

UNFPA Turkmenistan

Terms of Reference for

Individual international consultant on Strengthening capacity of Ombudsperson office in reproductive rights

TERMS OF REFERENCE	
Hiring Office:	UNFPA Turkmenistan CO
Title:	Consultant for individual consultancy services (international) on Strengthening capacity of Ombudsperson office in reproductive rights
The background and purpose of the consultancy:	<p>As a follow up to the report of the Survey on the Health and Status of Women in the Family in Turkmenistan (2020), the Ombudsperson's office carried out fact-finding mission in 2023 in two country provinces.</p> <p>There is a program need to improve the legal awareness of right holders and duty barriers. Also, it is obvious that amendments are needed on the legislative and executive levels to better align the national normative framework in reproductive rights with international standards and recommendations.</p> <p>While the broader concept of reproductive rights is well-known globally, and has a long and fraught history in domestic and international human rights law (for instance, Center for Reproductive Rights), the narrower concept of reproductive violence occurring in contexts of mass atrocities – that is, violence that violates reproductive autonomy and/or is directed at people on account of their actual or potential reproductive capacity, or perceptions thereof – has remained relatively underexplored.</p> <p>It is only very recently, however, that the concept of reproductive violence has been recognized in a formal ICL policy.</p> <p>However, the revised 2023 Policy on gender-based crimes ('2023 GBC Policy'), which was launched during a side event to the 22nd Session of the Assembly of States Parties on 4 December 2023, clarifies fundamental principles, builds on new jurisprudence and lessons learned in the past several years, and strengthens the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP)'s ability to take an intersectional, survivor-centered approach in its work.</p> <p>Short term effects of the trained staff of ombuds office would include better monitoring practices and higher ownership and accountability for the human rights aspects especially to people with disabilities. Women with disabilities would get easier and more inclusive access to justice through these exercises of monitoring trips/missions of the ombuds office. For that purpose, there is a need to strengthen capacity of ombudsperson's office in recognizing the cases of reproductive violence, in knowing how to respond and prevent and how to monitor and follow up together with other structures.</p> <p>The regular monitoring would allow making accurate measurements of the progress in better access to reproductive rights of women with disabilities.</p>

Scope of work:	The consultant will work on all expected outputs together with the ombuds office, medical specialists, and national layers throughout all the process starting from the initial desk review of legislation and assessment, identification of gaps in policies and procedures, recommending policies amendments, improving monitoring functions with regards to reproductive rights, and providing capacity building training to the national specialists.
Expected Outcomes and Deliverables:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Report on policy framework and legislation assessment by March 20th, 2024 2. Training report by March 25th, 2024 3. Technical recommendations on procedural changes and legislative amendments by March 23rd, 2024 4. Monitoring framework by March 26th, 2024 5. Mission reports per the templates by March 27th, 2024 <p>(a) Consultancy report. (b) Technical report with findings and recommendations.</p>
Duration and working schedule:	<p>Duration of this consultancy is 23 working days, from March 5th till March 30th, 2024. Operational closure of the contract is March 31st, 2024.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assessment phase: 4 days <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk review of the current legislation and practices in legal and health care settings with regards to reproductive rights (2 day). - Preliminary identification of <u>gaps/shortages</u> and reporting on them (2 days). 2. Capacity building: 6 days <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>To train</u> ombudsperson's staff on best international practices, legislative norms, and recommendations of treaty bodies with regards to the reproductive rights and rights of people with disabilities (6 days includes: 2 days for the training preparation, 3 day of actual training and 1 day for reporting) 3. Updates in policies and procedures: 6 days <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suggest the <u>procedural changes and legislative amendments</u> for preventing and more effective recognition and addressing of cases of reproductive violence. (3 days) - Suggest the <u>monitoring framework</u> for the proper monitoring of the reproductive rights of women with disabilities. (3 days) 4. Analysis and reporting phase: 7 days <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of a preliminary report, which consist of findings, developed materials and recommendations. (3 days) - Consultations with the national specialists to clarify agree and fine-tune the developed policy changes and monitoring framework. (2 days online) - Development of a <u>final report</u>, including an executive summary and detailed bibliography. (2 days)
Place where services are to be delivered:	The consultancy services will need to be delivered both remotely (home based) and on site. All the logistic and transport arrangements to and from Turkmenistan to be carried out and covered by the UNFPA office in Turkmenistan.
Delivery dates and how work will be delivered:	Dates for deliverables and trainings must be within the month of March 2024 and not later than March 31 st , 2024. All deliverables should be submitted in an electronic format.

<p>Monitoring and progress control, including reporting requirements, periodicity format and deadline:</p>	<p>The UNFPA NPO on Reproductive Health, and an authorised focal point of the Ombudsperson's office of Turkmenistan will monitor the International Consultant's work through reviewing submitted materials. The consultant will regularly provide an update on progress, challenges encountered, and support needed.</p> <p>Ethical Considerations</p> <p>UNFPA requires its consultants to adhere to ethical principles and standards when doing research. The selected consultant should clearly identify any potential ethical issues and approaches, as well as the processes for ethical review in the inception report.</p> <p>National Ownership</p> <p>The involvement of appropriate national partners will be a critical condition for the development of all the mission outcome materials in ensuring stakeholder ownership and its subsequent utilisation.</p>
<p>Supervisory arrangements:</p>	<p>The International Consultants will directly report and work under the overall guidance of the UNFPA NPO on reproductive health, along with the overall guidance from the UNFPA Head of Office.</p>
<p>Expected travel:</p>	<p>Travel to Ashgabat, Turkmenistan is expected for at least for 5 days in March 2024. During presence in the country consultant will meet with UNFPA staff and deliver actual 3-day training. Exact number of days in country and travel dates to be communicated to the selected consultant. Logistic arrangements such as visa, tickets, stay in Turkmenistan to be arranged by the UNFPA country office. Travel costs will be covered additionally according to the UNFPA's Duty Travel Policy.</p>
<p>Required expertise, qualifications, and competencies, including language requirements:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recognised international researcher and practitioner with at least 7 years of professional experience in law, legislation development, reproductive health and rights, legal practice with regards to people with disabilities, reporting to treaty bodies or follow up to its' recommendations. ● Advanced degree in law/human rights, social sciences, gender studies, public health, and/or other related disciplines). ● Strong analytical skills with experience in reporting (preferably to UN agencies) ● Experience with conducting focused and interactive trainings. ● Fluency in English. Knowledge of Russian is an advantage. ● Familiarity and experience with Central Asian or Eastern Europe countries is an asset.
<p>Inputs/services to be provided by UNFPA or implementing partner, if applicable:</p>	<p>UNFPA will provide the consultant with all the necessary materials, data, information, and available reports. UNFPA Country Office will put together a list of core sources and readings before the start of the consultancy.</p>
<p>Other relevant information or special conditions, if any:</p>	<p>The consultancy fee will be calculated based on the P4 Salary Scale for Professional and higher categories effective 1 January 2023. The fee will be paid in a lump sum upon fully completion of all deliverables underlined in working schedule</p>
<p>Signature of Requesting Officer in Hiring Office: _____ Date: February 5th, 2024.</p> <p><i>Kenal GOSHLIYEV</i> Reproductive Health Program Specialist, UNFPA Turkmenistan</p>	