



FORUM FOR AFRICAN WOMEN EDUCATIONALISTS-UGANDA CHAPTER

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A LEAD RESEARCHER TO CONDUCT A NATIONAL STUDY ON THE SITUATION OF GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN IN UGANDA DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

INTRODUCTION

Forum for African Women Educationalists Uganda Chapter (FAWEU) was established in 1997 with the goal of accelerating female participation in education and closing the gender gap within the education system at all levels in Uganda. It is one of the 34 National Chapters of the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), a pan African Non-governmental Organization (NGO) founded in 1992 by five women ministers of education to promote girls' and women's education in Africa. FAWE Uganda's vision is "a Uganda in which all girls and women effectively participate in sustainable development," and its mission is "To enhance gender equity, equality and inclusion in education by influencing policies, nurturing attitudes and practices, and implementing interventions that positively influence girls' education. FAWE Uganda currently implements over 8 projects¹ that translate its mission and vision into reality.

RATIONALE FOR THE RESEARCH

The outbreak of Covid-19 in China and its spread across the globe has posed great challenges to all countries. The World Health Organization, on March 1, 2020 declared Covid-19 a global public health emergency and urged countries around the globe to undertake several precautionary measures to mitigate the spread of the disease. Uganda first registered its confirmed case of Covid-19 on Saturday 21st march 2020, and to date up to 6,879 cases of Covid-19 have been confirmed in Uganda with 2,961 recoveries and 69 deaths (24th Sept 2020, Ministry of Health website²) Like many other countries, Uganda responded by enforcing a lockdown on the country as an emergency management plan to contain the spread of the virus.

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected millions of children and youth in almost every country in the world. At the height of the pandemic, nearly 90 percent of students were affected by the closure

¹ Higher Education Access Program, Community Action To End Violence Against Children, Promotion Of Second Chance Education In Karamoja, Acholi, Rwenzori And Teso Bukedea sub regions, reskilling program in west Nile, education for life in Lamwo, Power project in West Nile.

² <https://covid19.gou.go.ug/?pg=docs&d=press>

of schools, universities, and other institutions (UNESCO, April 2020). While school closures may have been necessary to reduce the transmission rate of Covid-19 in many contexts, the full impact of such closures on the well-being of children and youth has not always been considered in the decision-making process. Various risks to the education, protection, and health of children and youth need to be analyzed to decide whether schools reopen or stay closed. Such data analysis, particularly at a local level, is necessary to make informed decisions on when and why to reopen schools (UNICEF).

Many papers, documents, and resources have highlighted how Covid-19 has impacted access to quality education and learning due to widespread school closures (INEE Resource Collection, GEC, UNESCO, 2020). This evidence suggests that the Covid-19 crisis jeopardizes the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4) and leaves the most marginalized children and youth—especially those in vulnerable situations—even further behind their less vulnerable peers. Before the Covid-19 crisis, 258 million children were already denied their right to quality education; millions more are now at risk of having this right disrupted and denied (UNESCO, 2019). This pandemic has also increased protection risks, including those related to various forms of violence, abuse, and exploitation, thereby putting the achievement of SDGs 5.2³, 5.3⁴, 8.7⁵ and 16.2⁶ further from reach.

In Uganda schools were closed and have remained closed for last six months since March 2020, while business has remained paralyzed. As a result of the lockdown, many families lost their sources of livelihoods, and children and youth especially girls and young women have been rendered vulnerable to risky behavior and occurrences which has led to increase in teenage pregnancies and early marriages across Uganda. According to the Daily Monitor newspaper of 27th July 2020, up to 2,372 girls have conceived and 128 married off in the districts of Kitgum, Ngora, Kyegegwa, Kasese and Lyantonde districts during the lock down in March 2020. Also according to the Independent News Paper published on 11th Sept 2020, up 4,000 girls have been made pregnant in Acholi sub region of Uganda since the lock down was instituted by government in March 2020.

Consequent to the situation of girls and young women as reported, FAWE Uganda would like to carry out a study to assess the situation of girls and young women in Uganda during the Covid-19 pandemic.

³ 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

⁴ Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

⁵ Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms

⁶ End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

PURPOSE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

Conduct a national study in Uganda to assess the situation of school going girls and young women during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The objectives of the study are to:

1. Assess the prevalence of early marriages and adolescent pregnancies among school going girls during the Covid-19 pandemic in Uganda.
2. Identify the drivers of increased sexual engagement among school going girls during the Covid-19 pandemic.
3. Assess the level of participation of school going girls in available learning opportunities and their continued interest in education during the pandemic and the post-Covid-19 period.
4. Examine the involvement of school going girls in economic activities during the Covid-19 pandemic and the effects of this on the lives of school going girls.
5. Identify possible innovations to support girls to continue with education during the COVID-19 Pandemic and in the aftermath of the pandemic.

EXPECTED KEY DELIVERABLES

- Inception report
- Research tools
- Raw data
- Study Report
- Study Process Report

METHODOLOGY

This is a national study that will cover 25 districts in Uganda. The study will employ a mixed methods research approach using both quantitative and qualitative research methods of data collection. The study population will include school going girls and young women, representatives of key government institutions in education, JLOS sector, local governments, CSOs, religious/cultural leaders, academic institutions, private sector, Parliament of Uganda and development partners. The research process will take a total of 30 working days.

EXPECED TASKS FOR THE LEAD RESEARCHER

1. Oversee the execution of the whole study
2. Translate the proposed objectives in the concept into measurable and researchable objectives
3. Identify co researchers with the required experience
4. Supervise the entire research team; Co-Researchers and Research Assistants
5. Developing an inception report

6. Develop research tools
7. Compile the study report
8. Present draft study report to FAWEU, and it's stakeholders for validation
9. Present research findings at a national validation workshop
10. Present a validated research report

RESPONSIBILITIES OF FAWE Uganda

- Meet the consultants, and research team's expenses related to the implementation of the task
- Monitor and supervise the execution of the task
- Pay research cost to NCHE
- Coordinate the activity to ensure smooth flow
- Support the consultant with necessary background documents and information as may be necessary

PROFILE OF LEAD-RESEARCHER

- A PhD in Gender Studies, Sociology, Development Studies, Education and any other related field with strong research experience;
- Have knowledge and relevant research experiences in child related, gender aspects, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights issue;
- Familiarity with the education and social sector issues in Uganda;
- Be competent in both qualitative and quantitative research methods.
- Excellent communication and writing skills.
- Have at least 5 years' experience in gender in education related research.

The lead researcher must demonstrate how she/he/ will execute the study in consideration of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions by the Ministry of Health and national guidelines on engagement in a technical proposal submitted to FAWE Uganda

TIMEFRAME

The research process will take a total of 30 working days. The 30 days' period is spread between October-November 2020.

PAYMENT SCHEDULES

1. 25% upon signing the contract by the consultant
2. 25% upon submission of draft report upon validation
3. 50% upon submission of final report

APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested Consultants should submit their expression of interest with the following details:

1. Composition of research team with their CVs;
2. Technical proposal;
3. Financial proposal indicating their daily rate

Expression of interest should be addressed to FAWE Uganda on email fawe@faweuganda.org and copy the Programmes Manager jadiama@faweuganda.org by close of business 3rd Saturday October 2020