



TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTANCY TO UNDERTAKE ENDLINE ASSESSMENT OF THE YOUTH ENTERPRISE MODEL (YEM)

General Information

Duration:	3 months
Duty Station:	Kampala, Uganda
Contract type:	Consultancy
Supervision:	The consultant(s) will be reporting to the Director of Programs STF

Background

The Youth Enterprise Model (YEM) is a youth empowerment initiative in Uganda that seeks to integrate sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) information and services into youth-led small and medium enterprises (SMEs), vocational training colleges (VTCs), the Youth Entrepreneurship Venture Capital Fund (YEVCF) and other community platforms that provide economic activation, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship skills to young people.

The Youth Enterprise Model (YEM) was developed by UNFPA with funding from Packard Foundation with the goal to reduce young people's risky sexual behavior by increasing their access to SRHR information and services (including family planning) as well as to economic empowerment and entrepreneurship skills opportunities. The program has been implemented in two phases (Phase 1: October 2012 - June 2015, and phase 2: July 2015 - December 2017) in the districts of Kampala (urban) and Mubende (rural) in central Uganda. Program implementation has been driven by Straight Talk Foundation (STF), Reproductive Health Uganda (RHU) and Communication for Development Foundation Uganda (CDFU), and has engaged 26 VTCs, 50 youth-led SMEs, 29 health facilities and 3 financial institutions across the two intervention districts.

YEM was built on the notion that SRHR and youth employment / vocational training interventions must be integrated to take advantage of the linkages between human capital development, sexual and reproductive health, and youth economic and social empowerment. The YEM model is aligned to the 3E policy framework and the demographic dividend approach. The project relied on the following interventions to achieve the desired outputs:

1. Integrated ICT intervention, comprising of a youth call centre, SMS platform, social media and radio programme to deliver SRHR and business information targeted to youth in enterprises and vocational training colleges in the target districts.
2. Advocacy for integration of SRHR modules in financial literacy training programs and for increased attention to SRHR for young people in national and district plans and programmes.
3. Building the functional, technical and operation capacity of social and institutional structures to deliver financial, SRHR and family planning information and services to young people in business through:
 - Training VTC instructors, peer educators and staff from financial institutions in counselling skills, leadership, financial guidance, and delivery of an SRHR and entrepreneurship information package for young people in business and vocational training.
 - Supporting peer educators to operate a peer education network for the delivery of finance and SRHR information and referrals to peers.
 - Training health service providers to provide youth-responsive services according to established quality standards.
4. Increase the number of SRHR service delivery access points for young people in business through establishing worksite condom distribution outlets, supporting youth-responsive services' quality improvement in target health facilities, supporting a school nurse program in 23 VTCs and an integrated financial literacy and SRH outreach program to young people's work sites and at VTCs.

As the YEM project is ending, there is a need to conduct an end-line assessment to gather data on the relevance, effectiveness, and impact achieved by the project.

General Objective

The main objective of the end-line assessment is to assess the relevance and effectiveness of the YEM project interventions and its integrated approach to SRHR and economic empowerment.

Specific Objectives

The specific study objectives are as follows:

1. Assess the relevance of the integrated SRHR – economic empowerment integration approach adopted by the project in relation to beneficiaries’ needs and the project’s cause-effect hypothesis;
2. Assess the effectiveness of the various project components (ICT, advocacy, capacity building and service delivery) in achieving project goals;
3. Identify promising practices arising from the project.

Scope of Work

The consultant(s) will be required to carry out the following activities:

- Conduct desk review of project and other relevant documentation;
- Prepare research protocol / inception report and data collection tools;
- Prepare submission to IRB and UNCST and secure approval of the research;
- Organize and manage training workshop for STF data collectors on methodology; quality of data required and data collection procedures in relation to the tools to be used;
- Supervise the data collection process in conjunction with STF Research and Evaluation team;
- Design the data entry screen and manage data entry and cleaning;
- Conduct the data analysis to answer to the objectives of the research;
- Use data visualization approaches to optimize presentation of end-line findings;
- Draft end-line report answering all of the objectives of the research;
- Prepare professional layout of the report, including data visualization and adequate communication language, for external dissemination;
- Draft an academic manuscript on the findings from the end-line for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.

Throughout all the above mentioned work, the consultant(s) will consult, coordinate and seek approval from the relevant technical teams at STF and UNFPA.

Deliverables/Outputs: The following outputs are expected from the consultant for the above listed objectives;

- Research protocol/inception report
- Complete research package for submission to IRB and UNCST
- Certificate of approval/registration from IRB and UNCST
- Technical end-line report answering to all objectives of the research
- Communications-focused external end-line report
- Clean dataset
- Draft an academic manuscript on the findings from the end-line for submission to a peer-reviewed journal

Geographical Scope and Methodological Approach

The end-line will be conducted in Kampala and Mubende districts, focusing specifically on the project intervention sites. The consultants are expected to use a mixed-methods approach.

Time Scope

The study shall be conducted between January and March 2018 (12 weeks) in accordance to the following schedule:

Review Stages	Deliverables	Timelines
Preparatory stage		
Review of Terms of Reference and agreement on the consultant technical and financial proposal	Final proposal agreed upon by STF/UNFPA and the consultant	1 day
Inception stage		
Conduct desk review Adapt research tools Develop inception report	Research protocol/Inception report	1 week
Ethical approval stage		
Prepare IRB submission Obtain IRB approval Prepare UNSCT submission Obtain UNCST approval	IRB and UNCST research approval certificates	5 weeks
Field work stage		
Training of field teams	1 day training workshop	1 day
Data collection (field)	Raw data	1 week
Data management stage		
Data entry and cleaning	Data entry screen and clean dataset	2 days
Data analysis	Statistical analysis report with visualizations	1 week
Reporting stage		
Report writing (including STF/UNFPA feedback)	Draft end-line report	2 weeks
End-line report layout, visual work and branding	Final end-line report ready for external dissemination	3 days
Draft research manuscript on end-line findings for submission to peer-reviewed journal	Draft research manuscript submitted to UNFPA	3 days

Ethical and Research Standards

The consultant is expected to adhere by recognized principles of research ethics and procedures, and to obtain ethical approval for the research ahead of initiation of work. In addition, the consultant must also secure approval by the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology before initiation of research.

Management of the Study

The consultant(s) will be contracted by Straight Talk Foundation (STF) and will be managed on a day-to-day basis by STF. The consultant(s) will work closely with the STF Project Coordinator and under direct supervision of the STF Program Director.

The consultant(s) will present all key milestone products to a research steering committee set up and coordinated by STF, and comprised of STF, UNFPA Uganda and UNFPA ESARO technical staff. The purpose of the steering committee will be to guide the consultancy and vet the consultant's work. All technical issues relating to the consultancy will be addressed by the steering committee.

The consultant's inception and final reports will be peer reviewed and submitted for approval to the UNFPA Uganda Knowledge Management Committee to ascertain scientific and academy rigor. Their approval is a pre-condition to consider the assignment has been finalized and met the expected quality standards.

Qualifications and Experience

- Minimum of a Master's degree in public health, social sciences, statistics or related field.
- At least eight years of experience in conducting surveys and/or related research.
- Familiarity with the Ugandan context and technical knowledge of sexual and reproductive health and rights for young people.
- Strong data analysis and visualization skills.
- Strong written communication skills.
- Fluency in written and oral English is a must.

Information on Applications:

All interested applicants should submit a concept paper 5- 10 pages detailing the methodology to be used, time frame, budget, qualifications and assignments carried out in similar field. This should reach STF not later than **Friday 26th January 2018**. Email your response to straighttalkjobs@gmail.com