

Annex F

Invitation for Expression of Interest

UN Women is in the process of identifying potential Responsible Parties for the implementation of (Provision of Alternative Economic Livelihood for Female Traditional Practitioners).

1. Introduction

a. Background/context for required services/results

The European Union (EU) and the United Nations have embarked on a new, global, multi-year initiative focused on eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWGs) known as the EU/UN Spotlight Initiative. The Spotlight Initiative places all forms of VAWGs at the center of efforts to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is a new joined-up approach and partnership between the UN and the EU in collaboration with the government to deliver on the SDGs in an integrated manner in line with respective mandates. A key component of the programme is to eliminate Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), Harmful Practices (HPs), and increase women's and girls' access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHRs).

Through a comprehensive approach, the Spotlight Initiative focusses its work on eliminating SGBV and HPs, and addressing SRHRs, through six key pillars: 1) developing and implementing relevant legislation and policies; 2) strengthening national and sub-national institutions; 3) preventing violence through evidence-based programmes and campaigns; 4) establishing essential services for victims and survivors; 5) ensuring the collection and use of prevalence and incidence data and 6) working with civil society organizations and women's movements.

Furthermore, the program seeks to eliminate the practice of Female Genital Mutilation through engagement with traditional practitioners and support for their alternative economic opportunities. In Liberia, FGM is closely related to women entering a secret female society called Sande. FGM is based on social norms and values that are detrimental to the rights of the girl child and women. It is believed that certain elements of the Sande society have good cultural practices, such as hair platting, traditional dances, etc.

Against this background, this programme intervention seeks to provide alternative economic livelihood for female traditional practitioners as a means of abandoning the practice of FGM in their communities and society, but at the same time equip them with options of livelihood/economic opportunity. Interventions will include providing alternative sources of livelihoods for Female traditional practitioners through provision of skills, support, and knowledge, as well as the Alternative Rite to Passage (ARP), which will systematically devalue FGM in Sande societies and enhance positive teachings, which equip adolescents with customized and age-appropriate skills and knowledge to facilitate their transition to womanhood.

b. General overview of services required/results

The intervention on empowering female traditional practitioners with alternative livelihood support takes into consideration previous lessons learned from the Phase 1 Spotlight Programme that community engagement and sensitization are key to ensuring the full participation of female traditional practitioners in addressing social behavioral change in their communities and improving the lives of young women and girls and their community. It is also important to compliment community engagement and sensitization with economic opportunities.

Access to alternative economic activities for female traditional practitioners is an affirmative action for economic empowerment. Through this, female traditional practitioners have a second chance to become economically empowered. The programme seeks to prioritize the vital role of the traditional practitioners, including traditional and religious leaders, community members and the vulnerable and marginalized groups in ensuring that their

communities are free of all forms of VAWG and that everyone respect each other no matter their sex or gender. In this context, UN Women will implement the below activity:

2. Description of required services/results

Under the leadership of the Deputy Country Representative overall guidance of the Programme Manager for the Women Economic Empowerment Pillar (WEE) and direct supervision of the Programme Analyst, the Responsible Party will provide the below services/results:

- In close consultation with key stakeholders such as National Council of Chiefs & Elders of Liberia (NACCEL), the Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection (MGCSP) and the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), provide capacity building for innovative actions for 800 traditional practitioners (500 from 6 non-spotlight counties¹ and 300 traditional practitioners from 5 Spotlight Counties²).
- Provide capacity building in Climate-Smart Agriculture and VSLA trainings for the targeted female traditional Practitioners.
- Access to finance through small grants including establishment of revolving funds mechanisms.
- 32 Village Savings and Loan Associations established for the target female traditional practitioners' access to sustainable finance including for the provision of small grants to beneficiaries.
- Support the development of the Simple Rites of Passage document that will facilitate the alternative rites of passage programme for initiation of girls into womanhood without the FGM component.

3. Timeframe: Start date and end date for completion of required services/results

This initiative shall commence from July 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023. Selected partner will provide a schedule of service and required to complete required services/results within agreed timeframe.

4. Competencies:

a. Technical/functional competencies required

1. Reputation of Organization and Staff:

- Documented successful track record (for newly formed organizations, the personnel to be assigned to the UN Women project should be gender balanced and have a proven track record of 5 years in the subject field including on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls).
- A proven commitment to results (able to provide records of successful projects).
- Proven credibility and experience in the country or region in terms of working towards gender equality, women's rights, and women's economic empowerment.

2. General Organizational Capability:

- Strength in working with CSOs networks and coalitions and conducting successful and standard trainings on designing, implementation, and monitoring of programs on ERAW and Women and Girls SRHRs including Women's Economic Empowerment.
- Record and evidence on skills in advocacy and lobbying for change in laws and policies that affect women and girls;

¹ Grand Bassa, Rivercess, Bomi, Gbarpolu, Bong and Margibi Counties;

² These traditional practitioners will be selected from the Inventory Listing of Traditional Practitioners.

- Record and evidence of organizational culture of accountability, such as a written code of conduct, measures on anti-corruption and sexual harassment policy.
 - A track record of delivering quality and timely project results.
3. **Organizational expertise in the area of specified programme:**
 - Evidence that the organization can conduct quality trainings, mentoring/handholding and other needed support to the clients of the project or previous experience and expertise of successfully managing projects of same nature.
 4. **Accountability and Financial Control:**
 - A functioning internal control framework and process to deliver quality and timely project results.
 5. **Grassroots presence/Outreach:**
 - Evidence of the organization having grassroots presence and or affiliation with other similar strong qualified organizations in the country.
 - **CSOs that partner with local Community Based Organisation**, especially those of marginalised groups or groups facing multiple forms of violence will be of an added value to the applicant
 - a. Other competencies, which while not required, can be an asset for the performance of services
 - Innovation with traditional practitioners on good cultural practices.

Those interested in participating in the process should forward their expression of interest to UN Women (procurementrequest.liberia@unwomen.org) by (May 25, 2022) enclosing the information listed below.

- Full legal name and address of applying organization.
- Copy of valid legal registration in the country.
- Mandate or mission statement of organization.
- Statement of organization's expertise in the relevant area.
- Description of the organization's existing operations in the subject matter area, including how long the operations have been carried out.

Upon receipt of the above information from prospective Responsible Parties, UN Women will review applicants for placement on a short-list of potential Responsible Parties. During the implementation of the programme cycle, those short-listed candidates may be invited to submit formal proposals (using the standard UN Women Call for Proposals template) to become a Responsible Party. The Call for Proposals will provide a more detailed description of the scope of work.

Note:

Due to the high volume of communications, UN Women is not in a position to confirm receipt of completed expressions of interest.