

Mar 25, 2026

Pre-bid Meeting RFQ-004-2026

The meeting began with UNFPA providing an overview of the scope of the assignment and expected results.

Specific questions raised by prospective bidders were responded to:

Details

- **Dissemination of Study Evidence:** UNFPA plans to disseminate the insights gathered from this study, in consultation with government counterparts. Since it is a time bound assignment (six months), the dissemination is not built into the RFQ. The agency undertaking the assignment, and other relevant/associated stakeholders will be invited to participate in any dissemination that may be organized by UNFPA.
- **Organizational Preference and Consortium Applications:** The RFQ clearly outlines the strength, expertise and experience that potential applicants are expected to demonstrate in social and gender research, national or multi-state research studies, and specific thematic areas like adolescent SRH, child marriage, and gender equality (Section 8). UNFPA welcomes applications from a consortium of organizations - For instance, a research-focused agency is encouraged to partner with local grassroots organizations that has the required community inroads and implementation experience on the ground.
- **Eligibility of Applicants:** An organization must be legally constituted and registered to apply. Both, for-profit and non-profit entities are eligible to apply for this RFQ,, provided they are able to receive payments from a UN agency for the services delivered and are able to generate an invoice.
- **Expected Duration of Programs Studied:** There is no mandatory quantitative criteria for the number of years a program must have been in operation to be considered for documentation. The expectation is that the programs shortlisted have demonstrable evidence of effectiveness, relying on the judgment and

experience of the bidding organizations. Bidders are also allowed to list promising, newer programs that have shown initial positive results.

- **Policy on Artificial Intelligence Usage:** There is no policy against the use of artificial intelligence (AI), but a proposal generated entirely by AI is discouraged. Applicants should ensure they maintain complete oversight on the proposal being submitted, , and the final analysis and report must be claimed as the organization's original work.
- **Definition of Adolescent Population and Ethical Clearance:** The target population for adolescents is generally 10 to 19 years, but the study is open to extending the focus up to 24 or 25 years old. To navigate mandatory reporting obligations and ethical clearances within the proposed timeline, bidders can speak with young women who were married as minors to document their experiences.
- **Reporting Methodology and Good Practice Criteria:** Regarding the synthesis report and "what works" analysis, the methodology is left to the selected agency's judgment, allowing for a predominantly qualitative approach or a mix of quantitative and qualitative methods. The determination of good practice criteria is also the responsibility of the agency, relying on their expertise and judgment. Indicative criteria is also listed on the RFQ.
- **Request for Deadline Extension:** A request was made to extend the submission deadline beyond the current date of March 31st. UNFPA noted the request and stated that an extension may be considered if a sufficient number of requests are received from potential bidders.

Definition of Assignment Success: Success for the overall assignment involves achieving several key outcomes: conducting a landscape mapping of programs for married adolescent girls, shortlisting five to six demonstrably successful good practices, and validating these practices with subject matter experts. The ultimate goal is to conduct a deeper dive into these practices to understand the "nuts and bolts" of what works and generate recommendations for institutionalizing and scaling these promising policy pathways with government counterparts. Potential bidders were also advised that they should send their technical and financial proposals in two separate emails using the RFQ subject line, only to the email address listed in the RFQ bids.india@unfpa.org by the stated timeline. No financial conditions, terms, amounts should be referred to in the technical proposal document.