



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Title	A national consultant (one position, to team up with an international consultant)
Purpose	To conduct a desk review on gender in nutrition and food security policies and practices in Viet Nam
Duty Station	Ha Noi
Contract duration	3 months (January 2016 – March 2016) (maximum of 25 working day)
Application deadline	12 January 2016

1) GENERAL BACKGROUND

Women and girls account for 60% of undernourished population in the world¹. There is a strong relationship between gender-based discrimination and the different channels through which households and individuals access, utilize and sustain the availability of food and ensure adequate nutrition. Recent global comparisons show a strong correlation between hunger and gender inequalities. Countries ranking highest on the index of global hunger are also those where such inequalities are more severe².

On the other side, all over the world, rural women play vital roles in farm and nonfarm-based food production activities. Data shows that giving women access to education and employment opportunities has a strikingly large impact on reducing overall hunger and improving child health and education. Various studies from different regions have confirmed the positive association between the education of women and children’s health outcomes such as height, weight, or immunization (Dwyer and Bruce 1988; Hobcraft 1993; Bicego and Boerma 1991; Buvinic and Valenzuela 1996; Pitt et al. 2003; Duflo 2005; Haddad, Hoddinott, and Alderman 1997; Quisumbing and Maluccio 2003). Reversely, restrictions on female land ownership, limited access to credit and farm advisory services, and a lack of education hamper women's ability to produce and access more food and earn decent incomes. An FAO study estimates that closing the gender gap in the access to productive resources such as land, credit, machinery or chemicals could eliminate yield gaps of 20% to 30% among women and men, increase domestic agricultural output by 2.5% to 4%, which could result in up to 100 million fewer people living in hunger³.

In Viet Nam, 70 % of the total population lives in rural areas, while the agriculture sector accounts for almost half of the country’s GDP (47.8% in 2011). Women play an increasingly crucial role in agriculture with 63.4% of working women versus 57.5% of working men engaging in agriculture⁴. They often work as unpaid labourers on family farms and as paid or unpaid workers at other farms and agricultural enterprises. Similar to other countries, rural women are facing gender discrimination in accessing productive resources such as land,

¹ United Nations Economic and Social Council [ECOSOC] 2007, para.14; World Food Programme [WFP] 2009a, p.6

² von Grebmer et al. 2009

³ FAO and ADB, 2013, Gender equality and Food Security: Women’s Empowerment as a tool agaist Hunger.

⁴ UN Women and FAO in Viet Nam, Policy Brief and Recommendations on Rural Women in Viet Nam, 2014.

modern inputs, technology and financial services, which are critical determinants of agricultural productivity.

Though the 2003 Land Law requires jointly held land to be recorded on land use rights certificates as marital property, by 2008 only 10.9% of agricultural land and 18.2% of residential rural land use certificates were in the name of both husband and wife. Female-headed households have significantly less access to land. In addition, women's land holdings are typically smaller than among men. Urbanization and industrialization has led to the conversion of fertile land into industrial zones and agricultural workers have moved to other sectors. This has increased the relative number of women in agriculture as household heads and led to the feminization of agriculture.

Unequal access to land rights has major ramifications for women's access to credit, as land use rights certificates are generally required by banks as collateral. This is compounded by limited access to formal credit sources, while preferential credit policies have little impact on the income levels and poverty reduction of women and girls. As more than 45% of women farm workers are self-employed, they do not receive social security benefits and lack access to insurance, which leaves them vulnerable and insecure.

In addition, similar to many parts of the world, women are primarily responsible for food provision and preparation within the household. However, during food scarcity in times of hunger or disasters, women often eat less since they prefer to prioritize other family members' nutrition. Though more and more attention is being paid to food and nutrition for pregnant and breastfeeding women, and children, food security and nutrition programmes still focus on women's traditional role as caregivers and lack proper involvement of male family members (husband and father).

At the national level, Viet Nam has a solid legislative basis with regard to gender equality. The Law on Gender Equality (2007) and the National Strategy on Gender Equality 2011-2020 oblige all sectors and ministries to mainstream gender in their work. According to the National Strategy on Gender Equality, ministries and provinces are responsible for building and issuing action plans on gender equality to implement the strategy, including the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Ministry of Health– the two leading agencies in food security and nutrition.

In 2009, the Government issued the Resolution 63 on Ensuring National Food Security, which focuses on rice farming and production with a view to ensure availability and accessibility to food and nutrition for all citizens. Despite the current feminization trend in the agriculture sector, especially in rice farming, the resolution is gender neutral.

Since 2010, UN in Viet Nam has been implementing the first phase of the joint programme "Integrated Nutrition and Food Security Strategies for children and vulnerable group in Viet Nam", with implementing agencies including FAO, UNICEF and WHO and the collaboration of the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The programme aims to increase the quality and effective management of a comprehensive national health system, including health promotion and health protection, with a focus on ensuring more equitable access for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged. The second phase of the joint programme, foreseen to start in 2015 with UN Women's participation, will pay more attention to gender perspectives of nutrition and food security policies and programmes.

Within this framework, and in order to have a clearer picture of the existing nutrition and food security policies and research in Viet Nam from a gender perspective, UN Women is commissioning a desk review to provide a preliminary understanding of gender issues in nutrition and food security policies and practices in Viet Nam.

To conduct this assignment, UN Women is looking for a national consultant to team up with an international consultant.

2) OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT/

The desk review will provide an understanding of the current situation and a preliminary analysis of the existing gender gaps in existing policies and practices related to food security and nutrition in Viet Nam, including by highlighting gender differences in food production, marketing, distribution and consumption.

By conducting a country-specific gender analysis of the four pillars of food security, namely food availability, access, utilization and stability the research will assess the extent to which persisting gender inequalities hinder food security and nutrition for women and men, boys and girls.

Based on these preliminary findings, the desk review will formulate recommendations for targeted policy action and for conducting further research on the topic, with a view to develop and strengthen gender responsive nutrition and food security policies and practices in Viet Nam.

3) METHODOLOGY

The main research method is desk review of relevant documents and triangulation of data including:

- International and national policy agenda with relevance to nutrition and food security and gender issues.
- Available data, documents, reports and studies on nutrition and food security and gender in Viet Nam.

This is to identify evidence gaps and provide recommendations for a gender assessment to close the gaps and recommendations for policy changes.

4) ASSIGNMENT DUTY STATION AND SPECIFIC TASKS

This consultancy will be carried out by a team of consultants comprising at least one international and one national expert. The consultancy is home based with frequent communication with the UN Women office via emails, Skype and face-to-face meetings.

Activities include but are not necessarily limited to the following tasks:

1. Development of the research methodology, analytical framework, and the report outline (home based)
2. Desk review (home based) includes
 - a. Look at international and national policy agenda with relevance to nutrition and food security and gender issues.
 - b. Review available documents, reports and studies on nutrition and food security and gender to examine gender dimensions of nutrition and food security in Viet Nam and specific gender roles in food production, marketing, distribution and consumption. The review will examine gender dimensions throughout the four pillars of nutrition and food security – availability, access, utilization and stability.
3. Interview key stakeholders working on nutrition and food security (in Ha Noi) to get their views on the issues.
4. Submit a draft report on findings.

5. Facilitate a consultative workshop with relevant stakeholders including government, NGOs and development partners to get comments and inputs for the reports and recommendations (in Ha Noi)
6. Submit a final report which:
 - a. Identifies existing gender gaps in current policies and practices related to food security and nutrition and to food availability, access, utilization and stability for women and men, boys and girls in Viet Nam.
 - b. Provides recommendations for targeted policy action and for conducting further research on the topic, with a view to develop and strengthen gender responsive nutrition and food security policies and programmes in Viet Nam.

Suggested number of working days

Specific tasks	Tentative number of working days	
	National consultant	International consultant
1. Development of the research methodology, analytical framework, and the report outline (home-based)	1	2
2. Review all relevant documents in English (home-based)	0	10
3. Review all relevant documents in Vietnamese (home-based)	10	0
4. Interview key stakeholders working on nutrition and food security (in Ha Noi)	3	0
5. Draft the final report (home-based)	5	8
6. Facilitate a consultative workshop with relevant stakeholders including government, NGOs and development partners to get comments and inputs for the reports and recommendations (in Ha Noi)	1	0
7. Finalization of the report (home-based)	5	5
TOTAL	25	25

5) DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE OF PAYMENT

Time	Expected deliverables	Amount
1 February 2016	An inception report clearly outlines the research methodology, analytical framework, and report outline.	0%
15 March	A draft report on findings from the desk review; A presentation on key findings from the desk review;	70%
30 March	A consultative workshop with relevant stakeholders on the key findings and recommendations. A final report on gender issues in nutrition and food security with recommendations for targeted policy action and for conducting further research on the topic, with a view to develop and strengthen gender responsive nutrition and food security policies and practices in Viet Nam (not exceed 35 pages including an executive summary).	30%

6) MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The consultancy will be commissioned by UN Women. The international expert will act as the team leader and will be in charge of ensuring overall coordination. Both national and

international consultant will liaise with and report to the UN Women National Programme Officer, and ultimately report to the Country Representative of UN Women Viet Nam Country Office.

UN Women will provide technical advice, inputs and oversight of this desk review.

Payments:

Payments will be made in instalments based upon satisfactory completion of agreed outputs approved by Project Manager.

Data Management:

UN Women will own the data set collected from the desk review. Data will be made available for further analysis.

7) QUALIFICATION

National consultant should demonstrate relevant expertise in the field of gender and nutrition/food security and meet the following requirements:

- At least a master’s degree, preferably in the field of gender, development or social sciences.
- At least 5 year experience in conducting research/ desk review, particularly in conducting gender analysis/gender issues in nutrition and food security.
- Understanding of gender issues and gender policy frameworks in Viet Nam and/or internationally
- Understanding of situation of nutrition and food security in Viet Nam and/or internationally.
- Experience in conducting consultative workshops with government, NGOs, and development partners.
- Excellent English report writing skills; fluency in Vietnamese language is required

8) EVALUATION

Candidates will be selected on the basis of cumulative analysis of:

- Technical Qualification (100 points) weight [70%]
- Financial/Price Proposal (100 points) weight [30%]

A two-stage procedure will be utilised in evaluating the proposals, with evaluation of the technical proposal being completed prior to any price proposal being compared. Only the price proposal of the candidates who passed the minimum technical score of 70% of the obtainable score of 100 points in the technical qualification evaluation will be evaluated.

a. Technical qualification evaluation criteria:

The total number of points allocated for the technical qualification component is 100. **The technical qualification of the offer is evaluated based on following criteria:**

No.	Criteria	Score
	- Education	20
	- Experience in conducting research/ desk review, particularly in conducting gender analysis/gender issues in nutrition and food security.	30

	- Understanding of gender issues and gender policy frameworks in Viet Nam and/or internationally	20
	- Understanding of situation of nutrition and food security in Viet Nam and/or internationally.	20
	- Report writing skills	10
	TOTAL	

b. Financial/Price Proposal review criteria:

The total number of points allocated for the price component is 100. The maximum number of points will be allotted to the lowest price proposal that is opened/evaluated and compared among those technical qualified candidates who have attained a minimum of 70% score in the technical evaluation. All other price proposals will receive points in inverse proportion to the lowest price.

9) HOW TO APPLY

Interested applicants must submit the following document/information (in PDF format) to demonstrate their qualifications

Technical component:

- Letter of interest explaining why they are the most suitable for the work
- Signed Curriculum vitae with at least 2 names and details of references
- An example of a report with similar topic.

Financial proposal (with your signature)

- The financial proposal shall specify in US Dollar the consultancy fee. The assignment will require the selected candidate to travel to the project sites. All related travel costs of these missions will be informed in advance and will be paid based on actual expense.
- Please note that the cost of preparing a proposal and of negotiating a contract, including any related travel, is not reimbursable as a direct cost of the assignment.
- If quoted in other currency, prices shall be converted to US Dollar at UN Exchange Rate at the submission deadline.

Complete applications should be sent to <procurement.vietnam@unwomen.org>. Only applications with all items mentioned above will be considered.

Deadline for Application: 12 January 2016

NOTE: Documents required before contract signing:

- UN Personal History Form
- Full medical examination and Statement of Fitness to work and travel for consultants with travel involved. (This is not a requirement for RLA contracts).
- Individual subscribers over 65 years of age are required to undergo a full medical examination including x-rays at their own cost and obtaining medical clearance from the UN Medical Director prior to taking up their assignment.
- Release letter in case the selected consultant is government official.