**Call for Consultancy:**

Baseline Survey: CONNECTING ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN (AGYW) FOR HIV PREVENTION PROJECT

**1. Introduction and Background:**

The project seeks to contribute to lowering new HIV infections amongst AGYW in their diversity from Masvingo. The project will contribute towards increased health-seeking behaviour among adolescent girls and young women, a decrease in new HIV infections amongst adolescent girls and young women, and increased knowledge of HIV and AIDS. This will be achieved through innovative information sharing, demand generation, and community mobilization to improve access, utilization, and retention of HIV combination prevention methods.

In Zimbabwe, AGYW constitutes a high-risk group for HIV infection, while coverage of dedicated programs for them remains too low. In 19 high-burden countries in Africa including Zimbabwe, dedicated combination prevention programs for AGYW are operating in only 40% of the high HIV incidence locations (Global HIV Prevention Coalition Roadmap 2025). In Masvingo where My Age Zimbabwe and DAWA the partners for this project intend to implement this project, AGYW is also disproportionately affected especially those from rural areas and poor urban settings.

The baseline survey plays a pivotal role in providing invaluable insights into the current health landscape, thereby shedding light on existing challenges and identifying areas necessitating intervention. By establishing a baseline, we can accurately measure the project's impact and make well-informed decisions grounded in evidence. In the context of evaluating the project's influence on the health outcomes of Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) in Masvingo, we outline the fundamental justifications for conducting this essential survey.

The survey will yield a comprehensive understanding of the prevailing health conditions, behaviours, and knowledge levels among AGYW in Masvingo. It will enable the project to collect essential data on key health indicators encompassing reproductive health, HIV prevention, mental well-being, and other critical domains. Furthermore, it will serve as a benchmark against which we can meticulously gauge and evaluate the project's progress over time. This benchmark will furnish us with a starting point from which to assess the effectiveness of interventions and systematically track advancements toward desired health outcomes.

Moreover, the baseline survey will prove instrumental in identifying specific areas within AGYW's health that necessitate focused attention and intervention. Armed with this information, we can thoughtfully allocate resources and devise tailored interventions that directly address the identified gaps. By prioritizing these areas of concern, we can maximize the impact of the project and ensure its alignment with the unique needs of AGYW in Masvingo.

**2. Objectives:**

* To assess the current health status, behaviours, and knowledge levels of AGYW (15 - 24 years) in Masvingo.
* To Identify the barriers and challenges that AGYW faces in accessing healthcare services and adopting healthy behaviours.
* To Establish baseline indicators to measure the effectiveness of the project in improving health outcomes for AGYW.
* To Inform the development of evidence-based interventions and strategies to address the identified gaps.

**3. Scope of Work, target population, and Geographic scope:** *The consultant will be responsible for the following tasks:*

1. Refining the survey objectives and research questions in collaboration with project stakeholders.
2. Designing the survey methodology, including sampling strategy, sample size determination, and data collection methods.
3. Developing and finalizing data collection tools such as questionnaires, interview guides, and protocols for focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews (KIIs).
4. Providing training to field enumerators on survey administration, ethical considerations, and data collection protocols.
5. Overseeing and supervising the fieldwork activities, ensuring high-quality data collection and adherence to the survey methodology.
6. Conducting data analysis using appropriate statistical software and qualitative analysis techniques.
7. Preparing a comprehensive baseline survey report that includes a detailed analysis of the quantitative and qualitative data, highlighting key findings, trends, and recommendations.
8. Presenting the survey findings to project stakeholders clearly and concisely.
9. The baseline survey will be conducted in ***Masvingo urban*** and ***Mwenezi district in Chingwizi*** area
10. ***Target Population:***  (15 - 24 years) from Masvingo urban and Mwenezi in their diversity

**4. Deliverables:** *The following deliverables are expected:*

1. Inception report outlining the survey methodology, data collection tools, and analysis plan.
2. Raw data collected during the survey (in a secure and anonymized format).
3. Final baseline survey report, including data analysis, findings, and recommendations.
4. *Power point presentation on the findings*

**5. Qualifications and Expertise:**

*The consultant should possess the following qualifications and expertise:*

1. Strong background in research design, survey methodology, and data collection techniques, particularly in the context of HIV prevention and reproductive health among AGYW.
2. Experience in designing and conducting baseline surveys or similar research studies.
3. Proficiency in quantitative and qualitative data analysis methods.
4. Familiarity with ethical considerations and best practices in research.
5. Excellent report writing and presentation skills.

**6. Timeline:** The consultancy will begin on **01 April 2024** and conclude on **19 April 2024**. The expected duration of the consultancy is **3 weeks**.

**7. Submission of Proposals:**

*Interested consultants should submit their proposals including:*

1. Company profile (if applicable) or individual consultant's profile.
2. Relevant experience in conducting similar surveys or research studies.
3. Proposed methodology and approach for the baseline survey.
4. Detailed work plan with timelines.
5. Budget breakdown including consultancy fees, travel expenses, and any other relevant costs.
6. Contact information for references.

**8. Evaluation Criteria:**

*The proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:*

1. Demonstrated experience and expertise in conducting baseline surveys or similar research studies.
2. Methodology and approach proposed for the survey.
3. Qualifications and relevant experience of the consultant or consulting firm.
4. Feasibility of the work plan and proposed timeline.
5. Budget competitiveness.

**9. Submission Deadline and Contact Information:**

**Proposal Submission:** Interested consultants should submit a proposal that includes a detailed work plan, budget, and CV or resume by **27 March 2024** to the Administration Manager at [myagezimbabwe@gmail.com](mailto:myagezimbabwe@gmail.com).Please include *"Consultancy: Connecting Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) for HIV Prevention Project”* in the subject line of your email.

Evaluation Criteria: Proposals will be evaluated based on the consultant's qualifications, experience, proposed work plan, and budget.

We look forward to receiving your proposal. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact us at [myagezimbabwe@gmail.com](mailto:myagezimbabwe@gmail.com)