

## UNICEF EVALUATION OFFICE

### Evaluation of the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI)

#### 1.0 PURPOSE

The UNGEI partnership is seeking qualified and eligible individuals to submit a proposal to provide services to conduct an evaluation of the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative.

#### 2.0 GENERAL REQUIREMENT

The UNGEI Global Advisory Committee (GAC) has commissioned an evaluation of the partnership, the activities of which will commence in January 2011. The evaluation aims to explore the extent to which the UNGEI partnership is achieving intended outcomes at the country level, and the extent to which the global efforts are contributing to the effectiveness and efficiency of the UNGEI partnership. The evaluation will be anchored on UNGEI's proposed results framework<sup>1</sup>, the outcomes of which are to ensure that countries have sound national policies that promote girls' education and gender equality; that best practices in facilitating girls' education and gender equality are known and institutionalized; and that the partnership facilitates an effective partnership for girls' education and gender equality. Hence, **we invite qualified consultants to indicate their interest to provide services as the international lead evaluator** for this evaluation. The international lead evaluator will work with and receive inputs from six national and/or regional evaluators/consultants, and have the overall responsibility for the evaluation methodology, execution and quality.

#### 3.0 SCOPE OF WORK

**United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI).** UNGEI is a partnership of organizations committed to gender equality in and through education by narrowing the gender gap in primary and secondary education. UNGEI further seeks to advance the attainment of MDG 2 and MDG 3, to have all children complete primary schooling, with girls and boys having equal access to quality education by 2015. UNGEI is a partnership that includes organizations from the United Nations family, governments, civil society and the private sector, as well as communities and families; UNICEF serves as lead agency. The initiative works at global, regional and country levels to ensure that girls receive a quality education that prepares them to be full and active participants in their societies.

**Scope of the evaluation:** Approximately 40 countries in five UNICEF administrative regions currently have an active UNGEI partnership. UNGEI works primarily at policy and technical levels and uses three main strategies: policy dialogue and advocacy, where UNGEI's collective voice adds to efforts to raise awareness on the importance of girls' education and to influence policy discussions; technical outputs and capacity development, focusing on

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<sup>1</sup> One of the objectives of this evaluation is to validate the outcomes and the proposed monitoring and evaluation framework. We will have a finalized framework at the conclusion of this evaluation.

filling knowledge and information gaps by creating and sharing tools, resources and experience; and, coordination and alignment with current aid architecture by promoting greater aid alignment and sustained aid allocations for girls' education. The GAC has commissioned an evaluation to assess the added-value of working under the partnership, the objectives of which are:

- To define the key elements that make a strong partnership for girls' education at the country and regional levels;
- To map the status of UNGEI partnerships in all participating countries (currently estimated at over 40) and regions (currently five);
- To validate a set of proposed outcomes to be achieved in advancing the girls' education and gender equality agenda in education in each country;
- To map and/or examine the governance structure and administrative components of the UNGEI partnership at the global level; and,
- To identify information needs and propose a framework and/or mechanism for collecting empirical baseline data for future evaluative work.

There are two distinct elements of the evaluation, the first being data collection and assessment of the partnership at the national and regional levels to be carried out by national and regional consultants. The other major component comprises, through a desk review exercise, mapping of UNGEI activities in participating countries to provide the global status of UNGEI partnerships, undertaking quality assurance visits to two (2) of the six case study countries, as well as synthesizing evaluation input from those countries to produce the final evaluation report.

**Professional requirements for International Lead Evaluator.** Given the complexity of evaluating partnerships and the relative paucity of evaluations in this area, we seek an evaluation expert with seniority in terms of experience in evaluative work, the number and range of evaluation he/she has conducted, mature and creative thinking about evaluation design as would be required in the relatively new area of evaluating a partnership in the area of education development. The international lead evaluator should have expertise in the education sector and work experience in girls' education and gender analysis. He/she should also have experience with the UN system and familiarity with rights-based work.

**Period of assignment.** The international lead evaluator is expected to work 90 person days between December 2010 and June 2011, and work with national evaluators from six countries and one region.

#### **4.0 SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**

Interested evaluation experts and/or consultants are required to complete and submit the EOI form (in Appendix 1 of this document), and provide a 2-page response to the 5 open-ended questions. Eois should be sent by e-mail to: [evalrecruit@unicef.org](mailto:evalrecruit@unicef.org), no later than **18 October 2010, at 5.00 PM NY Time**. Please note the following:

- a. This part of the submission seeks your expression of interest (Eoi) to participate and not proposals or price quotes, which are required later (see Section 5 below).
- b. Responses received without a duly completed form or an incomplete form will not be considered.

## 5.0 SUBMISSION OF TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL PROPOSALS

Interested evaluation experts and/or consultants are also required to submit detailed technical and financial proposals according to the attached Terms of Reference (TORs). Technical and financial proposals should be sent by e-mail to: [evalrecruit@unicef.org](mailto:evalrecruit@unicef.org), no later than **01 November 2010, at 5.00 PM NY Time**.

**Requirements for proposal:** Interested Individuals are required to submit the following:

- a. a technical proposal, which includes background knowledge and your understanding of issues in girls education, gender equality, and working in education partnerships; how would approach the evaluation (conceptual framework); the proposed methodology; and, a **detailed work-plan** with activities and time frames;
- b. a detailed **financial proposal**, with a breakdown of costs for professional fees, travel, accommodation, data collection, analysis and report writing and administration support; and,
- c. a sample report of an evaluation report where you were team leader or principal evaluator, and principal author.

**Desired Competencies for the international lead evaluator:** the international lead evaluator must offer the following demonstrated experience, knowledge and competencies:

1. Significant knowledge and experience of evaluation concepts and approaches;
2. Good knowledge in gender in the Education Sector, and experience with evaluation conducted from a gender-based perspective;
3. Good knowledge of national programmes, INGOs and NGO networks, and a strong knowledge partnership principles in development work;
4. Facilitation skills, particularly design of stakeholder consultations exercises;
5. Strong quantitative and qualitative data collection skills;
6. Strong quantitative and qualitative data analysis skills;
7. Excellent language and communication skills in English;
8. Demonstrated report writing skills, in English; and,
9. Computer literacy in Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

The international lead evaluator must have experience of working cross-culturally in development, and demonstrated capacity in managing evaluation teams.

**Please Note:** The evaluation commissioners reserve the right to change or cancel the requirement at any time during the EOI, and to require compliance with additional conditions in subsequent stages of the solicitation process.

# Appendix 1: Expression of Interest Form

## United Nations Girls Education Initiative Evaluation 2010

Please fill-in page 1 of the form in its entirety and submit it to us electronically or via fax.

First Name:

Last Name:

User Salutation:  Mr.  Ms.  Mrs.  Dr.

Job Title:

Mobile:  (please include country & city code)

Fax:  (please include country & city code)

Email address:

Address:

City:

State:

Postal Code:

Country:

Alternate contact

**Please respond to the questions below in a narrative not exceeding 2 pages.**

- 1. Provide information which will enable us to determine whether you have relevant evaluation experience. Information should include:**
  - a) a description of your technical competencies, and the number of years of evaluation experience
  - b) a description of the type of evaluations you have carried out as lead evaluator, or as a member of an evaluation team
  - c) evaluations commissioned by UN agencies and other comparable organizations that you conducted, or participated in as a member of an evaluation team
  - d) your experience with multi-country and/or multi-stakeholder evaluations.
  
- 2. Provide information which will enable us to determine whether you have relevant specialized knowledge in the areas that are critical to this evaluation. Information should include;**
  - a) a description of programming experience in the education sector, on issues that are relevant to the current topic.
  - b) a description of programming, evaluation, or any other experience in the area of gender in education, gender analysis, or comparable professional area/content
  - c) a description of your experience in evaluating partnerships, and in contribution analysis.
  
- 3. Provide any additional experience that may be critical to the success of the proposed evaluation, including but limited to:**
  - a) ability to communicate in one of the national languages of one or more sample countries
  - b) experience of having worked in one or more sample countries, either as a consultant, or having been resident there.
  - c) affiliation to universities or professional bodies in one or more sample countries
  - d) any other information that you deem relevant to the evaluation, that would give you an advantage over other possible candidates
  
- 4. Confirm the following; that**
  - a) you have no on-going litigation with the UN;
  - b) are not currently removed/invalidated or suspended by the United Nations or UN system organizations;
  
- 5. Please attach your CV, and complete a Personal History Profile (P11).<sup>2</sup>**