



**Terms of Reference for the Recruitment of an International Consultant to
Develop a Regional Guide on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
with Focus on Adolescent for the ECOWAS Region**

1. Background

1.1 Introduction

The West African Health Organization (WAHO) is the specialized health institution of ECOWAS, which was established out of a desire to create a truly integrated regional health institution through the merger of the West African Health Community (WAHC) and the Organization for Coordination and Cooperation in the Control of Major Endemic Diseases (“OCCGE”).

WAHO’s mission is the "attainment of the highest possible standard and protection of health of the peoples in the sub-region through the harmonization of the policies of the Member States, pooling of resources, and cooperation with one another and with others for a collective and strategic combat against the health problems of the sub-region".

To fulfil its mission, WAHO has embraced a global vision of ECOWAS and has set for itself the vision " to be recognized by the Member States and the International Community as a proactive instrument of regional health integration that enables high-impact and cost-effective interventions and programmes". WAHO conducted a situational analysis of the Adolescent and Youth Health in 2015 that revealed the specific health problems of adolescents and youths in the region as well as the challenges they face in sexual and reproductive health and rights. Major sexual and reproductive health problems identified included early sexual intercourse, early marriage and pregnancy, unsafe abortion rates, high fertility and maternal mortality rates among adolescents and young girls, low contraceptive use, low contraceptive prevalence, high prevalence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), multi-partner partnerships, transactional sex, and female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C).

1.2 The SRHAY project

To address these sexual and reproductive health issues and needs of adolescents and young people of the ECOWAS Region, WAHO, with the technical and financial assistance of the Royal Netherlands, has been implementing, since January 2018, the Project: “Sexual and Reproductive Health of Adolescents and Young People (SRHAY) in the ECOWAS Region”.

The main objective of the Project is to contribute to improving the sexual and reproductive health of adolescents and young people in ECOWAS countries by increasing the availability,

accessibility and utilization of contraceptives and quality sexual and reproductive health services, including the adoption of positive behaviour changes.

1.3. The State of the Art

The revised Maputo Plan of Action 2016-2030 recognized that health, especially sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all aspects of sustainable development and that the goals of sustainable development can only be achieved in the absence of preventable maternal, newborn and child morbidity and mortality. Over the years Africa has made significant strides to achieve universal access to SRHR, although progress has been slow and uneven.

The WAHO situational analysis revealed that all the countries in the West African Sub-region have established specific strategies to address adolescent and youth health problems. This is because Adolescent and youth health is a matter of concern at the highest strategic level of the countries. However, given the persistence of adolescent sexual and reproductive health problems, their harmful implications and the strategic role the policy and legal environment in which they live in plays, the policies and laws can act as either a protective factor or a significant barrier to the protection of the sexual health and rights of adolescents in the region. Hence the need to do more especially to ensure that Adolescents and Youth enjoy fully their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

2. Objectives

The aim of this mission is to develop a guide on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights with focus on Adolescents for the ECOWAS Region. This will include supervising local consultants who will be developing the national inventories for 5 English and 2 Portuguese speaking countries as well as to synthesize these inventories with that from the 8 French speaking countries which has already been developed.

3. Tasks

- i. Conduct a basic analysis through a preliminary international literature review and propose tools and methodology for data collection as part of this mission;
- ii. Finalize the validated tools;
- iii. Support national consultants in situation analysis and validate their reports;
- iv. Write a final report which will be submitted to WAHO including the results obtained in the 7 countries involved;
- v. Draft the guide which will be shared with WAHO for comments and finalized taking into account WAHO's comments;
- vi. Prepare and facilitate a regional workshop to validate the guidelines with the countries involved and all key regional stakeholders;
- vii. Finalize and submit a final version of the guidelines to WAHO after taking into account the various recommendations;

4. Methodology

A qualitative methodology will be adopted. It will consist of a desk review of preliminary international literature on sexual and reproductive health and rights with focus on adolescents as well as support to the national consultants from the 7 countries in the process of carrying out

literature review and conducting inventory of all relevant national documents relating to their respective countries.

In developing the inventory for the French speaking countries, a tool was developed. A translated version of this tool will be used by the 7 national consultants, however the consultant will develop and validate the appropriate tools for the synthesis of the existing ones.

5. Outputs

The expected specific outputs include:

- A general report on the situation analysis on the status of SRH legislation, policies and strategies focusing on SRH in English-speaking and Portuguese-speaking countries in the ECOWAS region;
- A regional guidelines document providing guidance for better integration of sexual and reproductive rights into legislation, regulations and policy and strategy documents in the ECOWAS region, focusing on adolescents.

6. Consultant's Profile

The International Consultant shall be a Senior Expert

Qualifications and skills

- At least a Master's Degree or, equivalent qualification in development studies, social development, public health or related fields;
- A higher degree in legal / Human and Health Rights domains will be an advantage;
- Strong writing and communication skills; computer literacy;
- Excellent command of either English or Portuguese,

Professional experience

- A minimum of 8 years' experience in social development or Sexual Reproductive Health;
- At least 5 years' experience in development of guidelines;
- At least 3 years' experience related to adolescent and young people project evaluation;
- Demonstrated knowledge of issues on adolescent and young people - specifically to the health domain in the ECOWAS region;
- Demonstrate professional experience in the field of Human Rights and Health

7. Location and duration

The international consultant shall start the situational analysis not later than early May 2019 and shall be for a period of 20 working-day. The consultancy shall be carried out at the Headquarters of the West African Health Organization in Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso.

8. Contracting, budget, expenditure, payments

Contracting will be done in accordance with ECOWAS regulations. A technical and financial offer will be submitted together with a CV, with at least 3 references for previous similar work. The technical offer will outline a proposed work plan with clear timelines. The source of financing this assignment will be from the SRHAY Project.