



Expression of Interest

Grant for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) or Academia and Research Institutes (ARI) to Implement Project Activities for the Spotlight Initiative Regional Program STREAM I

The Spotlight Initiative regional programme Stream I invites interested regional Civil Society Organizations, Academia and research Institutes (ARI) based in Southern, West and Central and East Africa Region to apply on the following:

Objective	Request for expression of interest to accelerate efforts towards elimination of violence against women and girls including sexual gender-based violence and harmful practices
Duration	January 2021 – June 2022
Organizational Unit	UN Women Ethiopia
Duty Station	Addis Ababa

I. Background

Violence against women and girls is a global pandemic and the most pervasive and widespread human rights violation. More than 1 in 3 women (36.6%) in Africa report having experienced physical, and/or sexual partner violence or sexual violence by a non-partner¹. Across Africa, 125 million girls and women alive today were married before their 18th birthday. Overall, over one in three young women in Africa were married at childhood, and one in ten before their 15 birthdays. It is particularly severe in West and Central Africa which is home to 6 of the 10 countries with the highest child marriage prevalence levels in the world, all of which have a prevalence over 50%. Niger has the highest prevalence of child marriage in the world

¹Source : <https://oneworldcenter.eu/violence-against-women-in-africa/>

at 76%. Central African Republic (CAR) has a prevalence of 68% with Chad at 67%. The prevalence of child marriage below the age of 15 years is also very high at 14% for the region, with Chad, CAR and Niger all having prevalence rates over 25%.

An estimated 200 million girls and women alive today are believed to have been subjected to female genital mutilation (FGM). The current humanitarian crisis threatens to derail the future of an entire generation. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the elimination of female genital mutilation by 2030, will be disrupted, and an estimated two million additional cases of female genital mutilation will need to be averted. (UNFPA, April 2020) A study by UNFPA, Avenir Health, Johns Hopkins University and Victoria University points to the risk of 13 million additional child marriages and 2 million more cases of female genital mutilation over the coming 10 years as a result of COVID. Recent UNFPA data estimates that about 68 million girls will be at risk of FGM by 2030, if current levels of intervention remain in place. For Africa, this number represents 50 million girls at risk. In 2015, 66% of all maternal deaths occurred in sub-Saharan Africa. 85,637 women still die of maternal causes every year; this is partially explained by the fact that only 56% of deliveries are attended by skilled personnel.

The European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN) are strengthening the global, multi- year initiative focused on eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG) - the Spotlight Initiative. The Initiative is so named as it brings focused attention to this issue, moving it into the spotlight and placing it at the center of efforts to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs), specifically SDG 5 on Gender Equality.

In alignment with the principle of national ownership embedded in the SDGs and the SDGs' guiding principle of 'leave no one behind – reach the furthest first', and to ensure the sustainability and ownership of the initiatives, the Spotlight Initiative is seeking regional and national Civil Society Organizations (CSO's)/ Women's Rights Organizations, Academia and research institutes to implement activities to attain the initiatives goal.

II. PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The Regional Spotlight Programme priorities strengthening existing strategies and initiatives, such as the AU Gender Strategy 2017 -2027, Agenda 2030, Agenda 2063, the Maputo Plan of Action on the Operationalization of the Continental Policy Framework for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (2016-2030), The protocol to the African Charter on the Maputo Protocol) the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the AU Roadmap on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend, the African Youth Charter (2006); and the Common Position on Ending Child Marriage in Africa (2015) and others. The relevance of the Spotlight Regional Programme is ensured by being fully aligned to the Africa Investment Plan with common objectives, pillars, Theories of change and results framework, and also being fully aligned to continental priorities.

The programme also adopts a strategy of harnessing the respective strengths of multi-sectoral, multilevel partnerships which will support the acceleration of transformative change. With government, the programme will work with the AU, with Regional Economic Commissions (via the AU), the Pan-African Women's Organization (PAWO) and with individual member states at national level (under Stream 2). Stream 1 will include VAWG/SGBV/HP and SRHR and aims at bridging global and country levels. Harmful Practices are addressed within the work on policy, data and CSO engagement taking place under Stream 1. Stream 2 responds to the priority the AU has placed on ending Child Marriage and FGM across the continent. Linkages will also be established with the "State of the African Woman Campaign" (SOAW) (IPPF Africa -led consortium) and the other AU led campaigns on EAW, ECM and Initiative on the elimination of FGM. Traditional leaders will be engaged in both Stream I and Stream II in view of their important role defying deep-rooted cultural practices thereby prevention of child marriage, FGM and other harmful practices. A number of elements have been built into the Regional programme design to ensure efficiency and coherence between the two streams Stream 1 and Stream 2.

III. SCOPE OF WORK

The Spotlight Initiative Regional Programme stream I is seeking expressions of interest from civil society women's rights organizations in Africa including those representing Regional and country networks. This regional level partnership will particularly involve CSOs and research/training institutes already working in the target regions: West, Central, East and South Africa regions with the expertise, programming experience and activities in SGBV, SRHR, HP, and VAWG, including work in the Spotlight thematic areas listed below.

The Regional Programme stream I secretariat of the Spotlight Initiative, on behalf of the Recipient United Nations organizations (RUNO): UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, and UNFPA, wishes to engage CSO partners to implement activities across the three pillars of the project. This request for Expression of Interest covers– Pillar 1, 5 and Pillar 6¹. The pillar outcomes and activities are translated as follows:

Pillar 1: Laws and Policies- Legislative and policy frameworks, based on evidence and in line with international Human Rights standards, on all forms of violence against women and girls and harmful practices are in place and translated into actions.

Specific activities:

1.1. Conduct a regional evidenced based mapping and assessment on the status of implementation/enforcement of laws and policies, Action Plans, financing and capacity to deliver on EAWG by Regional Partners and Members States to inform and update current baseline (**UNDP**)

1.2. Support advocacy initiatives by regional partners including AUC and CSO's to advocate for the

ratification, domestication, and enforcement of regional instruments, including the Maputo Protocol by Member States **(UN Women)**

1.3. Capacitate regional partners including the (AUC, RECs and Pan African Parliament, Network of African Parliamentarians) on drafting and reviewing laws and policies to influence Members to accelerate the ratification and domestication of regional and global HR instruments related to EVAWG and SRHR. **(UNDP)**

1.4. Support regional human rights institution including the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights ACHPR and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women to capacitate, guide, advocate and influence Member States on drafting and submission of situational report on the right of women and girls in Africa **(UNDP)**

1.5. Establish/strengthen existing Regional South-South knowledge Exchanges Platforms/Forums on good practices related to ratification, domestication and reporting on regional and global HR instruments related to EVAWG and SRHR. **(UNFPA)**

1.6. Support the AUC and regional CSOs to implement the Africa-wide initiative to advocate on EVAWG/C in Africa. **(UNICEF)**

1.7. Support the AUC to develop and rollout an evidence based Regional Action Plan with an M&E Framework to provide strategic direction for Regional Partners and Member States to translate their commitments into action to EVAWG including SGBV/HP and SRHR **(UNDP)**

1.8. Strengthen the capacity of regional partners (AU, Regional CSO's, Network of African Parliamentarians) in partnership with the RECs to advocate and influence MS on the development and implementation of Action Plans and on increased financing through domestic resource mobilization and budget commitment for the elimination of VAWG including Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights **(UNDP)**

1.9. Provide capacity building to relevant AU staffs and regional parliamentarians to draft, review and influence MS to develop, enforce and report on laws and policies to guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, CSO's and HR defenders **(UNDP)**

1.10. Support CSOs in establishing Systems/Protocols to support and protect the rights of women's rights defenders and to prevent VAW related extra-judicial executions and prosecutions. **(UN Women)**

1.11. In partnership with regional human rights institutions (ACHPR) including the Special Rapporteur, strengthen regional CSO's/Women Rights Movements on drafting and submission of periodic reports on

the situation of the rights of women and girls in Africa. (UNDP)

Pillar 5 : Quality and reliable data: Quality, disaggregated and globally comparable data on different forms of violence against women and girls and harmful practices are collected, analyzed and used in line with international and regional standards to inform laws, policies and programmes

Specific Activities:

5.1 Support the AUC, UNECA, RECs and women's rights organizations to develop harmonized and standardized data collection tools (including methodologies and indicators) on VAWG/SGBV/HP and SRH & RR to measure continental progress, and to identify key priorities and gaps, and improve accessibility of quality, reliable and disaggregated data. (UNDP)

5.2. Build the capacity of identified CSOs and Women's Movement in data collection and analysis methodologies related to VAWG/SGBV/HP and SRH & RR (UNFPA).

5.3. Strengthen coordination capacity of AUC, RECs, CSO's and Women's rights organizations in data collection related to VAWG/SGBV/HP and SRH & RR indicators to inform evidence-based decision making. (UN Women)

5.4. In an innovative way, develop and implement a knowledge management strategy to ensure utilization of best practices related to VAWG/SGBV/HP and SRH & RR (UNFPA).

5.5. Support evidence building on violence, SRH and HP impacting young adolescent girls with a focus on: (i) developing and implementing a methodology for secondary analysis of MICS and DHS data to understand the linkages between child marriage, school related barriers for girls, gender norms and teenage pregnancy; (ii) formative evidence on girls' menstrual health and hygiene; and on (iii) data and evidence building on school related gender-based violence. (UNFPA)

Pillar 6 Women's Movements and Relevant CSOs- Women's rights groups, autonomous social movements and CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting form discrimination/marginalization, more effectively influence and advance progress on GEWE and VAWG, including SGBV/HP.

Specific activities:

6.1 Support the establishment of a continental Civil Society reference group (CSRRG) to effectively coordinate and provide oversight on the implementation of international and regional commitments on gender equality and women's rights. (UN WOMEN)

6.2 Convene an annual Regional CSO and women's movement forum on EVAW, SGBV/HP and SRH & RR to influence the African Union and global policy agenda on EVAW, SGBV/HP, SRH & RR. (ex. CSW, HPLF, Beijing +25, GA, ICPD, CEDAW, CRC and the African Union Processes including GIMAC, AU EVAW and ECM campaigns, AU Summit and the AUC Agenda 2063). (UN WOMEN)

6.3 Strengthen the capacity of networks of regional CSOs (including networks of rural women, women living in conflict affected areas, women with disabilities and women living with HIV/AIDS) to fast track, monitor and report on the implementation of regional African Union instruments including the Maputo Protocol, Agenda 2063, AUC Gender Strategy on VAWG/HP and SRH & RR. (UN WOMEN)

6.4 Provide technical assistance to regional men's and boys' networks on positive social norms change and establish linkages of the networks with relevant AUC departments. (UN WOMEN)

IV REQUIREMENTS AND COMPETENCIES

Organizations wishing to apply for the grant should meet the following requirements and competencies:

- Be a non-profit organization with a track record on SGBV, gender equality, child protection, women's empowerment, and/or legal reform, registered by relevant bodies
- Proven experience in capacity building on HR, gender equality, data, human rights, access to justice, SGBV, Harmful Practices (e.g. child marriage and female genital mutilation), economic empowerment, SRHR, Child marriage, legal reform and advocating for gender equality, strong understanding of gender equality and women empowerment principles, (a minimum of one of the areas listed);
- Proven experience in collecting, analyzing and disseminating quality data on VAWG/GBV and in measuring VAW prevalence; including the development of GBV data collection tool and methodologies.
- Ability to carry out activities under at least one of the mentioned outcomes of the project;
- Strong skills in written communications in English / French by at least one lead member of staff (including staff fluent in target districts local languages)
- Previous and/or current interventions in the target regions covered by the project is an advantage

V SUBMISSION DETAILS

Organizations wishing to apply shall submit the following:

1) A Portfolio of the organization demonstrating the requirements and competencies listed above, including:

- Applicants are expected to submit expressions of interest in the form of a brief Concept note (Please submit -Annex 1: Application Form)
- The concept note must indicate how the proposed interventions will contribute to national and regional capacity development and promote the ownership of regional and national organizations in the implementation of the programme.
- Evidence of established management structure (i.e. organogram/ organizational structure) the organogram should highlight the different profile and skills set required to lead the implementation of specific activities under the different pillars
- Certificate of registration
- Only concept notes submitted in English and French will be considered

- CSO's/ Academic and research institution who have never worked with the UN are encouraged to apply

Organizations are also encouraged to apply through a consortium

Submissions should indicate interest in specific activities or more than one activity, clearly indicating the UN Agency leading the activity and the pillar which the proposed activities are related to. Submissions are not allowed to consider activities relating to more than one Pillar.

VI DEADLINE:

The EOI will be open until 30th January 2021 and submission shall be made as PDF versions at spotlight.stream1@unwomen.org

- Submissions by **email** will close by **November January 30th 2021** at – **5:00 p.m.** (East Africa Time)

For questions /enquires, **Full Expression of Interest** please contact spotlight.stream1@unwomen.org
Questions/ enquires should be submitted before **January 25th, 2021**

ALL SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED WITH **THE SUBJECT LINE** INDICATING:

REF: EOI/01/2030/SPOTLIGHT (Insert UN AGENCY/AGENCIES NAME AND ACTIVITY/ACTIVITIES listed in the Pillar sections above). OTHERWISE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHIN THIS EXPRESSION OF INTEREST.

Only long-listed organizations shall be considered and further contacted. **Concept note received after the deadline will not be considered.**

Concept Notes will be selected in accordance with the procedure set out in the UN Rules and Regulations.

ANNEX 1 - APPLICATION FORM FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Spotlight Initiative Africa Regional Programme

Please complete the below form and be as detailed as possible in your responses (not more than 6 pages in total). Applications received will be forwarded to the relevant UN agencies for further screening.

Please note that an Expression of Interest is distinct from a Request/Call for Proposals. The submission of an EOI does not automatically guarantee a grant under the Spotlight Initiative Africaa Regional programme (SIARP).

Organisation/Institution Name:	
Registration No:	
Date of establishment:	
Organization Contact Person:	
Physical address of the Head office and nationa-offices:	
Phone/Mobile No.:	
Email address:	
Are you a non-governmental organization?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Are you a faith-based organization?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Are you an academic institution?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Is your organization women-led? ²	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Are you a feminist/women’s rights organization? ³	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Are you a Regional /National Organization? ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Spotlight Initiative Activities of Interest (List as many as apply as per the EOI Terms of Reference):	

- I. WHO YOU ARE: Please provide the following information:*
- 1. What is the mission and main focus area of your organization;*
 - 2. Thematic areas of your work related to the Spotlight Initiative;*
 - 3. Which Region and countries in your region do you operate in and for how long;*
 - 4. Full time team composition and roles;*
 - 5. Fiduciary accountability mechanisms;*
 - 6. Current Sources of Funding;*
- I. WHAT YOU DO: Please describe your organization’s ability to do the following, using concrete examples (you may also wish to include supporting documents):*
- 1. Design, implement and document innovative solutions to eliminating violence against women and*

² To be considered a “women-led organization”, the organizations is headed by a woman.

³ To be considered a “women’s rights or feminist organization,” the organization’s official mission/visions statements must reflect its commitment to addressing multiple/intersecting forms of discrimination and advancing gender equality and women’s rights. The organization should aim to address the underlying drivers/systems/ structures, including patriarchy and gendered power dynamics, that perpetuate EVAWG and gender-based violence and work to transform these.

⁴ Local and grassroots organisations focus their work at the local and community level and do not have a national scope. They tend to have a small annual operational budget (for example, under USD \$200,000); to be self-organized and self-led; and to have a low degree of formality.

girls;

2. *Develop programmes that address violence against women, specifically [add thematic focus]*
3. *Manage grants (please specify largest grant ever managed and source of fund);*
4. *Partner with and develop the capacity of grassroots and community-based organizations, particularly women-led and women's rights organizations;
Partner with Continental, Regional and Government institutions at Regional and national levels;*
5. *Meaningfully engage CSOs in different region/countries throughout the program cycle using a participatory approach;
Working with marginalized populations, such as key populations, women and girls with disabilities and women and girls living with HIV/AIDS, etc.*

I. ORGANISATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS: Please elaborate on 2-3 key results achieved by your organization, and include the following:

1. *Change brought about by your/ your organization's intervention;*
2. *How you measured the change achieved.*

Please submit the *Application of Expression of Interest* together with the following:

- Evidence of established management structure (i.e. organogram/organizational structure);
- Copy of valid legal registration in the country;
- Documents such as past contracts, donor reports are desirable but not mandatory.
- Previous audit report is desirable but not mandatory.

This EOI does not entail any commitment on the part of the UN, either financial or otherwise. UN reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOI without incurring any obligation to inform the affected applicant/s of the reasons.

Women-led organizations (new or old) are strongly encouraged to apply