



Frequently Asked Questions

Expressions of Interest 2019

The different outputs in the document provide an overall USD figure available for the output, but this appears to be a regional amount, not country or organisation specific. Is there an indicative allocation per country? Is there a maximum cap that any one agency can apply for?

There is an overall indicative budget by output area. This indicative budget by output is inclusive of budget allocations for country level interventions (inclusive of Government and NGOs interventions). If an organisation chooses to submit an application across a range of outputs, then the budget would increase accordingly. Our suggestion is to provide high level indicative budgets on the basis of planned activities for both regional and country level interventions and as the selection process progresses, UNFPA will engage in more detailed discussions with prospective partners. There is no maximum cap that any one agency can apply for, but we would like the budget to reflect the organization's technical and operational capacity to deliver.

Of the budget allocations against each output, it is stated that these figures cover 3.5 years, i.e. July 2019 – Dec 2022. The footnote states this includes allocations for implementing partners and government. Can UNFPA please clarify what portion of these figures is committed to government partners and how much is available for partners? (It was our understanding that government IP agreements are already in place).

Government versus new non-governmental implementing partner allocations for mid 2019-2022 will be determined when formulating respective annual workplans and will be adjusted during reprogramming needs identified during midyear reviews. The allocations will be based on technical, programmatic and operational capacity to implement certain strategic interventions. There is no predetermined proportion to be allocated to government versus non-governmental implementing partners.

The total funding available for this call is USD\$11,550,493, but that the total funding for the transformative agenda is much higher (USD\$30,000,000). Could you please share with us what other initiatives are being funded under the transformative agenda, so that we can consider how our EOIs align with the other planned activities?

Currently UNFPA have agreed workplans with a range of Government partners in each of the SRP and TA countries on the basis of strategic interventions. In addition, an agreed proportion of the total budget under the Transformative Agenda is allocated for human resource capacity, operational cost, and M&E.

During the selection process for the EOIs, UNFPA will ensure that activities outlined in the EOI and subsequent workplans are complementary with those of Government.

The indicative budgets provided per output are for a 3.5 year period – July 2019 to December 2022. Do proposals submitted need to be for the full 3.5 years, or can they be for shorter periods of time?

There is flexibility in the time periods for which the EOI is submitted, depending on the level of engagement of the organization and estimated time taken to achieve the outputs. Implementing partners will be selected for the entire duration of the SRP and TA, and workplans are developed each year of the programme cycle.

Are agencies being asked to prepare proposals that respond to all strategic interventions under one output, or is it feasible that an agency can target specific interventions across multiple outputs?

Organizations can prepare proposals for any or all strategic interventions across any or all outputs in a way that best reflects their comparative advantage, expertise and capacity.

Is infrastructure permissible, eg rebuilding/significant structural repairs to a critical youth focussed health centre?

UNFPA policy and procedures only support refurbishment of existing structures and not construction. UNFPA may also support upgrading, retooling and refitting of rooms in buildings where SRH services are provided, which may include funding provision of furniture, limited IT equipment and limited equipment for which justifications need to be provided and such expenses approved by the donor on a case by case basis.

Are contraception supplies direct to organisations eligible expenses?

Contraceptive supplies are procured directly by UNFPA in line with UNFPA policy and procedures and provided directly to the government central medical stores for their management and oversight. While it can be highlighted as a requirement for the project, it will not require a budget line in the proposal.

Is there a word limit for each question, or a maximum length of the Expression of Interest?

There is no word limit, although UNFPA would ask that the responses are succinct, clear and as brief as possible.

Are there any outputs that NGOs are not eligible or foreseen to be contributing towards (ie that are targeted specifically to Government)?

There are no specific outputs to which organisations are not eligible to respond. UNFPA welcomes EOI against any of the strategic interventions. Given that activities, for the purposes of the EOI, are high level activities, it should be borne in mind that some of the activities may be negotiated with UNFPA during the selection process to ensure that work is complementary to that of Governments.

If an agency is interested in proposing multiple programs in multiple countries, or participating in different consortia/partnership projects, how should this be presented?

UNFPA welcome consortia and partnerships to support strategic interventions. This may be presented by the lead agency/organisation with reference to the different organisation/s which will be supporting the different activities including across different countries.

Will there be an information session regarding the tender?

There will not be an information session largely because of issues around connectivity of the range of organisations who may be interested. UNFPA wants to make sure that all organisations have equal access to information in preparation for the EOI, and we hope that this FAQ sheet addresses all questions and concerns.

Can UNFPA provide further details around assessment criteria for the budget and proposed programmatic approach put forward by partners?

The selection process will entail a technical and operational review of the expressions of interest to determine whether the proposed activities are fit for purpose in terms of achieving results, and value for money as well as demonstrating strong understanding of the context, and technical and operational capacity of the organization. UNFPA may, through the selection process, suggest partnerships with other organisations to bring different strengths of organisations to best meet the results of each strategic intervention and output.

The SRP6 covers 14 countries, but the Transformative Agenda covers 6 countries; which countries are eligible for inclusion in partner EOI submissions for this tender?

UNFPA currently has presence in 8 of the 14 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands) of which the first six listed here are supported under the Transformative Agenda. EOIs which support activities against any or all of the countries will be reviewed, and in cases where there is no current available budget, this will not preclude the partnership from progressing in readiness for implementation.

Can UNFPA clarify which of the proposed interventions listed here would be partially or fully led by UNFPA?

UNFPA will have full oversight over all the strategic interventions to ensure high quality of programming to support achievement against results. This will be in addition to UNFPA monitoring of activities and collaboration with partners to support the forging of strategic alliances to create a shift in the enabling environment and share best practices.

Are organisations welcome to submit new initiatives under each section of the proposal to reach the targets indicated or will those initiatives be determined by UNFPA?

We welcome proposals for new and innovative initiatives that will ensure that together, we reach the indicator targets and effect truly transformative results for women, adolescent and youth across the Pacific.

How is UNFPA going to ensure that government workplan activities and partnership activities are complementary? Is there information available on what the government plans/activities to minimise duplication?

During the selection process for the EOIs, UNFPA will ensure that activities outlined in the EOI and subsequent workplans are complementary with those of Government. As workplans for each country are developed annually through national consultations, during which progress is being assessed, gaps identified and actions to be taken agreed, all partners involved in implementation of programmes jointly agree on activities and complement each other towards the achievement of output indicators in each country.

Can organisations be subcontracted by the national government for activities under the government plan as well as the NGO partnership agreement?

If NGO's are selected to be direct implementing partners of UNFPA, all funding from UNFPA will be transferred directly through that new partnership, and not through the national government. For other non-UNFPA funds, the NGO's will need to discuss subcontracting agreements with the government.

Can UNFPA outline the next steps in the process after the EOI? Eg. Development of detailed workplans and costings which will form the basis of the contract negotiation and the likely timeframes?

The initial step is to identify partner organizations/institutions with mandates, technical, programmatic and operational capacity that match UNFPA's strategic engagement in the Pacific and the support which UNFPA has committed to provide to Member States, in line with the SRP and Transformative Agenda programme documents. Partners selected through the first step will be invited to submit more detailed concept notes. During development of the concept notes and the detailed annual workplans with associated budgets, UNFPA and selected partners will actively communicate and jointly arrive to a mutually agreed engagement that will support successful implementation of the programmes and achievement of desired results.

Can agencies submit multiple EOIs either as lead agency or sub-contractors?

We ask that each organization or agency submit 1 EOI proposal to become a direct implementing partner with UNFPA.

Some of the strategic interventions are the responsibility of government or UNFPA (eg. 1.4, 1.5). What is the role of the contracted organisation in comparison to government and/or UNFPA? Will UNFPA facilitate coordination? What mechanisms are in place to facilitate this?

In each of the 8 priority countries where UNFPA has presence, coordination will be ensured through the national RMNCAH and RH committees which have the oversight of the overall strategic direction and interventions for improving reproductive health and rights of the population. UNFPA facilitates dialogue

and inclusive consultations with all concerned partners in each of the countries when workplans are developed, implementation progress is assessed and results are monitored.

What is the deadline for questions to UNFPA?

We hope that this FAQ sheet answers all questions to allow proposal submission before the deadline of February 25th. However, remaining questions that are absolutely critical to finalizing the proposals may be submitted before February 20th, to allow enough time for us to respond before the deadline.

What is UNFPA's proposed staffing structure for the transformative agenda? How will that complement and differ from RMNCAH?

The staffing structure is available in the Transformative Agenda project document, which can be accessed through the link provided in the EOI announcement on our website.

The EOI document requests detailed budgets under section 4 (4.2, 4.3), however, there is little detail in the tender documentation about the scope of each proposal. For example, how many countries will you be doing each activity in? The TOR ask for expected results but it is unclear what is being requested. A detailed budget would be better suited to a detailed workplan or a full proposal rather than an Expression of Interest (EOI). Can you please confirm if a detailed budget is really required at this stage?

Indicative budgets for the proposed interventions can be provided at the higher level, rather than at detailed activity levels. This will allow us to ensure value for money when reviewing proposals that come from organizations that have similar capacity to implement towards the same results. A more detailed budget will be developed at the activity level in the subsequent steps of partnership operationalization (i.e. development of concept note and annual workplans) once partners are selected.

Can UNFPA clarify whether any costs put forward by partners would be considered ineligible for this tender?

If there are any costs that cannot be supported under the UNFPA Policies and Procedures, we will inform partners after they have been selected, and during the development of concept notes and annual workplans.

Output 1:

1.4 This is a government function – strengthening national and subnational mechanisms and capacities.... What do you see is the role of the partner in delivering this strategic intervention?

1.5 This is a government/UNFPA function – forecast procure, distribute and track supply chain interventions What do you see is the role of the partner in delivering this strategic intervention?

In addition, there is no detailed information on these activities either in the TA design nor the SRP6 design so it is unclear what is expected. Is this part of the commodity program that UNFPA have been funded to provide? Is there any more detail on this strategic intervention, for example how will it collaborate with the UNFPA commodity team member(s)?

The Government Warehouses receive Family Planning and other RH commodities directly from UNFPA but the accountability for distribution to the last mile is where the role of NGOs and other institutions

are most relevant. Non-governmental sector plays a substantial role in the developing and strengthening of national and subnational mechanisms and capacities; hence this intervention includes Quantification, Supply Planning, Logistics Management Information System and reporting, and Supply Chain System designs as well as Warehouse audits. In addition, the call for EOI is seeking a diverse range of potential partners including academic institutions, professional associations and networks, research institutes, etc. which are very well suited to support UNFPA in strengthening national and subnational mechanisms and capacities (i.e. through provision of training, development of resources, guides and tools).

Does the EOI template contain new strategic interventions which are contained in neither the Transformative Agenda or the SRP6 outputs?

There are strategic interventions that are linked to the SRP6 outputs.

Is additional budget available to deliver against strategic interventions associated with SRP6 listed here, given that these are outside of the scope of the DFAT funded Transformative Agenda?

Some of the strategic interventions associated with SRP6 are within or closely linked with the scope of the Transformative Agenda. SRP6 implementation is funded through other sources in addition to the Transformative Agenda. We are currently approaching donors to mobilize additional resources to fully support all strategic interventions associated with the SRP6.

What is the kNOwVAW data initiative and how is this envisaged to be transformed into a Pacific Centre of Excellence?

A lack of national technical capacity and systems serve as major obstacles to developing appropriate and context-specific VAW policies as well as hampering evidence based programming, monitoring and evaluation. Since 2016, UNFPA has managed the kNOwVAWdata initiative at the Asia Pacific Regional level with the support of DFAT. The initiative has established itself as a centre for excellence in supporting VAW data collection across the region. The initiative, in efforts to ensure sustainability, functions by strengthening capacities of national institutions to collect and analyze data, in particular by using internationally recognized, best practice survey methodologies, such as the methodology developed for the WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence and the Domestic Violence module of the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS). In order to further strengthen localized and Pacific capacity as well as to expand to meet the direct demands of the Pacific, UNFPA are proposing to establish a localised Centre of Excellence within UNFPA but in partnership with other institutions to support increased production of evidence based policies and programmes and serve as a hub for data collection in relation to VAWG, SRHR and gender data and research more generally where relevant. There are current efforts for resource mobilization to fully support this intervention. UNFPA are leveraging the EOI process to determine appropriate partners for selection to ensure rapid implementation upon receipt of funding.