

## INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES

- Country: Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt)
- The purpose of the study is to generate reliable evidence on knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) among men in the Gaza Strip related to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and child rearing. The study will collect in-depth qualitative and quantitative information on the underlying social, cultural and economic factors that drive prevailing social norms on SRHR and child rearing.
- Type of Consultancy: National & International
- You are cordially invited to submit your proposal to:

palestine.hr@unfpa.org by closing date and time **Wednesday, 30 September 2020.**

To enable you to submit a proposal, enclose please find:

Terms of Reference (TOR)

Yours sincerely,



Kristine Blokhuis  
Representative  
UNFPA



## TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT

TERMS OF REFERENCE (to be completed by Hiring Office)	
Hiring Office:	UNFPA Palestine
Purpose of consultancy:	<p>The purpose of the study is to generate reliable evidence on knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) among men in the Gaza Strip related to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and child rearing. The study will collect in-depth qualitative and quantitative information on the underlying social, cultural and economic factors that drive prevailing social norms on SRHR and child rearing.</p> <p>Its findings are expected to provide those working on SRHR and positive and balanced parenting with a wider evidence base upon which to develop more effective interventions to involve men and boys in SRHR and child rearing, which resonate with families and communities and are perceived as legitimate. The findings will also provide insight on the KAPs among men on decision making mechanisms within families on if, when, and how many children to have, as well as choice of contraception and women/girls decision making power and access to SRHR services. The results will help inform interventions to support women's agency in decisions regarding reproduction.</p> <p>The findings of this research will inform an ongoing three year joint programme funded by Agence Française de Développement (AFD) being implemented by UNICEF, UNFPA, and WHO, in partnership with local partners, to improve the continuum of care for sexual, reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child, and youth and adolescent health (SRMNCHAH) nutrition and development in Gaza. Beyond the ongoing joint programme, the findings of this study will be used by UN agencies and relevant national stakeholders to plan and implement interventions in line with national goals and strategies for SRHR, gender equality, and child rearing.</p>
Scope of work:  <i>(Description of services, activities, or outputs)</i>	<p><u>Background:</u></p> <p>UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO are implementing a three year joint programme (2020 - 2023) on SRMNCHAH in Gaza, funded by AFD. The programme aims to improve access to quality and sustainable sexual and reproductive health, child health, nutrition and early childhood development services in Gaza. Within the programme, UNFPA is commissioning a researcher or team of researchers to carry out a study on knowledge, attitudes, and practices on SRHR and childrearing among men in Gaza in order to inform future interventions and to contribute to national goals and strategies, such as the national SRH Strategy (2018-2022). The study will be based on existing knowledge and research on the subject. The study will be used by the UN, local authorities, and NGOs to enhance interventions and engagement of men and boys. The research should be in line with UNFPA global guidance on involvement of men and boys in SRHR.</p> <p>The National Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy 2018-2022 outlines three main objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To ensure availability and access to high quality SRH services</li> <li>2. To promote SRH across different ages through community awareness and adopting healthy behaviors and preventive care</li> <li>3. To promote sustainability and governance of the SRH sector</li> </ol> <p>In Gaza, men and extended families have significant decision making power regarding how many children to have and when to have them. This impacts use of family planning, IVF services, maternal health, and access to other SRHR services and information. Global research has found that male engagement initiatives on SRH, including maternal health and gender based violence, and child rearing can have significant behavioral and health outcomes for their partners and children. This study will identify drivers behind these practices, in order to develop targeted interventions towards men and boys.</p> <p>Objectives of the consultancy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work with UNFPA, UNICEF, and WHO to undertake research on the KAP of boys and men, specifically in their role in SRHR.</li> <li>2. Collect a high quality methodology and data set that can be used as a baseline. There will be a follow up midline assessment carried out in 2022-23. The baseline and midline are not intended to evaluate specific interventions carried out under the project, as there will be alternative M&amp;E mechanisms for the project funded by AFD. However, the baseline and midline will be able to evaluate societal changes as a whole over</li> </ol>

the course of the project period. UNFPA will plan to have a follow up assessment towards 2030 to assess long term changes, as societal changes take a long time.

3. Write a concise study report that can be used by UN agencies, NGOs, and the government of Palestine to design and implement interventions to achieve national goals outlined in the SRH National Strategy and committed during ICPD25 (details in Annex 1). The study report should be reader friendly and a maximum of 40 pages, in order to ensure wide usage and dissemination of results.
4. Provide recommendations to UNFPA and partners on priority activities for interventions targeting men and boys and SRHR and child rearing.

Components of the study must include:

1. KAP on SRHR among men with wives, daughters, or other close family members living with disability.
2. KAP among adults on SRHR for young people, building on a recent social norms study carried out by UNFPA. For example, what are the KAP among adult men towards young people accessing SRHR information and services.
3. Topics including, but not limited to, menstruation, family planning, child rearing practices, care during and after pregnancy, IVF, how to care the baby at home, gender-based violence prevention, including son preference. After conducting the desk review the researcher(s), UNFPA, and UNICEF should discuss the final topics to be addressed in the research. The angle in which to address these topics should be in line with the workshop held with key stakeholders to identify the research questions and methodologies.
4. The research must apply the “do no harm” principle, so as to avoid any risk to study participants.

Methodology requirements (minimum):

- The study should be mixed methods, with the primary focus on qualitative methods. Depending on the final research questions, the methodology should be developed with approval from UNFPA and UNICEF.
- Desk review
- Key informant sources to include interviews and review of global guidance on male involvement in SRHR / child rearing, and KAP among men and boys and SRHR
- Focus group discussions with the following groups (minimum)
  - Married and unmarried men and boys in different age groups from 15 and above. Some should be fathers and brothers to unmarried girls. The FGDs should be split by appropriate age groups and categories (ie. young men, fathers of certain age categories, etc.)
  - Male community and religious leaders
  - Men with family members (particularly children) that are living with disability
  - Women and girls to document their views on their expectations from men and boys related to SRHR.
- The study should include a minimum of 40 focus group discussions and 15 key informant interviews. This should be adjusted based on the proposed methodology in the inception report and based on feedback and inputs from relevant colleagues at UNFPA and UNICEF.
- The study should involve participants from all governorates in Gaza, refugees and non-refugees, access restricted areas, rural and urban, and different socio-economic status’.

The study will consist of four phases:

1. **Inception phase** including:
  - Desk review of available literature and national and international guidance on male involvement in SRHR and child rearing. The KAP study should build on existing evidence, including key documents such as a recent study on social norms and SRHR among young people, the child marriage strategy, IVF studies, UNFPA male involvement strategy, and others. UNFPA and UNICEF will provide relevant documents, as a starting point for the review.
  - Preliminary discussions, including two joint workshops to ensure a common understanding of the scope and focus of the study and to refine the methodology;
    1. With UNFPA Palestine, UNICEF Palestine, and relevant colleagues at UNFPA and UNICEF regional offices,
    2. With women’s NGOs in Gaza
  - Submission of required ethical clearances to the appropriate ethical review boards.
  - Inception report preparation. The inception report should be in English and approved by UNFPA, in coordination with the advisory board, prior to data collection. Provision of input from UNFPA/UNICEF and the advisory board may take up to 1 month. During this time, the consultant should begin to hire/prepare the data collection team. The inception report must include:

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Introduction, context and purpose (based on desk review)</li> <li>b. Methodology, including all data collection tools (full list of questions to be used in any survey/FGD/KII interview questions), identification of key informants and specific settings, sampling methods, limitations. Data collection tools should also be submitted in Arabic.</li> <li>c. Analysis of risks and identification of mitigating measures. Risks related to ethical issues, especially in consideration of the involvement of young people in data collection;</li> <li>d. Work-plan detailing schedule, team members' roles and responsibilities, and logistics;</li> <li>e. Outline of the final report.</li> <li>f. Annexes (TORs, KAP matrix, data collection tools)</li> </ol> <p>2. <b>Data collection and analysis phase:</b> Data collection and analysis will be mixed methods, with qualitative and quantitative methods. Qualitative and quantitative data analysis should be computer-based, using designated data analysis software. The Consultant is expected to specify the data analysis software and approach in the proposal. A thorough training should be conducted to train enumerators on data collection.</p> <p>3. <b>Reporting phase:</b> The consultant will be required to submit at least one draft report (in English with executive summary in Arabic) to be submitted for comments to UNFPA and the advisory board, which is under the AFD project Steering Committee. UNFPA and the advisory board will provide feedback, which the consultant will be expected to incorporate before the final report is prepared. This phase should allow sufficient time for consultation and feedback processes. The final report should be submitted in a reader friendly and aesthetically pleasing format and should also include a Powerpoint or Prezi presentation that UNFPA can use in the future to present study results.</p> <p>During the reporting phase, the consultant, in coordination with UNFPA/UNICEF should prepare a dissemination plan for the study to reach targeted NGOs and institutions.</p> <p>4. <b>Dissemination phase:</b> The consultant will be expected to conduct dissemination event(s), led by UNFPA, with partners and study participants to share study results. Pending the status of COVID19, this event may be in person or virtually (to be decided in consultation with UNFPA).</p> <p>The final report must be in English and include the following items, at a minimum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Executive Summary (English and Arabic)</li> <li>2. Background, based on desk review</li> <li>3. Methodology (including sampling and analysis methods and measures taken to address ethical issues)</li> <li>4. Key Findings responding to research questions</li> <li>5. Conclusions and Recommendations</li> <li>6. Annexes</li> </ol> <p>The report should be maximum 40 pages, plus annexes and references.</p> <p>Possible limitations include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Covid-19 Pandemic may restrict field visits during data collection, which will necessitate the use of alternative data collection approaches such as virtual tools.</li> <li>• The study has proposed the use of qualitative data collection which is not statistically representative and has limitations in investigating causality</li> <li>• The response rate may be low in certain areas</li> </ul>
<p>Duration and working schedule:</p>	<p>The consultant will be expected to start as soon as possible (likely October 19 2020). All deliverables are expected to be completed by May 31 2021. The working schedule is based on outputs and is flexible.</p>
<p>Place where services are to be delivered:</p>	<p>Gaza and online</p>

<p>Delivery dates and how work will be delivered (e.g. electronic, hard copy etc.):</p>	<p>October 19, 2020: Start assignment          October/November 2020: Desk review, consultations with UNFPA/UNICEF on methodology          November 29, 2020: Submission of inception report to UNFPA and the relevant AFD technical working group and/or Steering Committee          December 2020 - January 2021: Data collection and analysis          February - March 2021: Reporting phase          February 28, 2021: Submission of first study draft to UNFPA and the relevant AFD technical working group and/or Steering Committee          April 15, 2021: Submission of final report and presentation to UNFPA and the relevant AFD technical working group and/or Steering Committee, after incorporation of feedback          May 2021: Dissemination phase          May 31, 2021: Completion of all deliverables</p> <p>Payment 1 (30%): Paid upon delivery of inception report          Payment 2 (40%): Paid upon delivery of first study draft          Payment 3 (30%): Paid upon finalization of report and completion of dissemination activities, as per the agreement with UNFPA</p> <p>The schedule can be adjusted, based on consultation and approval with UNFPA.</p>
<p>Monitoring and progress control, including reporting requirements, periodicity format and deadline:</p>	<p>The assessment will be conducted under the direct supervision of the UNFPA AFD Project manager in close collaboration with other relevant colleagues in UNFPA and UNICEF. The consultant will be expected to work closely with the relevant technical working group from the AFD project, which includes technical staff of Participating UN Organizations, MOH, and other relevant key stakeholders. In addition, the consultant will work with an advisory board consisting of national and international research experts who will work with the consultant on the design, implementation, and analysis of dissemination of results of the study.</p>
<p>Supervisory arrangements:</p>	<p>The consultant and her/his team will be directly supervised by the UNFPA AFD project manager, based in Gaza City, with support from the rest of the SRHR UNFPA team. In addition, the consultant will be expected to work closely with the relevant colleagues at UNICEF and WHO in Gaza under the guidance of the AFD project technical working group.</p>
<p>Expected travel:</p>	<p>Throughout Gaza, while following MOH guidelines on COVID19.</p>
<p>Required expertise, qualifications and competencies, including language requirements:</p>	<p>The study should be carried out by a research team, which should include a minimum of:</p> <p><b>Team leader:</b> Her/his role is to coordinate the team, lead the preparation of the inception report, the data collection procedures in the field, and the preparation of the draft and final reports. The team leader also liaises with the commissioning team. Must have proven experience in qualitative data collection and KAP studies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Postgraduate degree in public/global health, medicine, gender studies, development studies, sociology, anthropology, or other relevant social science</li> <li>● Proven experience in leading research teams (at least 8 full years)</li> <li>● Proven experience in conducting and reporting ethnographic research</li> <li>● Proven experience in qualitative research, conducting FGDs/KIIs</li> <li>● Proven experience in analysis and report writing</li> <li>● Fluency in English and Arabic</li> </ul> <p><b>Subject Matter Expert:</b> The subject matter expert is from and based in Gaza, with proven experience in the area of SRHR and gender with a research record on social norms related to SRHR. Experience with men and SRHR is preferred. Her/his role is to advise on the SRHR and gender related content of data collection tools, procedures, analysis and reports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Post graduate degree in public health, medicine, gender studies, development studies, sociology, anthropology, or other relevant social science</li> <li>● Proven experience in research and reporting on sexual and reproductive health and gender issues related to health in Gaza</li> </ul> <p><b>Enumerators:</b> At least 4 enumerators should be included. Their role is to contribute to the study, in the framework of the process described above and depending on how the team envisions the distribution of responsibilities.</p>

	<p>Enumerator(s) will also interview key informants and conduct FGDs. The number of enumerators should be sufficient to allow required data to be collected within specified scope, scale and time allocated for the study</p> <p>They should have the following background, expertise and skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graduate degree in public health, medicine, gender studies, development studies, sociology, anthropology, or other relevant social science</li> <li>• Proven experience in qualitative research, conducting FGDs/KIIs (at least 5 years)</li> <li>• Experience in conducting and reporting computer-assisted qualitative data analysis.</li> <li>• Demonstrable extensive experience in conducting and contributing to gender and health focused research.</li> </ul> <p><b>Research assistants (2):</b> One male and one female. UNFPA works to build the capacity of young people. One of the ways UNFPA is supporting young people is to build the capacity of young Palestinian researchers to conduct quality research on SRHR. In this regard, if the lead researcher of this project is above the age of 35, the researcher will be expected to hire 2 research assistants (one male and one female) in Gaza between the ages of 18 - 35 to support the entire research process. The research assistants should be heavily involved in the entire research process, in order to build their capacity, but also to ensure that the study takes youth needs properly into account, including the way that the study will reach young men and ask questions in a way that are youth friendly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graduate degree in gender studies, development studies, education, sociology, anthropology, or other relevant social science</li> <li>• Effective communication skills and ability to write clearly</li> <li>• Excellent use of Word, PowerPoint and Excel</li> </ul> <p>Skills and personal qualities: All team members should have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deep understanding and sense of ethics with regard to human rights, different cultures, local customs, religious beliefs and rituals, personal interaction and gender roles, sexual identity and orientation, disability, age and ethnicity.</li> <li>• Excellent analytical, organizational and interpersonal communication skills.</li> <li>• Evidence of being skilled at working in close cooperation with national and international actors and facilitating coordination of the process within the determined deadlines.</li> <li>• Computer literacy</li> </ul> <p>International and national researchers are welcome to apply. Palestinian researchers are strongly encouraged to apply. If an international researcher wishes to apply, they are required to partner with a Palestinian institution / research team in Gaza. The partnership (details of the partners, roles, responsibilities, etc.) must be included in the proposal.</p>
<p>Inputs / services to be provided by UNFPA or implementing partner (e.g support services, office space, equipment), if applicable:</p>	<p>UNFPA will facilitate meetings and interviews with relevant stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Social Development, as needed.</p>
<p>Other relevant information or special conditions, if any:</p>	<p>The consultant will be responsible for providing all necessary IT equipment (laptops, mobile phones, etc.), transportation, personal protection equipment (masks, gloves), and hiring all research assistants and data collectors.</p> <p>The research team will be required to follow all MOH guidelines for COVID19 to ensure that both the research team and the study participants remain safe from COVID19. The research team should develop a backup plan for how to carry out the study, in case of significant COVID19 outbreak and inability to conduct in person research activities. In this case, the research team will be expected to discuss the plan of action with UNFPA.</p> <p>UNFPA will conduct a small follow up study in 2022-2023 based on this study, as the baseline. All research materials, such as questionnaires, focus group discussion guidelines, etc., must be submitted to UNFPA to be used in the follow up research. All materials developed under this research are owned by UNFPA.</p>

Signature of Requesting Officer in Hiring Office:

Date:

Interested researchers are requested to submit by **30 September 2020**:

1. CV of lead researcher
2. Brief (max. 2 page) proposal, including:
  - a. Brief background on male involvement in SRHR in Palestine and globally based on research
  - b. Outlining possible methodology, incl. Data analysis software to be used, sampling, scope, possible potential groups to be interviewed in the focus group discussions (ie. men aged 40 and above, mukhtars, etc.)
  - c. The comparative advantage of the institution/researcher to undertake this assignment
3. **Detailed budget breakdown.** Available budget is maximum 45,000 USD.
4. Detailed timeline based on the timeline provided above. If the timeline provided above does not fit with the research plan, the researcher is welcome to suggest a new timeline, as long as all outputs are delivered by May 31, 2020. Upon selection of the winning proposal, UNFPA and the selected researcher(s) will agree upon a final timeline.

Proposals will be scored based on:

- Experience of the lead researcher
- Quality of the proposal, with a focus on methodology and grasp of the research topic.
- Financial efficiency

For any questions, please contact Khalil Hjeij ([Hjeij@unfpa.org](mailto:Hjeij@unfpa.org)).

#### **Annex 1: ICPD25 Palestine commitments**

For over 52 years, the Palestinian people have been living under the Israeli colonial occupation, which continues to employ systematic and large-scale racial policies to deny them of their rights enshrined in the international law, including the rights to self-determination and return. Such measures practiced against the Palestinian people include collective punishment, deliberate killings, arbitrary detention, forced transfer, home demolition, land confiscation, appropriation of natural resources, and obstructing access to services, such as education, employment and health. These conditions serve to hinder the achievement of sustainable development goals and priorities agreed upon at Cairo Conference. Therefore, ending the Israeli occupation is a prerequisite for the advancement of the Palestinian people's lives.

Commitments by the State of Palestine:

Achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health as part of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

- ❖ The State of Palestine commits to introducing a digital patient file system in health facilities by 2022.
- ❖ Integrating sexual and reproductive health services into the national health system and offering preconception care at 80% of primary health care facilities by 2021.
- ❖ Establishing a dedicated adolescent health section within the Ministry of Health by 2023.

Reduce the number of preventable maternal deaths, morbidities and near-misses.

- ❖ Providing antenatal and postnatal care to ensure that 85% of women receive required care by 2022.
- ❖ Reducing the rate of C-sections in public facilities to 20% by 2030.

Reduce unmet need for family planning to 10% by 2022.

- ❖ Increasing financial allocations to family planning services and commodities to 500,000 USD if possible.
- ❖ Enhancing resource logistics management and distribution of family planning services and commodities to marginalized populations.

Integrate Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) programs in all schools by 2030.

- ❖ Reviewing reproductive health concepts and sexual education in school curricula.
- ❖ Training teachers.

- ❖ Developing a manual on Adolescent Health.

Draw on demographic diversity to drive economic growth and achieve sustainable development.

- ❖ Collecting, analyzing and disaggregating data for planning and programming by implementing population censuses every 10 years.
- ❖ Enhancing the statistical system.

End gender-based violence

- ❖ Ensuring the availability of high quality multi-sectoral services for prevention and response to GBV by 2030.
- ❖ Passing the law on family protection from violence and increasing the legal age of marriage to 18 by 2020.
- ❖ Updating the National Strategy to Combat Violence against Women.