



Terms of Reference for International 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 that explore 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

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>>



introduction of policy that encourages development and evaluation of programmes to address domestic violence in a holistic way in the Maldives.

2. Purpose and Scope of Work

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. 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 must utilise both quantitative and qualitative methods to generate primary and secondary data. An appropriate sampling method must 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.

In order to conduct the survey on the key parameters, the following steps can be followed, but should not be limited to:

- Desk review on the situation of DV, particularly in the area of policy, behaviour and protection
- Quantitative data collection and analysis of information from different organizations and institutions working support for victims of DV.
- Key informant interviews (KIIs), stakeholder consultations and other participatory methods used.
- Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with Government officials and non-government institutions.
- Compose individual case studies through in-depth discussions with victims, institutions and organizations.

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.

A local consultant will be contracted to work alongside the international consultant to complete data collection and training of enumerators.



4. Expected Outputs and Key Deliverables

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

- 4.1. A detailed work plan and inception report with key parameters and indicators to be considered for the survey including the methodologies for data collection and dissemination.
- 4.2. Finalize the inception report, study design, questionnaire, and finalise pilot testing of questionnaire.
- 4.3. Data collection based on both administrative data and survey methodology in conforming to data requirement of international conventions, SDGs and national goals.
- 4.4. Present results of the survey and prepare a draft report for FPA technical working group and stakeholder review clearly identifying information relevant to SDGs as well as data gaps and areas that may require further assessment.
- 4.5. Present findings and recommendations in a workshop organised by FPA for key stakeholders including UN agencies, Government Officials and civil society.
- 4.6. Produce a workshop report summary document to supplement the final research report.
- 4.7. Finalise the draft research report with inputs from FPA technical working group and stakeholders.
- 4.8. Submit all working files and final dataset (in all formats) including the raw data to FPA.

5. 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 Consultant in executing the desk review.
- 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 conduct translation and interpretation of verbal discussions, study questionnaires and other written documents as necessary.
- Ensure travel and other logistical arrangements of the Consultant including visa, travel accommodation, etc., for the period of consultancy. If the Consultant wishes to extend their stay beyond the contract, all expenses will be incurred by the Consultant for that period.
- Review and provide feedback on research methodology and data collection.
- Facilitate the development of final report during the validation workshop by presenting findings of the study with relevant stakeholders and collecting feedback from stakeholders.

6. Project Scope and Timeframe

The International Consultant will work a total duration of 6 months out of which four weeks will be on-site and the remaining duration will be off-site. The Consultant will be based on-site in Maldives for two weeks at a time, once during early August and then in late February/early March. Draft reports after data analysis are to be provided while working off-site. The work is expected to start in early August 2019. The Consultant will provide a feasible timeline while



taking into consideration the estimated time durations for each deliverable as stipulated below. The final report must be submitted by March 2020.

7. 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 seven years' experience in conducting similar research assignments).
- 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.
- Preference will be given to those candidates with prior work experience in Maldives.

8. Work Schedule with Deliverables:

Estimated Duration	Activities	End Results
End of July 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hiring Process	Contract Signed
10 days (August 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



14 days (September 2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of literature review, final survey methodology, questionnaire, other survey protocols (on-site) 	Feedbacks from relevant stakeholders incorporated
7 days (September 2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training enumerators 	Progress report submitted to FPA by Local Consultant
45 days (November 2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection ongoing • Data collection complete • Submission of report 	Progress report submitted to FPA Local Consultant
30 days (January 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data entry, cleaning and analysis complete (off-site) 	Data output report submitted to FPA by International Consultant
7 days (January 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compilation of first draft report 	First draft report on the study submitted to FPA by International Consultant
14 days (February 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate comments from FPA and disseminate for feedback from relevant stakeholders* 	Dissemination of draft report to relevant stakeholders by Local Consultant
End of February 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder validation workshop to finalize findings and recommendations complete (on-site) 	Report of stakeholder consultation submitted to FPA
7 days (March 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final findings, recommendations and inputs incorporated to generate the final report of the study (on-site) 	Submission of final report and abridged report of the study to FPA



9. Terms of Payment (linking to deliverables to the extent possible):

End Results	Amount
• Submission of inception report	10%
• Literature review, final survey methodology, questionnaire, other survey protocols (on-site)	20%
• Data cleaning, output and consultancy report completed	30%
• First draft report submitted and approved by FPA and relevant stakeholders	30%
• Providing final evaluation and feedback for the final draft report (after the local consultant has incorporated and validated the feedback from relevant stakeholders) • Dissemination of findings to relevant stakeholders (Final Report) • Development of abridged report	10%

10. 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. Summary of proposed methodology
4. Suggested work plan & timeframe (including dates for submission of first draft and final report).
5. Estimated cost for the consultancy (including the daily rate of each consultancy; transport cost; accommodation and the proposed number of days for each key task. Financial submission should also take into consideration the consultancy fees for on-site and off-site tasks and deliverables)
6. Reference letters and/or recommendations letters of previous work engagements. Peer reference letters are optional.
7. Copy of identity (Passport/national ID scan)

All applications must include a cover letter addressed to the Chief Executive Officer of Family Protection Authority, Ms. Aminath Leena Ali. Applications should be emailed directly to the Director of Programs, Research and Advocacy Ms. Zeenath Shakir, zeenath@fpa.gov.mv

15th July 2019