

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Research on the resources allocated to the prevention of unintended early pregnancy in South Africa and Malawi

1. Rationale

The Embassy of France in South Africa is inviting bids for research on the resource allocations (government / civil society / international organisations / private sector) towards the prevention of early and unintended pregnancy in South Africa and Malawi.

The prevalence of unintended pregnancy amongst adolescent girls remains high in both countries, despite a multitude of stakeholders involved and interventions rolled out to attempt to prevent and manage these situations. Therefore, it appears useful to reflect on the relevance, effectiveness, coherence and adequacy of the interventions deployed, as well as the resources dedicated to prevention.

This research will be commissioned to generate data about the resources currently allocated to prevention interventions, and an assessment of their adequacy. The research findings are expected to inform decision-making and future resource allocation by the various stakeholders concerned (governments, civil society, etc.)

This research falls under a framework cooperation programme funded by the Embassy of France in South Africa, Lesotho and Malawi in 2022-2023, to support the strengthening of the prevention of unintended early pregnancy in South Africa and Malawi. The programme consists of three work streams and activities, including research, intended to add value and complement existing interventions, as described in Annexure 1.

The research will be commissioned to a research organisation in South Africa and/or Malawi.

These Terms of Reference (ToR) spell out the expectations for the research.

2. Brief presentation of the project

The framework cooperation programme “*Strengthening of the prevention of unintended early pregnancy in South Africa and Malawi*” stems from France’s commitment as global leader of the Generation Equality Action Coalition on Bodily Autonomy and Sexual and Reproductive Rights and Health (SRHR), and responds to Malawi and South Africa’s key concern for the prevention and management of unintended early pregnancy.

Indeed, unintended early pregnancy is a protracted issue in light of the statistics. An average of 120,000 girls and adolescents under the age of 18 become pregnant each year in South Africa, and 80,000 in Malawi. Children born to teenage mothers account for 13% and 35% of births in these two countries respectively. 29% of 15-19 year-old girls in Malawi have been pregnant at least once. On top of being a posing health risks for both the mother and the child, pregnancy among adolescent girls has social, economic and psychological implications that affect their educational and future opportunities, and hinders progress towards gender equality.

The multiplicity of factors driving early pregnancy, and the complexity of a standardized response, partly explain this situation. Studies suggest that existing interventions do not sufficiently take into account the contextual specificities and the lived realities of the young people concerned. Policy and programme implementation also seems to be lagging. Last but not least, there seems to be a lack of a holistic and coordinated strategy to tackle the problem effectiveness.

This framework programme aims to contribute to the prevention of unintended early pregnancy among young girls and adolescent women in South Africa and Malawi. To this end, the programme's three work streams are designed to strengthen existing prevention mechanisms and interventions, to foster the exchange and upscaling of best practices between Malawi, South Africa and France, and contribute to building partnerships between actors committed to tackling the issue:

- *Work stream 1:* Support the identification and exchange of expertise on early pregnancy prevention approaches in South Africa and Malawi.
- *Work stream 2:* Foster better stakeholder consultations on adolescent and youth SRHR, and greater youth participation in the design of early pregnancy prevention strategies
- *Work stream 3:* Strengthen prevention programmes and capacities in and around schools.

The research conducted under the first work stream, will inform activities in the other two work streams.

The active participation of young people in all activities will be prioritized.

3. Purpose of the research

This research will generate data about the resources currently allocated to prevention interventions (government / civil society / international organisations / private sector) in South Africa and Malawi, and an assessment of their adequacy.

The purpose is twofold:

- A. Identify the resources allocated by the South African and Malawian governments, civil society, international organisations, private sector, etc., over the past 5 to 10 years, to prevent unintended early pregnancy.
- B. Assess the adequacy of the resources allocated to prevention.

4. Scope

The scope of the research is as follows:

- The research will cover two countries, *South Africa* and *Malawi*, and collect and analyse information at all relevant levels of intervention (international, national, provincial / district, local).

It is however acknowledged that the research may not be as exhaustive as desired due to time, resource, and data availability constraints. The research report will clearly state any scope restrictions in that regard, including any sampling methodology used, as applicable.

- The research will focus on the *prevention of unintended early pregnancy*, understood as a pregnancy that occurs to an adolescent girl between 10-19 years old who was not planning to have any (more) children, or that was mistimed in that it occurred earlier than desired, and regardless of whether the pregnancy is carried to term or not (termination, miscarriage, etc)¹.

By *prevention*, one means a deliberate undertaking aimed at stopping unintended early pregnancy from happening. As such, the research will not consider undertakings aimed at managing situations from the moment an adolescent girl has fallen pregnant.

¹ Based on the definition of unintended early pregnancy provided in the UNFPA *State of World Population 2022*, p.6.

- Will be considered any policies, plans, programmes and interventions by government, civil society or other development partners, intentionally designed to contribute to preventing unintended early pregnancy in South Africa and Malawi, in the last 5 to 10 years.
- The research will consider *any sector and determinants* (sociocultural, economic, environmental) that may have a positive or negative bearing on unintended early pregnancy occurring in South Africa and Malawi.
- The research will give precedence to *the views and inputs of young people*, particularly adolescents aged 10-19, as well as young women who have experienced one or more unintended early pregnancy. Indeed, the youth ought to be involved in any process aimed at designing or assessing prevention undertakings intended to benefit them, to ensure that they are relevant to their needs and views, and adequate.

Due consideration will be paid to guidelines and restrictions pertaining to conducting research with children (under 18) applicable in South Africa and Malawi.

5. Services requested

A. Identify the resources allocated by the South African and Malawian governments, civil society, international organisations, private sector, etc. to prevent early and unwanted pregnancies:

- collect quantitative and qualitative data on the financial and non-financial resources allocated over the past 5 to 10 years, and currently committed;

B. Assess the adequacy of the resources allocated to prevention:

Using the findings of the data collection, meta-analysis as applicable, as well as interviews with stakeholders and concerned parties, the researcher(s) will:

- develop an estimate of the resources needed to roll out prevention of unintended early pregnancy in Malawi and South Africa, effectively and with impact. When possible, provide a breakdown of estimated resource needs per sector and type of intervention;
- assess the *adequacy* of resources allocated over the past 5 to 10 years and currently against the estimated needs. *Adequacy* shall be understood as the extent to which the resources as a whole appear to be sufficient for the purpose of reducing the prevalence of unintended early pregnancy to a satisfactory level²; and the extent to which the various sectors and types of intervention appear to be adequately resourced;
- assess the *consistency* of resources allocated by the South African and Malawian governments, and through official development assistance (ODA), with national and international commitments.

6. Process and deliverables

The research will follow a 3-stage process, with deliverables as detailed below.

All deliverables will be submitted by email to the Embassy's Attaché for Development Cooperation, who will share them with the Advisory Committee.

² To be assessed against targets such as set in Sustainable Development Goals, Target 3.7.2; SADC Regional Strategy for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) 2019–2030 and SADC Scorecard; national targets; Global Strategy for Women's Children's And Adolescents' Health 2016-2030, Implementation In The African Region (AFR/RC66/9); Maputo Plan Of Action 2016-2030; Campaign for accelerating the reduction of maternal mortality in Africa (CARMMA); Agenda 2063 of the African Union; ESA Commitment; etc.

The researcher(s) will consider the feedback and comments received without prejudice to their independence.

6.1. Inception

This stage will serve to:

- a) clarify the expectations of the Embassy of France and Advisory Committee, the scope of the study, timelines and benchmarks, etc;
- b) specify the methodology, protocols and research questions.

- **Inception meeting** between the researcher(s) and the Advisory Committee.
This meeting will serve to introduce the research project more in details and share any documentation and contact details needed.
- **Inception report.**
In this report, the researcher(s) will recall the context and purpose of the research; list out the research questions, and detail the methodology and tools / means to collect the data; specify the schedule for data collection; and provide a tentative list of stakeholders to be interviewed (in-person or through calls / online communications).
The researcher (s) will submit a draft inception report to the Embassy's Attaché for Development Cooperation, who will share with the Advisory Committee for review and feedback. The researcher(s) may be requested to consider submit a revised version taking into account the feedback received.

6.2. Data collection and analysis

During this stage, the researcher(s) will collect the data needed according to the research objectives and questions.

- **Draft research report** (max. 50 pages, excluding annexures).
The draft report will include the components listed at section 5 of the ToR, and an outline of the work remaining and timeline.

6.3. Final research report

This stage will allow the Evaluator(s) to finalise their analysis, draw the conclusions, and formulate recommendations if deemed relevant.

- **Final research report** (max. 80 pages, excluding annexures).
The final report will be structured as follows:
 - Cover sheet
 - Table of content
 - List of acronyms
 - Executive summary (2 to 5 pages)
 - Brief literature review
 - Methodology
 - Results / findings of the research
 - Analysis
 - Conclusions & recommendations
 - Annexures: references; list of stakeholders interviewed; data collection instruments.

The research report will be the property of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) and the research agency. The final research content may be communicated, published or used freely, with proper referencing.

- **Close-out meeting** with the Advisory Committee.
This meeting will allow the researcher(s) to present the findings of the research to the Advisory Committee, and provide an opportunity to discuss the conclusions and recommendations.

7. Methodology

7.1. Key principles

The research methodology shall be underpinned by the following principles:

- Impartiality and independence of the research from the commissioning agency (Embassy of France in South Africa) and from stakeholders consulted;
- Credibility of the research, through the use of appropriately skilled and independent experts and the transparency of the research process, including dissemination of results to the relevant stakeholders;
- Meaningful participation of a diversity of relevant stakeholders in the research, to ensure that a diversity of perspectives and views are taken into account. In particular, the research will give consideration to the views and inputs of the youth.
- Usefulness of the research findings and recommendations, through timely presentation of relevant, clear and concise information to stakeholders concerned;

7.2. Methodology

The specifics of the methodology and specific research questions shall be proposed by the researcher(s).

The research will be carried out using primary and secondary research – desktop research, interviews (phone / in-person), meta-analysis – as relevant and as permitted by the budget. The proposed methodology for the research will be presented to the Embassy of France in an inception report.

Bidders are requested to explain the kind of information (qualitative / quantitative) they propose to collect for the various aspects of the research, and how they propose to collect it, based on limitations regarding data availability, accessibility, as well as geographic and time constraints.

8. Management

This research is commissioned by the Cooperation and Cultural Action Department (SCAC) of the Embassy of France in South Africa, Malawi and Lesotho. The SCAC will be the focal point for any planning, implementation and administrative matters pertaining to the research.

The Embassy will convene an Advisory Committee, whose role will be to select the researcher(s), and provide insights and feedback on the research questions and findings of the study, without prejudice to the independence of the researcher(s).

9. Tentative timeline

The study will be carried out between 1st of September and 31st of December 2022.

The tentative timeline is as follows:

Deadline for submission of tenders	7 th of August 2022
Selection and award of contract	1 st of September 2022
Inception meeting	Beginning September 2022
Close-out	January-February 2023

10. Additional information for bidders

- Further information about the project may be obtained from the SCAC. Requests should be addressed by email to warda.ouzemmal@diplomatie.gouv.fr **by 28th of July 2022**.
- The researcher(s) should have knowledge and experience in the following areas:
 - Experience with budget analysis;
 - Experience conducting research on social and human sciences topics would be a plus;
 - Experience conducting (field) research South Africa and/or Malawi;
 - Demonstrated ability to conduct research with a diversity of stakeholders;
 - Good communication skills, both orally and in writing;
 - Excellent English writing and oral skills. Any other South African or Malawian languages, a plus.

10. Bidding process and how to apply

Interested candidates must submit the following documents/ information to demonstrate their qualifications:

- Technical proposal (max. 20 pages)
 - i. Explain their understanding of the work and deliverables,
 - ii. Provide a brief methodology on how they will approach and conduct the work, including a tentative schedule;
 - iii. Explain why they are the most suitable to conduct this research.
- Financial proposal, based on the template in Annexure 2.
- CV of all lead researcher(s), highlighting past experiences in similar research projects.
- At least 2 references.

Interested candidates are requested to submit an electronic copy of their expression of interest/ proposal with the subject REF: "Research on resource allocation for the prevention of unintended early pregnancy – [name of Bidder]".

Applications must be submitted to warda.ouzemmal@diplomatie.gouv.fr **by 7th of August 2022**.

11. Contract award criteria

Description		Weight
Technical criteria		
a	Experience with budget analysis	25
b	Experience conducting (field) research South Africa and/or Malawi	10
c	Experience conducting research on social and human sciences topics	5
d	Adherence to ToR's specifications and related requirements, clear understanding of needs and deliverables.	20
e	Robustness and relevance of the methodology	10
f	Ability to deliver the research within the given timeline	10
g	Communication, writing skills and language proficiency	10
Commercial criteria		
h	Competitive fee rates and expenses in relation to the market and demonstration of value for money.	10
Total		100

ANNEXURES

Annexure 1 – Presentation of the framework cooperation programme

Annexure 2 – Financial proposal guidelines

Strengthening the prevention of unintended early pregnancy in South Africa and Malawi

GOAL

Contribute to strengthening the prevention of unintended early pregnancies in South Africa and Malawi

STAKEHOLDERS

South African and Malawian line departments: Health, Education, Social Development / Welfare, Gender

South African and Malawian civil society organisations & youth networks

French public institutions and civil society organisations

Development partners: UN agencies, European Union, cooperation agencies



WORK STREAMS AND ACTIVITIES | 2022 - 2023

Support the identification and exchange of expertise on early pregnancies prevention approaches

€127,000

Studies on the effectiveness of prevention approaches and programmes

Study of budget allocations to the prevention of unintended early pregnancies

Exchange of expertise between South Africa, Malawi and France

Technical expertise on “Care and Support in Schools” programmes

Foster better stakeholder consultations on adolescent and youth SRHR, and greater youth participation in the design of early Strengthen prevention programmes and capacities in and around schools.

€276,000

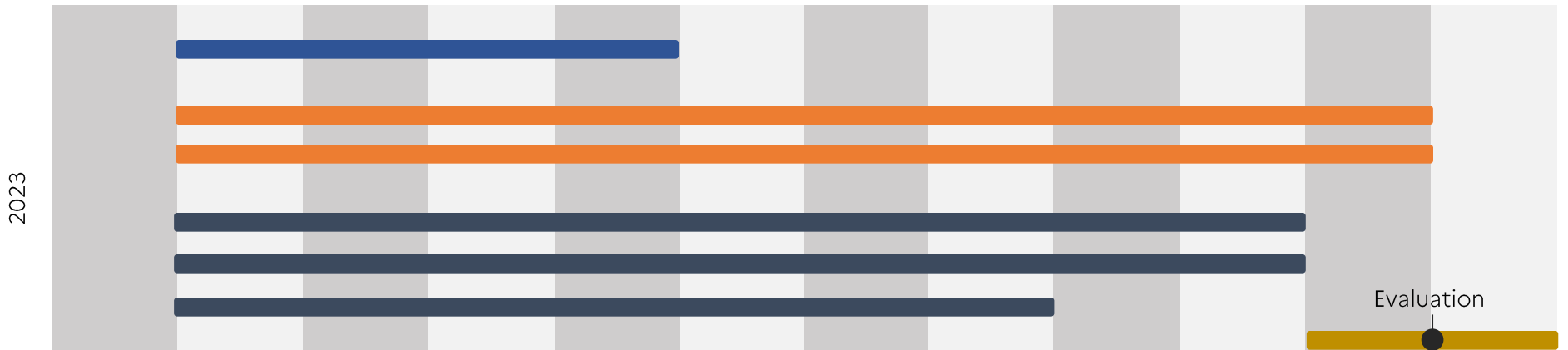
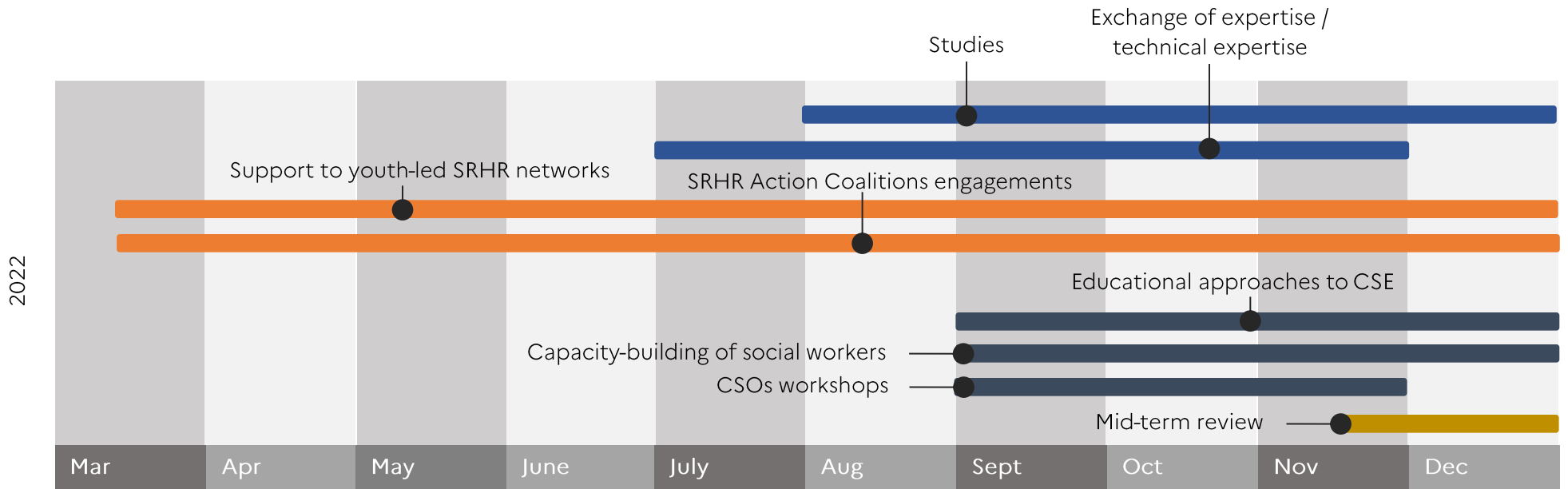
Support to youth-led SRHR networks in South Africa and Malawi

Foster multi-stakeholders consultation platforms on SRHR – Generation Equality Forum’s Action Coalitions on SRHR

Strengthening of training framework for Life Skill / Life Orientation teachers, and educational approaches to comprehensive sexuality education

Workshops with civil society organisations to strengthen their capacity to roll out impactful interventions

TIMELINE



ANNEXURE 2 – FINANCIAL PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Please provide the following information, as applicable:

Daily rate (in ZAR)	Researcher name 1	Researcher name 2	Researcher name 3		

Description	Number of days	Total nb of days	Amount (in ZAR)
1 – Inception phase			
Sub-total (1)			
2 – Data collection and analysis			
Sub-total (2)			
3 – Final submission			
Sub-total (3)			
4 – Other costs			
Sub-total (4)			
TOTAL			