get the required approvals. |
| Should the international expert be a non-Sri Lankan Citizen? or Sri Lankan expert who worked internationally too or a Sri Lankan Citizen who worked with un organization. | You are required to have local and international experts for which you could set up partnerships. However, UNFPA will enter into an agreement with a single entity. That entity is allowed to enter into partnership with other organizations and will need to manage the partnership on its own.  Local residents who have extensive international experience will be considered international experts. Evidence of recent international experience should be provided. |
| Regarding the requirement for experts, is it required to have an international expert or are national experts in this area also accepted in terms of expertise? | Yes, an international expert is required. This could be an individual or a partnership with an international organization. Local residents who have extensive international experience will be considered international experts. Evidence of recent international experience should be provided. In the case of a partnership, UNFPA will enter into an agreement with a single entity. That entity is allowed to enter into partnership with other organizations and will need to manage the partnership on its own. |
| In order to understand the scope of the survey re nationwide or selected districts that are representative of the required demographics,  it would be helpful if you can share a sense of the budget? | USD 80,000 +/-10%. Budget should reflect the level of expertise of the consultancy team, detailed methodology, and high quality output. |
| When saying media, does it apply to mainstream media, i.e, TV and print media or does it also include social media? | It covers mainstream media as well as social media. |
| We are also wondering if supplemental examples from media reportage of women/girls be included also in retrospect - say from the benign of Covid in SL? | Yes |