



Call for Proposals on Support to Girls and Young Women living with HIV&AIDS

In July 2010, the United Nations General Assembly created the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). In doing so, UN Member States took an historic step in accelerating the UN System's goals on gender equality and the empowerment of women. The creation of UN Women came about as part of the UN reform agenda, bringing together resources and mandates for greater impact. It merges and builds on the important work of four previously distinct parts of the UN system, which focused exclusively on gender equality and women's empowerment: Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

The main roles of UN Women world-wide are:

- To support inter-governmental bodies, such as the Commission on the Status of Women, in their formulation of policies, global standards and norms.
- To help Member States to implement these standards, standing ready to provide suitable technical and financial support to those countries that request it, and to forge effective partnerships with civil society.
- To support the UN System in maintaining commitments on gender equality, including regular monitoring of system-wide progress.

The UN Women Multi-Country Office – Caribbean is based in Barbados and covers the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean. Supporting and partnering with Government and non-governmental organisations, UN Women MCO - Caribbean works in the areas of elimination of gender-based violence; women's leadership and political participation; women's economic empowerment; gender-responsive policy and planning; and supporting global and regional Inter-governmental processes in the area of gender equality and women's empowerment. For more details, please visit our website at <http://caribbean.unwomen.org/en>.

I. Context

Sexual abuse (SA) is a stark reality for many adolescent and young girls in Jamaica. Rape as a subset of sexual violence against the girl child has remained high for decades. The Jamaican Reproductive Health Surveys of 2002 and 2008 both report that 20% of young women below 19 report their first sexual experiences as rape. This means that one in every five Jamaican women and girls have reported being raped at least once in her life. The 2002 survey findings indicate that among the women and girls who

reported that they were forced to have sex, the youngest age group – 15 year olds (21.3%) and 16 year olds (25.8%) appear to be the most vulnerable to forced intercourse.

Girls who are victims of sexual violence are often at increased risk of sexually transmitted infections. Even if a girl is not infected as a result of the immediate act of sexual violence, research indicates that she is more likely to contract infectious and chronic diseases later, since sexual violence alters the life path of many girls, leading them down a road of high-risk behaviours. Moreover, while Jamaica has made gains in addressing the HIV epidemic over the past 30 years, there has been no significant change in the number of females 10-19 becoming infected by HIV, which is a higher number than those of boys that age. The HIV rate among girls aged 15 – 19 years old is the highest, compared to any other age group. A 2004 Joint Report by UNAIDS, UNFPA and UNIFEM highlights the fact that women and girls living with violence seems to increase their susceptibility to HIV.

The rates of HIV among girls is linked to their vulnerability to sexual assault, as well as to a rise in inter-generational sex and early sexual initiation, much of which happens before the legal age of consent, and much of which is believed to be part of transactional sex. WHO reports that during “forced vaginal penetration, abrasions and cuts commonly occur, thus facilitating the entry of the virus—when it is present—through the vaginal mucosa.” These conditions are magnified for young girls. Their reproductive tracts are not fully developed and are therefore prone to tearing during sexual activity. They are more likely to experience sexual coercion than adult women.

The high prevalence of both HIV and sexual abuse of girls points to the need to bridge programmatic responses to address HIV. In order to reduce the HIV epidemic among young girls, there is a need to address one of the main root causes, namely, the persistent sexual abuse, violation and exploitation of the girl child in Jamaican society.

It is acknowledged that sexual abuse can have significant deleterious impact on girls and young women. A minimum package of care should be developed at the start of the project to ensure clients have access to quality and effective services that will enhance their mental wellbeing. These include access to counselling and support groups provided by the partner organization. The organization will develop protocols for referrals to other agencies for legal, psychological, vocational, livelihood and shelter support.

To this end, and through the support of the UNAIDS Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF), UN Women Multi-Country Office – Caribbean is seeking to support a project which will contribute to a reduction of girls’ and young women’s vulnerability to HIV and to strengthened resilience of those living with HIV&AIDS.

II. Invitation for Proposals –

The Call for Proposals is focused on supporting strategies and approaches which target increased support and awareness for girls and young women who have faced sexual assault and who are living with HIV&AIDS.

This work will be carried out in partnership with national and community-based partners, and in coordination with other international organisations where relevant.

Specifically, UN Women MCO Caribbean invites proposals in the following areas of action:

- Increased awareness among girls living with HIV&AIDS, parents and communities about the long-term impact of sexual assault among girls and young women, and its links to HIV;
- Advocacy for child protection processes to ensure referral and protocols are in place to support the girl-child and teenage girls living with Sexual Assault and with HIV&AIDS;
- Provision of psycho-social, legal, health and educational/life-skills training and other types of support to girls and young women living with sexual assault and HIV;
- Increased capacity of girls surviving sexual assault and living with HIV&AIDS to advocate for their rights with state and non-state actors;
- Supporting the establishment of baseline around girls and young women living with HIV contracted through sexual assault;

III. Budget and Duration of Proposals

Proposals with budgets ranging from US\$20,000 to US\$30,000.

Determination of budget requests should be made based on an organisations' institutional capacity and strategy for implementation.

Proposals can be submitted for project durations of July 2016 to March 2017.

IV. Application and Selection Process

Who can apply?

Proposals will be accepted from Non-Governmental Organisations operating in Jamaica.

Proposals which show multiple partnerships among NGOs are encouraged. All applications need to exhibit previous experience in working with girls and women living with HIV&AIDS; and experience in working around gender-based violence.

When and Where to Apply?

Please follow the Concept Note Proposal format listed below. Any applications which do not follow the format list below will not be considered. Concept Notes should be submitted no later than **13th July 2016** by e-mail with a signed cover letter.

Applications should be submitted to Sherie.Cox@unwomen.org and must be received no later than 13th July 2016. Any applications received after this date will not be received.

6. Concept Note Format

Concept Notes being proposed should include the following information and be limited to no more than ten (10) pages, including budget and results framework. **Any applications which do not follow the format list below will not be considered.**

Proposal section	Description
Organizational information (no more than ½ page)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Name of organization ✓ Address ✓ Telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address if available ✓ Information on legal status of organisation; ✓ Goal and mandate of organization ✓ Information on prior work on the issue under the Call; ✓ Description of management arrangements ✓ Qualification of key personnel to implement project ✓ In the case of Non-Governmental organisations, please list total annual budget of organization(s) applying <p>In cases of joint submissions by two or more organizations, please:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clearly state which organization represents the applicants and takes legal responsibility for administering and implementing project; 2. Provide above information for each organization as an appendix
Justification (no more than 2 pages)	<p>Respond to the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What is the opportunity or challenge that the proposal is addressing? ✓ What data or evidence supports the opportunity or challenge being addressed? ✓ This section should relate directly to the objectives/results and strategies being proposed in the proposal; ✓ What innovative strategies or approaches will be utilised? ✓ How does the project lead to actual change? ✓ What other major projects addressing the same issue are already being undertaken by other agencies/organizations? How would your proposal link to this or complement these?
Results to be achieved (no more than 1 page)	<p>Indicate the concrete immediate and long-term results that the proposal will achieve if it is successful.</p> <p>Make these statements measurable and concrete.</p> <p>Indicate who the key target groups and project beneficiaries will be.</p>
Strategies (no more than 2 pages)	<p>What are the key strategies (as listed below) that the proposal will use and how will they be implemented?</p>
Work plan (no more than 2 pages)	<p>List the key project activities, a timeline for undertaking them, and what organisation will be responsible for each</p>

Partners (no more than 1 page)	Describe the proposal partners. Please be as detailed as possible in describing how you will partner; what roles that your partners would play in implementing the project, etc.
Evaluation (no more than 1 page)	Describe what steps will be undertaken to track and measure the extent to which results described have been achieved. The plan should be built on the indicators included in the results framework.
Proposal Budget - Annex (1 page)	<p>Amount of funding requested. Please also state the total proposal budget, and other sources already secured or potential funding.</p> <p>Budget breakdown. Please be advised that ten percent of total funding requested must be allocated to cover the cost of an evaluation. Please also note that UN Women does fund administrative costs and overheads but this must not exceed 20% of total project budget.</p> <p>Please note that UN Women does not fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects submitted by organizations that do not have legal status in the country of operation. • Rental/purchase of buildings, purchase of land, property, acquisition of office space, furnishing of service facilities or fixed capital outlays; • Civil servant salaries; • Scholarships and fellowships; • Direct services; • Projects submitted by individuals.