# ActionAid UK Consultancy: Request for Proposals

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| Consultancy title | 2021 review of ActionAid’s ‘right to education’ programming and institutional funding strategy |
| Deadline for bids | 5pm UK time, 8th November 2021 |
| Number of consultancy days | 25 days |
| Anticipated start date | 22nd November 2021 |
| Anticipated end date | 31th31st December 2021 |

### Introduction

The following document is a request for proposals (RFP) for a short-term consultancy assignment for ActionAid UK. The consultancy assignment will be overseen by the Business Development team in the International Development Policy & Practice department. Colleagues across ActionAid UK and members of the ActionAid Federation will be available at the consultants’ request to provide relevant background information and share documentation where appropriate.

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### Background

ActionAid is a leading international development organisation working for a world free from poverty and injustice. As a global federation with offices in 45 countries, ActionAid works closely with communities and local partners to deliver sustainable, locally-led development programmes. We have an established track record in the countries we work in and are the only international development organisation with a head office in Africa as part of our commitment to shift power to the global south.

ActionAid has over 40 years’ experience of delivering research and programming on a core set of development issues including: violence against women and girls; adolescent girls’ rights; women’s economic rights; resilience and climate justice; civic participation and public services; education and humanitarian crises.

ActionAid works through feminist principles and a foundational human rights-based approach (HRBA), which centres on transforming unjust power relations in the communities and countries where we work. We have pioneered Reflect-Action, a participatory community-led methodology, first created for adult literacy programmes, and based on both the critical pedagogy approach of Friere and the participatory rural appraisals developed by Chambers, which enables communities to reflect on their situation and identify their needs, collaborating with them to bring about sustainable change. Reflect Action is now being used in over 100 countries. By focusing on shifting and redistributing power and resources, strengthening the resilience of communities and movements, and fulfilling the rights of people living in poverty and exclusion, ActionAid is able to deliver truly transformative programmes for women and girls worldwide.

**Rationale for services**

ActionAid has worked on education programming since its foundation in 1972, and has built a reputation as a leading international organisation committed to a rights-based approach to education. Our experience of working with over 4,500 schools in 30 countries provides the bedrock for our education work. Since 1972, we have evolved from a traditional ‘service delivery’ model, such as provision of school books and construction of classrooms, to a progressive, rights-based and ‘whole school development’ approach to the provision of gender responsive public education.

Given the breadth and depth of our education work across the Federation, ActionAid UK is now commissioning a consultancy assignment to deepen our strategic position on the intersections of the Federation's rights-based education work, and the ActionAid UK strategy that prioritises work on VAWG, women's economic justice and adolescent girls' rights.

Over the course of the consultancy the consultant team will identify and support key opportunities for future education funding that i. aligns with our rights-based and girl-centred approach ii. that provides opportunities to further ActionAid’s long-term work towards gender responsive, publicly funded education iii. that creates safe and equitable school environments for girls, and removes barriers that prevent too many girls from accessing their right to a quality education, and iv. that aligns with our commitment to shift power to the global south and work in partnership with women’s rights organisations, girl-led groups, and feminist movements. The consultant team will also make recommendations about how ActionAid UK can best position itself for this work longer term – including recommendations about research, policy and programme work that AAUK should consider investing in and resourcing.

**Description of the services to be provided**

The objectives of the consultancy assignment are to:

1. Develop a thorough analysis of ActionAid’s existing education work, identifying linkages with our other key thematic portfolios on VAWG, women’s economic rights, and adolescent girls rights.
2. Identify key opportunities and entry points for ActionAid UK to engage further with donors on education programming, and develop recommendations for successful engagement.
3. Provide technical assistance and proposal development support for education funding opportunities, as required.

**Deliverables**

The outputs of the consultancy assignment are as follows:

1. A report (approx. 20 pages excluding annexes) to include:
   1. An analysis of the intersections of the Federation's rights-based education work, and the ActionAid UK strategy.
   2. An in-depth review of ActionAid’s violence against girls in schools work.
   3. Completed case studies for 2-3 relevant programmes (through virtual KIIs with Federation members).
   4. An annex mapping education programming across the ActionAid Federation.
   5. Recommendations (both immediate and longer term) for strategic positioning, including research, policy and programme work that AAUK should consider investing in and resourcing.
   6. Assessment of UK institutional donors’ profiles in education, highlighting alignment and risks through SWOT analyses.
   7. Market mapping of key suppliers on education programmes.
   8. Recommendations for future engagement and entry points in UK-funded education programmes.
2. Support to proposal development as agreed depending on need. This may include:
   1. Technical assessment of education opportunities as they arise.
   2. Working closely with the Business Development team and colleagues in other members of the ActionAid Federation on prepositioning, including partner scoping and engagement.
   3. Provision of technical advice and guidance on education programming.
   4. Drafting and development of proposal inputs, including technical narrative sections.
   5. Providing inputs and revies of workplans, logframes, risk matrices, and budgets.

**Indicative timelines**

The consultant will prepare a detailed work plan for deliverables 1 and 2 that will operationalise and direct the assignment. The work plan will bring refinements, specificity, and elaboration to this ToR, and the schedule will be approved by AAUK.

### Candidate profile

We are ideally looking for a consultant/s who could be flexible over the distribution of days but please do get in touch if you are interested in this work but have existing commitments – we are happy to discuss alternative working arrangements. We will consider contracting more than one consultant to cover the full scope of work, so if you are interested please do apply even if your application does not cover all the listed competencies.

### Skills and experience required

**Functional competencies:**

* Significant experience and understanding of the international development sector.
* Significant technical expertise in rights-based, gender-responsive education programming in international contexts.
* Significant experience of working within or in collaboration/equitable partnership with Southern-based women’s rights organisations and partner organisations.
* Experience of centering girls’ narratives, experiences and needs in desk-based research
* Experience of providing technical expertise to support education programming that is feminist, centres the rights of girls to safe and equitable education environments, and works towards longer-term systemic change.
* Experience of working with a large INGO or development organisation.
* In-depth knowledge of the UK institutional funding landscape and key institutional donors, including the UK Government.
* Experience of conducting similar desk-based research, and the ability to produce clear, concise, and high quality reports in English.

**Behavioural competencies:**

* Strong interpersonal skills, able to communicate and work with a diverse range of people.
* Results oriented, able to deliver to deadlines under pressure.
* Strong commitment to feminist (research) principles and ways of working

### Application process

### Applications should comprise a concise technical and financial proposal, outlining relevant skills and experience, along with a CV. Applications should be sent to [freya.alexander@actionaid.org](mailto:freya.alexander@actionaid.org) by 5pm UK time on 8th November 2021. Applications will be reviewed on rolling basis, so early applications are encouraged.

### Basis of award

Evaluation and selection of vendors to provide products and services as defined in this RFP to ActionAid UK will be based on the following criteria, which are given in no specific order.

* Price
* Relevant knowledge and experience
* Availability

ActionAid UK reserves the right to accept or reject any or all RFPs received. ActionAid UK reserves the right to negotiate with respondents to this RFP, within the requirements of the RFP, to best serve the interests of ActionAid UK. However, vendors must not assume an opportunity to negotiate and are cautioned to submit their proposals on a best and final basis since an award or decision is likely to be made without further negotiation based on pricing and terms of the original submittals. Accordingly, all requirements must be included with your initial offer.

All proposals submitted will be considered to be proprietary by ActionAid UK and will not be released to any outside party, in part or in total unless required by law. Neither the transmission of this RFP to a prospective bidder nor the acceptance of a reply shall imply any obligation or commitment on the part of ActionAid UK.

If vendor needs to take exception to anything under the RFP, these exceptions must be clearly identified on the RFP response.

All prices and conditions must be shown.