



Terms of Reference for Local Consultant to Conduct National Baseline Study on Prevalence of Domestic Violence in Maldives

1. Introduction and Background

Domestic violence (DV) is a global issue that occurs at epidemic proportions across all countries. Domestic violence can involve violence against an intimate partner, children or the elderly and may take any form including physical, emotional and sexual abuse and violence. Globally, victims of domestic violence are largely women and affects vast numbers of women throughout all nations. According to WHO, one in three women are physically or sexually abused in their lifetime globally, and in the majority of the cases, the perpetrator is either a member of the family or someone known to the victim.

Similar to this global trend, the 2006 Maldives Study on Women's Health and Life Experiences also found that one in three women in the Maldives experienced some form of violence in their lifetime¹. The study also reported that one in five women aged 15-49 (19.5 per cent), who has ever been in a relationship, has experienced at least some form of physical or sexual violence, or both, during their lifetime, and that 12 per cent of women reported that they were sexually abused before the age of 15 years. A more recent survey, the Maldives Demographic and Health Survey (2016-2017) further reported that one in four women, between the ages 15-49, experienced intimate partner violence in the Maldives².

Surveys done by the Human Rights Commission (HRCM) of the Maldives indicate that a growing number of persons also justify domestic violence against women. According to HRCM's 2006 'The 'Rights Side of Life' survey, 38.5 per cent men and 46.5 per cent of women in Maldives believed that violence against women were justified³. Six years later, the

¹ Ministry of Gender and Family 2006, 'The Maldives study on women's health and life experiences: Initial results on prevalence, health outcomes and women's responses to violence', Government of Maldives, viewed 20 March 2016, <<http://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/~media/files/un%20women/vaw/vaw%20survey/maldives%20vaw%20survey.pdf>>

² Ministry of Health, 2018, Maldives Demographic and Healthy Survey 2016-2017.

³ Human Rights Commission of the Maldives (HRCM) 2006, The "rights" side of life: A baseline human rights survey, United Nations Development Programme, Maldives, viewed 20 March 2016, <<http://www.hrcm.org.mv/publications/otherdocuments/TheRightsSideOfLife.pdf>>



2012 ‘Six Years On – The Rights Side of Life’ survey showed that 49.7 per cent men justified violence against women, which is an increase of 14 per cent⁴.

The above studies demonstrate a high prevalence of domestic violence against women in the Maldives. Statistics published by the Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services also show growing number of reported cases of violence against children and also the elderly in the family. Domestic violence cases reported to the FPA have been steadily increasing since its establishment in 2012. Case reporting increased from 17 cases in 2013 to a staggering number of 938 cases in 2017⁵. A few cases of violence against men have also been reported to the authorities. However, to this day, only women’s experience of violence has been measured and there are no studies covering other significant domestic violence relationships stipulated under the Domestic Violence Prevention Act (Law No. 3/2012) such as, domestic violence against children, persons with disabilities, senior citizens and men.

The Family Protection Authority (FPA) was established under the Domestic Violence Prevention Act and has been tasked to take lead on a national scale to address the issue of domestic violence in the country by creating public awareness; providing the required services to the victims of such violence; and by co-ordinating the work of the relevant government institutions including the police and the health sector, and various local efforts made by individuals (to protect survivors of domestic violence). However, the lack of information on domestic violence in the Maldives affects the development of effective policy making and long term planning.

This study thereby, aims to collect and showcase the prevalence, characteristics and reasons; the types of abuse and violence occurring within the domestic sphere, its immediate and long term costs, and the overall impact of domestic violence on the lives of family members in the Maldives, and will facilitate the implementation of the FPA mandate, and assist in the introduction of policy that encourages development and evaluation of programmes to address domestic violence in a holistic way in the Maldives.

⁴ Human Rights Commission of the Maldives (HRCM) 2012, Six years on – The “rights” side of life: Second baseline human rights survey, United Nations Development Programme, Maldives, viewed 20 March 2016, <<http://www.hrcm.org.mv/publications/otherreports/TheRightSideOfLife10122012Eng.pdf>>

⁵ Family Protection Authority, 2013-2017. (*Translated from*) FPA Annual Reports, <<http://www.fpa.gov.mv/w/dh/reports>>



2. Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this assignment is to conduct a baseline study on the prevalence, characteristics, reasons and socio-demographic correlations of domestic violence, and to find out the perceptions of the survivors in coping with the acts of violence and in overcoming the situation. In addition, the study will also attempt to understand and identify strategies whilst making recommendations to further strengthen as well as modify existing services or programs that address the issue of domestic violence. The proposed study has the following key objectives.

2.1. Objectives

1. Obtain reliable estimates of the prevalence, frequencies and forms of domestic violence across the Maldives.
2. Obtain information on the types of domestic relationships prevalent in cases of domestic violence.
3. Document implications of domestic violence including effects on general health and reproductive health.
4. Explore the direct and in-direct effects of domestic violence on children, in terms of emotional and psychological consequences.
5. Assess the extent to which domestic violence is associated with a range issues of mental health, substance abuse, disabilities and other conditions that occur in comorbid cases of domestic violence.
6. Document and compare the strategies and services that survivors used to cope and deal with domestic violence they experience.
7. Explore factors that may either protect or put the person at risk of domestic violence.

3. Scope of Work

The study will be led by an International Consultant. The Local Consultant will assist the International Consultant by coordinating and implementing the data collection process, survey protocols and conduct training and management of enumerators. In addition, the Local Consultant is expected to translate questionnaires and survey protocols and finalise field plans for data collection.



4. Methodology of the Study

In consultation with Family Protection Authority (FPA), the International Consultant is expected to develop and finalise the methodology for the study. The methodology will utilise both quantitative and qualitative methods to generate primary and secondary data. An appropriate sampling method will be used in order to represent all areas of the Maldives ranging from Northern, Central and Southern regions, with a sample size that ensures sufficient representation of the population groups. The target respondents of this study will be the general public and service providers.

The International Consultant is expected to write and present the research report as well as a brief literature review, proposed survey methodology, questionnaires, survey and question guides as well as other survey protocols whilst providing expert technical advice to the Local Consultant and FPA. Additionally, the International Consultant has the responsibility to provide strategic guidance and advice on the implementation of findings along with proper recommendations.

5. Expected Outputs and Key Deliverables of the Local Consultancy

The scope of work and expected outputs/deliverables will be the following:

- 5.1. Support the International Consultant in finalising the questionnaire, translation of the questionnaire, survey protocols (manuals and other documents) and pilot testing of the questionnaire, particularly tailoring it to the Maldivian context
- 5.2. Review the sampling questionnaire developed by the International Consultant in consultation with the National Bureau of Statistics and get approval for the final questionnaire
- 5.3. Translation and reviewing of proposed questionnaires to ensure cultural suitability
- 5.4. Organise the recruitment and selection of suitable enumerators and conduct standard interviewer training for enumerators with guidance from the International Consultant as needed



- 5.5. Organize and support the finalising of field plans, and budgeting for data collection process including enumerator training
- 5.6. Support the international consultant in managing all aspects of data collection in field, including translation and reporting
- 5.7. Preparing and submitting progress reports to both the International Consultant and FPA in regards to data collection as well as training and management of enumerators
- 5.8. Submit all working files and final dataset (in all formats) including the raw data to FPA.

6. Management and Partnership Strategy for the Survey

Family Protection Authority (FPA) is the lead agency responsible for the overall research study on domestic violence. Other key agencies will include the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services, Maldives Police Services, Prosecutor General's Office, and the Attorney General's Office. It is anticipated that these partners will provide technical support as appropriate related to the implementation of the research. A Technical Working Group will be established at FPA to oversee and coordinate the research.

The consultant will work closely with the appointed focal point assigned by FPA, and with other institutions identified by FPA. Regular meetings will be held with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Director of Programs, Research and Advocacy Department, as needed. A briefing and debriefing meeting will be organised with the Minister and Board Members of FPA at the beginning and end of the assignment. Additionally, FPA will provide the following assistance as necessary:

- Verify and provide necessary documentation and support to the Local Consultant in executing the data collection process.
- Seek approval of ethical clearance for the implementation of the survey through the required institutions.
- Coordinate and schedule meetings with relevant stakeholders, government institutions and other organisations to seek required permission or for other pertinent matters.



- Organize and assist in translation and interpretation of verbal discussions, study questionnaires and other written documents as necessary.
- Review and provide feedback on data collection.

7. Timeframe

The Local Consultant will work approximately 55 working days during which the initial 7 days will be focusing on selecting and training the enumerators followed by 45 days of data collection and field work. The work is expected to start in October 2019. The report for data collection will be submitted by December 2019.

It is important to note that the International Consultant will be based on-site in Maldives for two weeks at a time and for the remaining duration, the International Consultant will work off-site. Thus, regular communication and sharing of information between the two Consultants are vital for a smooth progression of the study.

8. Qualifications and Job Requirements:

The qualifications and job requirements will be the following:

- Postgraduate qualification in social science. (Candidates with an undergraduate degree, in a related field, will be considered if the candidate has a minimum of five years' experience in conducting similar research assignments).
- Minimum three years experience in conducting social science research with large scale quantitative and social/health/economic surveys and quantitative research; extensive knowledge and experience with statistical data analysis, and database development and analysis using statistical software.
- Prior experience in studies and relevant research in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) will be added advantage.
- Prior experience in conducting similar research and surveys on sensitive topics.
- Strong track record of quality data collection, report writing and project management.
- Strong verbal and written communications skills in English and Dhivehi.



- Preference will be given to those candidates with prior work experience in Maldives.
- Preference will be given to those candidates that can work while based at the Authority during official working hours.

9. Work Schedule with Deliverables:

Estimated Duration	Activities	End Results
End of August 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiring Process of International Consultant 	Contract Signed
10 days (September 2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of inception report including brief literature review, proposed survey methodology, questionnaires, survey and question guides (on-site) 	Submission of inception report by International Consultant
14 days (October 2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of literature review, final survey methodology, questionnaire, other survey protocols (on-site) • Hiring process of Local Consultant 	Feedbacks from relevant stakeholders incorporated by International Consultant
7 days (October 2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation of questionnaire and survey protocols • Finalising budgeting for field plans • Recruitment, selection and training enumerators 	Progress report submitted to FPA by Local Consultant
45 days (December 2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection started • Data collection complete • Submission of report of data collection process 	Progress report submitted to FPA by Local Consultant
30 days (February 2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data entry, cleaning and analysis complete (off-site) 	Data output report submitted to FPA by International Consultant



Family Protection Authority

11. Application Procedures

Interested applicants should submit a detailed proposal with the following information:

1. Detailed CV
2. Accredited and attested copies of academic qualifications
3. Suggested work plan & timeframe (including dates for required deliverables of the Local Consultancy)
4. Estimated cost for the consultancy (including the daily rate of consultancy)
5. Reference letters and/or recommendations letters of previous work engagements.
Peer reference letters are optional
6. A copy of National ID card

All applications must include a cover letter addressed to the Chief Executive Officer of Family Protection Authority, Ms. Aminath Leena Ali. Applications should be submitted directly to Family Protection Authority (H. Fulidhooge 2nd Floor, Kalaafaanu Hingun, K. Male'), in a sealed envelope, no later than **25th August 2019 at 14:30 hours.**

06 August 2019