**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Project Title**: “EU4Gender Equality: Together Against Gender Stereotypes and Gender-Based Violence”

**Call for proposals:** to promote men’s active involvement in prenatal care and responsible fatherhood through the healthcare settings in Azerbaijan.

**Agency:** UNFPA Azerbaijan Country Office

**Duration of assignment:** October 10, 2022 – April 28, 2023.

**Location**: Azerbaijan

**I. BACKGROUND**

The three-year joint programme "EU 4 Gender Equality: Together against gender stereotypes and gender-based violence" aims at strengthening equal rights and opportunities for women and men through shifting social perceptions, gender stereotypes, and men's participation in caretaking. The programme is funded by the European Union and implemented jointly by UN Women and UNFPA in the EaP countries at the national and regional levels.

The programme aims to shift societal perceptions around gender stereotypes and patriarchal norms limiting women's rights; improve men's involvement in the caretaking of their children and participation in father's programmes.

One of the main project interventions was focused on improving men’s involvement through actions targeting healthcare services. The regional Training and Resource Package for Healthcare Professionals on Engaging Men in Prenatal care was adapted to the local context and an on-line course on the same topic was developed in the framework of the programme. As a result, more than 200 healthcare workers in Azerbaijan attended this course and gained knowledge and skills on working with men clients to raise awareness of importance and benefits of men’s involvement in antenatal and childcare services. The project activities have also led to better recognition of importance of men's involvement in emotional and social welfare of families, mothers and children.

To complement these initiatives, UNFPA aims to strengthen cooperation with healthcare institutions (polyclinics, family planning centres, etc.) in its efforts for shifting societal perceptions around gender stereotypes and patriarchal norms which limit women's rights; and increasing men's involvement in the care taking of their children and participation in fathers’ programmes.

**II. SCOPE OF WORK, RESPONSIBILITIES AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED SERVICES**

Within the Objective 2, the project is seeking the services of local civil society organizations (CSOs) **to promote** men’s active involvement in prenatal care and responsible fatherhood through interventions in healthcare settings in Azerbaijan. The health sector is an important entry point to promote early involvement of fathers in caregiving. The project seeks to create safe spaces/rooms in health care institutions to provide fathers with the knowledge on key concepts of gender equality as well as better understanding of the importance and benefits of men’s engagement in prenatal care, to motivate and engage them to become supportive and responsible partners and fathers.

The specific components of the subject assignment are as follows:

1. Initial orientation with UNFPA Azerbaijan CO to discuss and agree on the intervention strategies proposed. The organization is expected to closely liaise with the UNFPA at each stage of the project implementation;
2. Identification and engagement of the government allies/partners to support the action;
3. To review UNFPA’s communication strategy and training package for Healthcare Professionals on Engaging Men in Prenatal care and other background resources on the strategies to be utilized during project implementation;
4. To develop a concept note and a work plan for the proposed activities with a detailed outline of how proposed interventions will lead to project outcomes. The concept should include inter alia the content development methodology, initial list of project outputs, modes of engagement, timelines, visual identity to be used for all project components, plans for tracking project progress, media coverage plan, etc.;
5. To ensure that all technical issues, including but not limited to official permissions for the action are well addressed prior to the implementation of the project’s activities;
6. To widely spread the information and ensure its visibility in social and traditional media outlets, including TV;
7. To ensure visibility and acknowledgement of UNFPA and EU throughout the project implementation, in media coverage and printed materials;
8. To establish and maintain close partnership with other organizations engaged in implementation of the project components on promoting responsible fatherhood (Papa Schools and etc.);
9. To provide regular updates to UNFPA on the progress achieved alongside the comprehensive narrative and financial reports, including supporting documents, video and photo materials.

**III. TIMEFRAME FOR COMPLETION OF DELIVERABLES :**

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| **Deliverables** | **Due Dates** |
| **Deliverable 1:** A concept note and detailed work plan for the proposed interventions is developed and submitted for the clearance to UNFPA. The concept should include inter alia the content development methodology, initial list of project outputs, modes of engagement, timelines, visual identity to be used for all project components, plans for tracking project progress, media coverage plan, etc. | October 20, 2022 |
| **Deliverable 2:** The healthcare settings (at least five) are chosen and their healthcare providers (pediatricians, gynecologists, therapists) are trained according to the course for building capacities of Healthcare Professionals on Engaging Men in Prenatal care. The information leaflets on major topics concerning male involvement in antenatal and childcare services, and responsible fatherhood are developed, produced and disseminated among the target audiences and the healthcare providers. | November 30, 2022 |
| **Deliverable 3:** Interim narrative and financial reports are submitted to UNFPA | December 28, 2022 |
| **Deliverable 4:** At least 100 men are informed by the healthcare providers on shared responsibility and males active involvement in responsible parenthood, sexual and reproductive health of the equal value of children of both sexes. | March 10, 2023 |
| **Deliverable 6:** Final project narrative and financial reports are submitted to UNFPA | April 21, 2023 |

**IV. MONITORING AND EVALUATION:**

The selected CSO will work under the supervision of the National Project Coordinator and in close cooperation with UNFPA Azerbaijan CO and the Regional Programme Team, the delegated representatives of the concerned UN agencies and the relevant state agencies.

**V. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:**

* Have registration as a legal non-profit entity or public entity;
* Have proven experience of at least three years in planning and implementation of awareness raising activities on gender equality. Specific experience with public and private partnerships, especially with healthcare sector, and male groups for promoting gender equality and men’s involvement as advocates for change will be considered an advantage
* Have demonstrated capacity to develop comprehensive training modules (training curriculum and manual), and other relevant training materials on sensitive topics;
* Have adequate organizational capacities (administrative, technical, human resources) for organizing and running similar training programmes;
* Specific experience with innovative and context-specific gender sensitive national projects will be considered an asset.

**VI. PAYMENT SCHEDULE:**

* First installment: 20% of the total amount – upon completion of the project deliverable 1;
* Second instalment: 60% of the total amount – upon completion of the project deliverables 2 and 3;
* Third instalment: 20% of the total amount – upon completion of the project deliverables 4, 5.

**Geographical coverage:**

* Baku and regions identified

**Contract duration:**

October 2022 – April 2023

**Specific Conditions:**

*Ownership of the output: UNFPA*