

TERMS OF REFERENCE

ASSIGNMENT: EXAMINE THE ROLE AND ADDED

VALUE OF EXPANDING SHARE-NET BANGLADESH IN THE SOUTH ASIA REGION

INTRODUCTION

Share-Net started as the Dutch network on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and has been operational since early 2001. With financial support from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) initiated the network to respond to the needs of different international development stakeholders in the Netherlands to strengthen collaboration and increase the knowledge base to inform their work. Today, Share-Net International (SNI) is a knowledge platform on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). SNI is a membership network of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), researchers, policymakers, implementers, advocates, students, the media and companies operating in the SRHR field, working closely with a wide range of partners across the globe.

Share-Net International currently has 4 operational country hubs. The hub in the Netherlands was established in 2001 and will be existing for 20 years in 2021. Bangladesh has now been operational for 6 years, Burundi for 6 years and Jordan for 5 years. In 2021, Share-Net International will scale-up the present four country hubs with three additional hubs in Burkina Faso, Colombia and Ethiopia and develop a digital hub in 2021. Share-Net International agreed to support some country hubs to explore the opportunities to work more regionally. Limited budget will be available to invest in the development of a regional approach and/or some first regional activities. Funding will need to be raised for additional regional activities or the development of a regional hub.

REGIONAL APPROACH

During one of the strategic meetings in 2020, SNI and the country hubs in Bangladesh, Burundi, Jordan and the Netherlands discussed the regional approach. The platform aims to implement the approach in the next four years with a common vision. The vision is:

Share-Net International envisions its regional approach as a gradual process towards an inspiring and organic network of organisations and practitioners working on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) in the geographical regions of the existing country hubs which meets the needs and opportunities of each region, building on the Share-Net values.

The specific objectives are to:

- Facilitate regional learning and knowledge exchange to influence and improve SRHR policy and practice in line with SNI's vision and unique point of exploration
- Increase the visibility and recognition of SNI and the particular Share-Net country hub across the respective region.
- Strengthen and expand the SNI network by increasing the membership base with SRHR actors and building strategic partnerships with SNI and the specific country hub to exchange best practices and accumulate knowledge findings
- Connect and link members in different countries in the region to work on context-relevant SRHR topics

The regional approach consists of three phases, this assignment is part of phase one.

SHARE-NET BANGLADESH

Share-Net Bangladesh is one of the four country hubs of Share-Net International, a knowledge platform focusing on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). Share-Net Bangladesh has a large network of 1425 individual members and 104 member organisations. Share-Net Bangladesh is hosted by RedOrange Media and Communications.

With this assignment Share-Net Bangladesh is interested to explore collaboration in the region in terms of regional learning, knowledge sharing within the scope of SRHR on the basis of equality and mutual respect. The countries of interest are India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan. These countries have very similar trends in SRHR indicators such as high prevalence of child marriage and gender-based violence, social stigma, taboo concerning SRHR practices, lack of awareness for gender equality and high percentage of young population without having proper SRHR services and knowledge. Hence, Share-Net Bangladesh likes to work together in the region to fight these common and highly concerning issues.

ASSIGNMENT

This assignment includes situational and feasibility analysis to examine the role and added value of expansion of Share-Net in the region.

The analysis is expected to include the following:

- Cost-benefit analysis with a framework of expansion
- A SWOT analysis with regards to expanding Share-Net Bangladesh in South Asia
- Map potential organisations and networks to partner, become a member, etc.
- Assessment to avoid overlapping of similar activities in the region
- Assessment and forecast of funding opportunities to organise regional activities or to set-up a regional hub with feasible recommendations

METHODOLOGY

- Desk review: The input is expected to be a desk study using international sources, reports from NGOs, multilateral or regional actors, donors (including evaluations) and published scientific reports.
- Develop assessment questions/tools/criteria
- Consult current members and steering committees of potential partner organisations in potential partner countries about ideas/desires/needs/expectations and their regional expertise
- Interviews: The consultant will interview key persons to check and deepen their desk review conclusions

ANALYSIS AND REPORTING

All the data/information obtained through the above mentioned methods will be analysed, synthesized and documented in a report. The final report will clearly show recommendations and argumentation towards a

regional approach. The report (final and draft) will be submitted in English to Share-Net Bangladesh and the Share-Net International secretariat.

Share-Net International proposes the following structure for the report:

- Background/introduction
- Desk analysis /current status of the region regarding SRHR movement
- Methodology of the 'regional approach' analysis
- Competitors (similar initiatives) risk assessment with the method of assessment
- Cost-benefit analysis and a framework
- Mapping relevant regional networks/ organizations/ donors
- List of best practices/ innovation approaches
- Input from members from the online consultation, result from discussion
- Recommendations and argumentation
- Challenges and way forward
- References

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- At least 5 years of experience of working with SRHR issues in Bangladesh
- Experience of working within SRHR regional network(s)
- At least having a Masters degree in Development Studies, Gender Studies, Population Science, Social Science, Anthropology, Public health or other relevant disciplines
- Profound communication skills in English (verbally and written)
- Share-Net Bangladesh members are being encouraged to apply

BUDGET

The assignment is to be completed within 15 working days. We are requesting to prepare a budget not more than 15 days of involvement. **Budget should be inclusive of VAT and Tax.**

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Proposals will be assessed based on understanding of the assignment, proposed methodology, track record and experience, work plan and budget.

HOW TO SUBMIT

Interested consultants (individuals or organisations) are requested to submit a proposal with following details -

- Understanding of the assignment
- A methodology for carrying out the assignment
- A work plan for the assignment
- A brief of working experience (particularly related to SRHR issues)
- CV(s) (not more than 3 pages)
- NID and TIN copies (for individual consultants)

- Trade licence and VAT registration copies (for consultancy organisations)

Please submit your proposal (compiling all in one pdf file) to kishore@redorange.com and masuma@redorange.com with the subject line “Regional Approach Report: Proposal Submission” by 15th of June.

DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINE

The deadline to submit the final report is **20th of July 2021**. The proposed timeline for this assignment is the following:

Deliverable	Deadline
Proposal submission	15th June 2021
Contract ready and start of assignment	20th June 2021
Presentation and submission of the draft report	14th July 2021
Comments by Share-Net Bangladesh and Share Net International Secretariat	17th of July 2021
Final Report	20th of July 2021

For any queries please contact kishore@redorange.com.
