

## Research Lead

### Terms of Reference (TOR)

#### Summary:

Job title	Research Lead
Project title	Empowered and Capable Girls: Equitable Education for all
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To scope, identify and analyze the different challenges and societal barriers that adolescent girls might face due to the pandemic, remote schooling as well as other barriers, the possible opportunities of returning to school, and the social / gender norms related issues.</li> <li>- To organize the operational proceedings of the generation of evidence.</li> </ul>
Location	Beirut
Duration	40 working days
Start Date	17 September 2021
End Date	9 November 2021
Reporting to	Technical & Field Officer

#### Background:

In 2021, NCLW and UNICEF Lebanon signed an annual work plan for collaborations that aims at better understanding the barriers for access education for adolescent girls in the current multi-layered crisis that Lebanon is facing, and that might lead to higher risks child marriage among adolescent girls.

To prevent child marriage, UNICEF and NCLW will work with MEHE on building sustainable structures to tackle barriers of girls' safe access to safe education, including the work with DOPS staff on how to handle cases of adolescent girls at high risk of child marriage, while referring them to the needed services.

UNICEF and NCLW will develop a series of communication materials targeting the education team on the importance of compulsory and equitable education for all girls, the risks of child marriage, and expanding the gender norms on what girls can do and be.

NCLW and UNICEF Lebanon seek to conduct a study that aims at better understanding the impact of the COVID 19 and economic crisis on adolescent girls in Lebanon, with a focus on

their access to education and other basic needs; while proactively promoting importance of prioritizing girls' education through media campaigns and addressing effectively challenges that might lead to girls' school drop out in the current situation through the work with the concerned department in MEHE. NCLW and UNICEF Lebanon seek to build sustainable structures to tackle barriers of girls' safe access to education, with the aim to decrease and eliminate child marriage in Lebanon. Consequently, NCLW and UNICEF require the services of a Research Lead to conduct a qualitative study / analysis and a policy brief with clear recommendations.

### **Objective:**

NCLW and UNICEF are seeking a Research Lead to conduct a study / analysis on the impact of the multilayered crisis on adolescent girls' access to education. This study / analysis shall tackle different challenges and societal barriers that adolescent girls might face due to the pandemic, remote schooling as well as other barriers, the possible opportunities of returning to school, and the social / gender norms related issues.

NCLW and UNICEF are seeking a Research Lead with good knowledge in qualitative research in a comparative perspective, and with advanced gender and GBV expertise.

### **Specific tasks:**

- Prepare a desk / literature review on the different challenges faced by adolescent girls due to the multilayered crisis in Lebanon. The literature review shall consider the following: research reports done by governments, CSOs, NGOs and IOs, legal and policy documents including national strategies.
- Design and develop methodology tools, outline, key research questions and surveys instruments / questionnaires and list of targeted population and schools visited for the study / analysis.
- Liaise with the Data Collection Company for the purpose of assembling required qualitative data.
- Organize with the assistance of the Technical & Field Officer focus group discussions and key informant interviews with concerned parties (schools' students, parents / caregivers and schools' personnel) in different targeted schools and develop questionnaires.
- Ensure that most vulnerable girls (stateless, married, engaged, with disabilities) are included in the study / analysis.
- Prepare a policy brief in Arabic, identifying the challenges that adolescent girls in Lebanon are facing and propose main recommendations and interventions to expand the access of adolescent girls to learning and e-learning and to address structural, normative, and societal barriers related to skills, access, literacy, etc.
- Draft the outline and final report of the study / analysis on the different challenges and societal barriers that adolescent girls might face due to the pandemic, remote schooling

as well as other barriers, the possible opportunities of returning to school, and the social / gender norms related issues and highlight the main recommendations and clear interventions to be delivered.

### **Expected deliverables:**

- Research tools developed.
- Methodology developed.
- Workplan developed.
- Inception report developed.
- Pre-tested and questionnaires adjusted to conduct qualitative research in a comparative perspective.
- Outline and final report prepared and submitted in both electronic along with all supporting documents.
- Policy brief prepared with main recommendations and clear interventions.

### **Reporting**

- a) Weekly meetings to be held with the Technical and Field Officer to keep her/him updated on work progress and challenges.
- b) Periodical meetings to be held with the Data Collection Company to keep it updated on the findings of the focus groups discussions and key informant interviews.
- c) Periodical meetings to be held with NCLW to keep the institution abreast of the main findings and to get clearance for her/his tasks performed.
- d) Provision of deliverables she/he is being in charge of.

### **Expected background and experience:**

The assignment requires the following qualifications and experiences from the Research Lead:

- A Master's Degree in social science, or relevant discipline with a good knowledge in qualitative research in a comparative perspective and, with advanced gender and GBV expertise.
- 5-7 years of professional experience in the field of social sciences and especially qualitative research, including data collection, analysis and report writing. Published research is a definite advantage.
- Knowledge of and experience in implementing research methodologies including qualitative data collection methods such as surveys, FGD and KIIs at the local level.
- Experience and knowledge in national education policies, practices and available government structure and educational priorities.
- Strong planning, follow-up, time management, and organizational skills.
- Excellent command of English and Arabic languages.
- Ability to work effectively in a fast-paced environment (and during weekends if needed).

**How to apply:**

Interested candidates must submit the following documents to demonstrate their qualifications:

- A cover letter explaining their suitability for the position.
- An updated copy of their Curriculum Vitae.
- A separate financial offer indicating the daily rate for this position in USD.
- A paper explaining the methodology of work and the timeframes.

Prospective candidates should apply and submit the above-mentioned documents to the email address [info@nclw.gov.lb](mailto:info@nclw.gov.lb); no later than Friday 10 September 2021 at midnight (Beirut time), ensuring the subject line is denoted with the heading: NCLW / UNICEF Research Lead.

Incomplete submission will be a ground for disqualification.