



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

CONSULTANCY FOR A RESEARCH ON CSOs ENGAGEMENT FOR ADVOCACY ON NATIONAL GBV
POLICIES IN MEKONG REGION

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Background and Rationale

Recently, the Government of Vietnam has acknowledged that more work is needed to **address violence against women and girls that occurs outside the domestic sphere**. Accordingly, the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Welfare (MOLISA) is developing the first **Gender-Based Violence National Program 2016-2020** (hereafter referred to as the National GBV Action Plan). MOLISA commenced development of the National GBV Action Plan in December 2014 and will present the final draft to GVN by end of 2015. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have been invited to engage in this process, presenting a timely opportunity to document and share regional lessons learned on CSO advocacy on national GBV policies in the Mekong region.

GBVNET is a network of 12 organizations working on gender and gender based violence in Vietnam. GBVNET has been actively involved in the development of MOLISA's National GBV Action Plan with the aim of influencing this important policy. With funding from the Australian Aid program, GBVNET is now seeking to facilitate the sharing of lessons learned and advocacy experiences with counterparts in the region in order to improve future GBV advocacy efforts in Vietnam and the Mekong region more broadly.

2. Purposes of the consultancy and scope of the research

2.1. Purpose

GBVNet is seeking the support of a consultant to conduct research on civil society organisations' (CSOs) experiences addressing GBV in the Mekong region, with a particular **focus on GBV policy influencing**. The research should answer to a set of research questions which may include:

- How has civil society engaged in the *development/revision* of GBV-related policies and laws? What are similarities and differences between the countries? What make the differences? Is there any documentation of lessons learned and success stories to share?
- How has civil society engaged in the *implementation* of GBV-related policies and laws? What are similarities and differences between the countries? What make the differences? Is there any documentation of lesson learned and success stories to share?
- What are the mechanisms for civil society engaged in *monitoring and evaluation* of GBV-related polices and laws? What are success stories from countries in the Mekong region?

- What strategies are CSOs using to engage in *policy advocacy* in each country? Is this strategy specialized/modified in to be specific for GBV advocacy? How?
- Which strategies used by CSOs are most effective in influencing GBV policy development? Are these country-specific, or are there opportunities for replication/scale-up to other Mekong countries? (Consider differing political environments, strength and status of CSOs)
- How do the Mekong country governments react to policy recommendations made by CSOs? What make the differences in their reaction of appreciation or rejection? How do CSOs manage their relationship with government during advocacy efforts?

2.2 Scope of Research

The study will be conducted with a number of CSOs in the countries in Mekong region, including Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar.

Relevant initiatives to explore may include (but will not be limited to): CARE's work under the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women in Cambodia, the AMNEP-supported partnership to end violence against women in Cambodia, the Gender Equality Network's role in drafting legislation to prevent Violence Against Women in Myanmar, GBV-related initiatives supported by DFAT's Global Partnerships for Development, and the work of Partners for Prevention to identify good practice in promoting civil society's role in responding to GBV.

The research will primarily be conducted from the consultant's home base, with primary research being undertaken through web-based channels (e.g. skype). Travel to Vietnam will be required to present findings at the regional workshop.

3. Consultant responsibilities

3.1. Lead the research including:

- Design the research framework identifying detailed research questions, methodology and list of CSOs and relevant stakeholders to be involved in the research.
- Develop the data collection tools (likely to be primarily qualitative)
- Conduct data collection
- Do the data analysis
- Consolidate findings and report writing

3.2. Present the research findings at a regional learning event in March, 2016

To disseminate findings from the research and create a platform for more in-depth exploration of the topic, a regional learning event will be held in Hanoi in March 2016. This event will bring together CSO representatives from across the Mekong, many of whom would have acted as informants in the research.

3.3. Deliverables

- A research framework with detail research questions and methodology will be shared with GBVNet in one week after signing of the contract. A first report draft delivered by end of November 2015
- A complete final report in English will be submitted by end of December, 2105. The report will not be longer than 20 pages excluding annexes and references.

- Presentation on the research results in English to be shared at Regional learning event will be ready by February, 2016.

4. Timeline

This consultancy will take place between October 2015 and March 2016, and include a maximum of 16 working days (to be confirmed during research plan and contract negotiation). The final report must be completed no later than **25th December 2015**. Payment will be made after submission of all final deliverables.

5. Consultant management

The consultant will report to the GBVNet coordinator (CSAGA's deputy director) with support from CARE International in Vietnam's technical team (including GBV Specialist, Gender Advisor and Country Programs/Gender Advisor). The research framework and data collection tools should be shared with and approved by GBVNet members and the CARE technical team before research commences. The communication between/among parties will be made through Skype or in person (depending on the consultant's home-base).

6. Selection Criteria

Required qualifications for the consultancy are:

- Has sound knowledge of theory and practice of gender equality and human rights standards relating to GBV (experience working on these issues in the Mekong region is an asset)
- Demonstrated experience in conducting qualitative research
- Has strong background in policy development
- Is experienced in policy development process in Mekong region
- Strong network experiences with NGOs, CSOs and other development actors working on GBV in the Mekong region
- Excellent English written skills

Interested persons can send *initial research framework, financial proposal; detail work schedule and a relevant work sample* no later than 25th September to:

Ms. Nguyễn Thu Thúy - Vice Director - Center for Studies and Applied Sciences in Gender - Family - Women and Adolescents (CSAGA)

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