



CONSULTANCY

Terms of Reference (ToR) for Endline Evaluation Endline Evaluation for the Strengthening local capacities and participation of young people in Uganda to improve their sexual and reproductive health and rights project

Posting level:	National	Organization (Benefiting country):	Action 4 Health Uganda
Language Required:	English	Expected duration of assignment:	Uganda 2 months
Program thematic areas	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights		
Published date:	17.07.2024	Closing date:	02.08.24

1. Background and Rationale

Action 4 Health Uganda (A4HU) is a youth empowerment NGO focused on promoting Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) and fostering youth engagement in socio-economic development. A4HU was established in October 2017 to succeed and build upon the initiatives of DSW in Uganda. The organization is committed to advocating for the prioritization and provision of health services tailored to the needs of young people at both national and sub-national levels. Central to its mission is the creation of a supportive socio-cultural, political, and legal environment that safeguards the rights of young people. This environment aims to facilitate their access to gender-sensitive and youth-friendly health information, education, and services.

The Strengthening Local Capacities and Participation of Young People in Uganda project shortened as the Empower Youth Project (EYP) is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through Deutsche Stiftung für Weltbevölkerung (DSW) for the period of 2021-2024. The project is implemented in six Ugandan districts to enhance SRHR service uptake and advocacy among young people. In collaboration with community structures, the project expects to directly target a total population of 36000, young people 15-24 years and to target as well indirect beneficiaries, among them, parents, religious leaders, health workers, etc.

The project is a scale-up of another BMZ-financed project between 2017-2020 (Improvement of the Social and Economic Situation of Young People in Five Districts of Uganda). This initiative was instrumental in transitioning DSW's operations to a local Non-Governmental Organization (NGO).

Uganda has a young population, with 50% under 17 years old and 34.8% adolescents of reproductive age (Preliminary census data 2024). Despite their entitlement to sexual and reproductive health services, cultural norms and gender inequalities limit access to information and services, resulting in challenges such as teenage pregnancies, gender-based violence, and unmet family planning needs. The unmet family planning need stands at 28%, and the performance of maternal and child health services is hindered by limited financing, inefficient fund utilization, and a weak health system. These challenges are further exacerbated by the fact that only 5% of public health facilities offer youth-friendly services, and there is limited engagement of youth in advocacy for improvement, which is crucial for addressing the specific health needs of adolescents.

The end-line evaluation is critical to understanding the extent to which the Empower Youth Project has addressed these challenges and achieved its outcomes and objectives. By identifying successes and areas for improvement, A4HU can refine its approach to youth empowerment and SRHR advocacy, ensuring that future initiatives are more effective and sustainable. The evaluation will provide evidence-based insights that inform future programming and strategic planning, aligning with A4HU's strategic objectives.

2. Purpose

A4HU seeks an independent consultant or consultancy team to conduct a comprehensive end-line evaluation of the Empower Youth Project.

The overall objective is to analyze the specific outcome against 5 of the DAC criteria - relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, Impact, and sustainability. This objective pursues against the specific objective of the project, which states that young people in targeted districts of Uganda are increasingly taking up SRHR services and advocating for their SRHR, ensured by a consolidated youth structure and a strengthened local organization (A4HU).

The evaluation exercise will assess the impact of EYP project interventions by comparing the situation of beneficiaries in the project locations at the start of the project documented in the baseline and end-line study of the previous project and after implementing the project. This includes assessing the relevance and sustainability of the project outcome, approaches, and strategies. The evaluation intends to gather end-of-project data against all indicators included in the final approved log frame to assess the extent to which planned targets at outcome and output levels have been met. This is important because the evaluation will conduct a final review to cover aspects of project design, implementation modalities, targets achieved, any uncompleted activities, and deliverables that will be accounted for in the projection of results. The evaluation will document best practices, lessons learned as well as challenges that arose from project implementation.

Objectives and use

The evaluation aims to evaluate the following aspects derived from the outputs and outcomes of the project and provide final data to the indicators:

1. Assessment of SRHR Service Uptake:
 - Evaluate the change in SRHR service uptake among the target population.
 - Analyze the factors contributing to or hindering increased service uptake.

Outcome Indicator: A 15% higher proportion of the target group utilizes sexual and reproductive health services. (based on baseline data)

2. Evaluation of Youth Organization Capacities:
 - Assess the development of operational structures within youth organizations.
 - Determine the level of independence and effectiveness of these organizations.

Outcome Indicator: Strengthened youth organizations (youth clubs, YECs, and youth networks) in the project regions have developed organizational structures and work independently.

3. Review of Advocacy Campaigns:
 - Evaluate the planning, execution, and impact of advocacy campaigns conducted.
 - Measure the engagement and response of policymakers and community leaders to these campaigns

Outcome Indicator: 4 coordinated advocacy campaigns have been implemented at district and sub-county level

4. Analysis of A4HU Organizational Strengthening:
 - Assess improvements in A4HU's organizational structure and operational systems.
 - Evaluate the effectiveness of A4HU's enhanced capacity in acquiring diversified funding sources and implementing SRHR programs.

Outcome Indicator: The internal organizational structure and operational systems of A4HU, including the capacity to acquire diversified sources of funding, have been strengthened and contribute to the optimization of SRHR programs.

Furthermore, it will draw recommendations for future interventions:

5. Recommendations
 - Provide actionable recommendations to enhance community presence, mentorship, and supervision.
 - Suggest strategies to bolster Income-Generating Activities (IGAs) and support youth groups for better socio-economic outcomes.
 - Recommend behavioral change programs for youth and community leaders.
 - Propose measures to establish resilient and enduring youth structures through capacity building and integrated IGAs.
 - Advise on strengthening connections between youth structures and health facilities as part of the referral system.
 - Recommend ways to improve the skills of health workers in providing youth-friendly services and expanding the network of health centers involved in the project.

In addition to collecting data against project indicators, this endline will seek to answer the following questions.

Relevance:

- Determine if increased SRHR service uptake aligns with the needs and priorities of the young population.
- Did the capacity development activities meet the needs of youth organizations?
- Did the advocacy campaigns address key SRHR issues?
- Did organizational strengthening align with A4HU's strategic goals and needs?

Effectiveness:

- Assess the extent to which the project has achieved its objective of increasing SRHR service uptake.

- Evaluate the achievement of strengthening youth organizations' capacities.
- Assess the impact of advocacy campaigns on policy and community engagement.
- Measure improvements in A4HU's operational efficiency and program implementation.

Efficiency:

- Evaluate how well resources were used to increase SRHR service uptake.

Sustainability:

- Assess the likelihood that these strengthened capacities will be maintained over time.
- Determine the likelihood that organizational improvements will sustain over time and continue to support SRHR programs.

Impact:

- Evaluate the broader effects of advocacy campaigns on SRHR awareness and policy changes.

Furthermore, it will be a learning opportunity for all parties involved, such as donors, local authorities, and youth-led organizations.

3. Scope of Work

- The study will cover the project's implementation period.
- The scope of this study includes conducting a desk review and gathering both quantitative and qualitative data from the direct target and indirect target beneficiaries in the project locations, namely Busia, Tororo, Kamuli, Mukono, Wakiso, and Kampala districts for the EYP project.
- Understanding the context is crucial for the successful completion of this task. Data collection will culminate in the preparation of an end-line evaluation report.
- This endline evaluation will ensure that data for each indicator is compiled and analyzed in comparison to the baseline data.

The following evaluation questions are based on the Logframe developed during the planning phase of the project. They may be refined, and additional evaluation questions may be developed. This process will take place through intensive consultations between the evaluator and the project teams in Uganda and Germany. A4HU and DSW desire to create the following specific outcome with their corresponding evaluation questions to guide the indicators performance assessment:

- To what extent has the EYP Project, improved the SRHR knowledge and SRHR service uptake of the youths in consolidated structures and outside of them in the targeted areas (disaggregated by districts or YECs)?
- Which districts did show better development and most challenges in youth people taking up SRHR services and advocating for their SRHR? (disaggregated by districts or YECs)?
- To what extent were advocacy campaigns addressed at the district and subcounty level effective?
- To what extent did community engagements, including community action committee meetings and cascading sessions, play a role in enhancing awareness of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) issues, thereby informing advocacy campaigns?
- To what extent have youth structures consolidated and how independent are they in

- the targeted areas? (disaggregated by districts or YECs)?
- To what extent has A4HU been strengthened as a local organization by the project and has the capacity to acquire diversified funding improved?
- In what ways did Project interventions influence changes in attitudes and perceptions of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) issues of young people among community leaders and parents?
- To what extent have the 20 partner health facilities implemented youth-friendly services and practices within their establishments?
- How has the involvement of youth leaders in the referral of SRH cases increased access to and uptake of SRH services?

4. Methodological guidance

The consultant will need to develop a comprehensive research methodology in collaboration with the A4HU project team. The collection of primary data shall consist of both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods. The evaluation will cover Busia, Tororo, Kamuli, Mukono, Wakiso, and Kampala in Uganda.

Primary methods will include face-to-face interviews, focus group discussions (FGD), and key informant interviews (KII) with selected groups and individuals from the target population and project stakeholders. Additionally, the consultant team is encouraged to recommend other groups for interviews based on the information needs. Research instruments, such as questionnaires for young adolescents, teachers, parents, government officials, and other project stakeholders, must be meticulously crafted and reviewed with the A4HU project team.

Secondary data shall be collected through a desk review of existing literature such as project proposals, Interim/quarterly reports, implementation plans, M&E data, formal policy documents, and other relevant quantitative and qualitative secondary data that will support the evaluation exercise.

The use of appropriate sampling techniques shall be proposed by the consultant to collect both primary and secondary data. However, the consultant shall commit to keeping the sampling to the features of the specific target group (age limit, direct beneficiaries, geographical location, and gender) and consider the baseline sampling.

5. Expertise Profile of the Evaluation Team

The evaluation firm or individual consultant will demonstrate expertise in conducting high-quality evaluations of health and community development projects targeting young people. The leader should have at least a master's degree in a relevant field and a minimum of 5 years of experience in evaluation with a strong background in mixed-method research and evaluation methods.

The firm or individual consultant will guarantee expertise in:

- Conducting rigorous evaluations that meet international quality and accountability standards
- Synthesizing findings, drawing practical conclusions, and making recommendations

- Preparing high-quality reports and presenting findings in a clear and concise manner
- Facilitating participatory processes and engaging stakeholders in the evaluation process
- Working independently and as part of a team to deliver timely and effective results
- Accepting Feedback from stakeholders
- Understanding of BMZ's Logical Framework or previous work with BMZ projects will be considered an asset.

6. Tentative Timetable

The assignment is expected to start by mid-September 2024. The first draft is due four weeks after the start date, and the final revised report is due three weeks after the first draft discussion.

Activity 1: Developing and submitting inception report to A4HU with refined methodology and data collection tools
<p>Deliverables:</p> <p>Inception report (including a clear interpretation of the indicators provided in the log frame, how this data will be collected, and the data sources)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Detailed fieldwork plan - Refined methodological framework - Data collection tools <p>Note: An M&E plan that identifies data sources will be provided to the consultant(s) for the development of the inception report.</p>
Activity 2: Recruiting, orienting, and training of experienced research assistants/ enumerators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - List of research assistants/ enumerators - Report on training and orientation of enumerators, including signed Safeguarding reports. - Pre-testing and adjustment of questionnaires, incl. follow-up training - Final survey(s) tools
Activity 3: Collection of Data
<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Submit data files including quantitative data sets (raw and refined products) including recordings, transcriptions, and interview notes for KIIs and FGDs. - Field report at the end of the sampling process
Activity 4: Data analysis and drafting of the report
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft 1 report
Activity 5: Validation Meeting with selected Local government and Youth empowerment center leaders in Busia, Tororo, Kamuli, Mukono, Wakiso, and Kampala Districts
<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report summarizing stakeholder inputs and information acquired during meetings
Activity 6: Final Report & Dissemination of Findings
<p>Deliverables:</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare and submit a comprehensive and well-organized Final Report complete with standard reporting formats (the main body of the report should be a maximum of 60 pages in length, excluding TOC, tables, and annexes). - Draft reports shall be reviewed by the A4HU and DSW - To simplify this process, the evaluation report will be completed in the DSW/BMZ-developed evaluation report template. - Endline data for project outcomes of the Logframe
Activity 7: Dissemination of Results, action learning, and feedback
Deliverables: 360° feedback questionnaire

7. Management of the Evaluation

7.1 Action 4 Health Uganda

The evaluation will engage the EYP project management team that comprises the Project Manager, Senior project coordinator, Monitoring and evaluation officer, Youth Engagement Officer, and Finance and administration manager.

- The senior project Officer will be in charge of the overall coordination and communication with the consultant, ensuring that all processes are adhered to and deliverables are met. They will manage the evaluation process, offer technical guidance, and maintain coordination with district stakeholders.
- The M& E officer will be responsible for technical aspects of the evaluation including, reviewing data collection tools, and reports, as well as ensuring that the evaluation process is smooth and that the findings accurately reflect the project's accomplishments in line with the logical framework and monitoring and evaluation plan.
- The Youth Engagement officer will liaise with the YEC leaders to coordinate and facilitate youth club meetings. They will also coordinate with district health officials, to ensure their availability for interviews and meetings during the evaluation.

7.2 Evaluation Team:

The evaluation team, led by an experienced External Evaluator, will provide comprehensive technical support throughout the evaluation process. Their responsibilities will include:

- Develop a detailed inception report outlining the evaluation scope, methodology, and timeline
- Leading the evaluation process, ensuring a rigorous and objective assessment of project outcomes
- Designing and developing data collection tools, such as surveys, structured interviews, interview guides, and focus group discussion protocols
- Conducting data collection, including interviews, surveys, and focus group discussions with project stakeholders
- Participating in a validation meeting to ensure accuracy and reliability of findings
- Analysing data, identifying trends, and drawing conclusions on project performance
- Preparing a comprehensive endline report, including recommendations for future programming
- (to include feedback received from DSW and A4HU from first draft to develop final report)

8. Skills and Experience

The consultant is expected to have the following skills and experience:

- Applicant's lead must have a minimum of a master's degree in health sciences, including public health or a social science such as Sociology, Anthropology, Psychology, etc. Possession of A PhD will be an added advantage. Part of his team must include expertise with master's level education in one of the preferred areas mentioned above.
- Proven 5-10 years of experience in conducting research and/or studies on SRHR.
- Theoretical and practical knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research tool development and data collection methods (including focus group discussions).
- Experience in conducting studies in out-of-school environments, especially in Uganda.
- Experience in working with/interviewing young people.
- In-depth knowledge of SRH rights, youth empowerment, gender-sensitive programming, and related sectors, notably in Kenya, is desired.
- Very good written and verbal communication skills in English.
- Strong communication, interpersonal skills, and attention to detail.

9. Payment and Terms of Payment

The consultant will be paid the consultancy fee in three installments of 30%, 30% and 40% as follows:

- 1st tranche on approval of inception report and assessment tools.
- 2nd tranche on presentation of preliminary results and draft report.
- Final tranche upon approval of the final report by A4HU and DSW Germany.

10. submission

Your application should include the following:

- Updated CV of Team Leader and other core members of the Consulting Team. A detailed resume highlighting the work that the Consultant has undertaken, which is relevant to this assignment and supported by a recommendation letter for similar tasks.
- Minimum of two (2) samples of reports developed by the Consultant addressing similar issues.
- A detailed work plan and timeframe, which must be costed (in the local currency) at each stage.
- Technical Proposal: Consultant's understanding and interpretation of the ToRs, detailed methodology to be used in undertaking the assignment and the tools to be used in data collection as well as data analysis framework and plan and the task to be accomplished.
- Specific roles and responsibilities of the team leader, supervisory chain, and other core members of the report writing for the exercise.
- Financial Proposal: Detailed budget with justification. The financial proposal should provide cost estimates for services rendered including daily consultancy fees, training

costs, accommodation; transport costs; stationeries, supplies needed for training, and administrative costs related to the participants during the exercise.

Interested applicants are requested to submit their application to jobs@a4huganda.org with the reference "EYP_ENDLINE_2024" clearly indicated in the email subject line.

Deadline for application: 02nd August 2024.

Ideal start date: 15th September 2024.

Note: Only shortlisted consultants will be contacted. Consider your application unsuccessful if you have not heard from us 4 weeks after the deadline for this application.