**CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

**GRANT FOR ORGANIZATIONS TO CONDUCT A RESEARCH STUDY ON MALE PERCEPTIONS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN LAO PDR**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Eligibility** | Lao PDR-based (national or international) non-governmental organizations, including Civil Society Organizations and non-governmental academic or educational institutions |
| **Maximum Grant Available** | USD 50,000 |
| **Expected Duration** | 6 months |
| **Deadline** | Proposals must be submitted by 23:59 3 November 2021 to [lao.procurement@undp.org](mailto:lao.procurement@undp.org) with the subject line: *Submission of Proposal to Research Male Perceptions of GBV\_Name of Organization* |

1. **BACKGROUND**

* Gender-based violence (GBV) is defined by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee) in [General Recommendation No.19](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT/CEDAW/GEC/3731&Lang=en) as *“violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately.”* It recognizes that GBV is a serious violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms that must be eliminated from all sections of society.
* GBV is often an expression of gender norms, unequal relations between men and women, a power imbalance deeply rooted in society, and the overt or implicit perception that women are inferior to men. Such power imbalances tend to also be closely associated with economic dependence, financial insecurity, traditional gender norms, roles, and relations generalized by male dominance in society.
* GBV, especially domestic violence, is prevalent in Lao PDR. Yet, it is largely a ‘hidden’ problem within society, with its underlying causes including weak or absent definitions and distinctions in the legislation of violent acts, a culture of silence and impunity, limited access to justice for women in remote, rural, and ethnic communities, as well as the absence of data and information on incidences of violence and availability of services for GBV survivors.
* The Government of Lao PDR ratified the [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/cedaw.aspx) (CEDAW Convention) on 14 August 1981 without declarations and reservations. The key provisions of CEDAW are nationalized in Lao PDR’s Constitution (2015) that enshrines equal rights of men and women in Article 35: *“Lao citizens are all equal before the law irrespective of their gender […],”* and Article 37: *“citizens of both genders enjoy equal rights in the political, economic, cultural and social fields and in family affairs.”* Article 29 specifically commits to *“supporting the progress of women and to protecting the legitimate rights and benefits of women and children”*.
* In 2018, the CEDAW Committee reviewed the progress of Lao PDR on CEDAW implementation at the country level and issued 82 recommendations and requests for the Government to consider by 2023 as part of the [CEDAW Concluding Observations](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW/C/LAO/CO/8-9&Lang=En). The CEDAW Concluding Observations recognized that positive steps had been undertaken in the Lao legislative reform guaranteeing women’s access to justice, but that greater action was required to enhance the legal literacy of all women and address the persistent barriers, including fear of retribution and stigma, that prevent their access to effective remedies and survivor support.
* According to the [2014 National Survey on Violence Against Women](https://lao.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Final_Eng_VAW%20Report.pdf), undertaken by the National Commission for the Advancement of Women of Lao PDR, with support by UNFPA, 15.3% of ever-partnered women, aged 15-64, have experienced physical or sexual violence by a current or former male partner. In addition, over 1/4 of ever-partnered women have experienced at least one of the three types of violence (physical, sexual and emotional), with emotional abuse the most predominant, by a male partner in their lifetime.
* In both quantitative and qualitative components of the Survey, the traditional gender norms, roles, and relations in the Lao context were found to be the key triggers of GBV in Lao PDR. Of all women interviewed, 35.6% agreed with the statement that a good wife should obey the husband even if she disagreed with him. This rationale was particularly prevalent in rural areas and the country’s northern region. In addition, 22.9% of all women interviewed saw their partner as superior *(“he is the boss”*), 29.4% felt that a wife must not refuse sex and nearly half of all women (44.9%) agreed that a husband could hit his wife if she was unfaithful.
* According to the Survey, 43.2% of women who encountered intimate partner violence did not report the incident(s) due to embarrassment and fear of social stigma, and less than 30% sought help from official agencies and others – and of these, 64.2% sought help because they could no longer endure violence and 39.7% did so following encouragement from family and friends.
* The elimination of harmful gender norms and practices can only be achieved through the engagement of men and boys. However, even after the National Study on Women’s Health and Life Experiences in 2014 and the Lao Social Indicator Survey in 2012 and 2017, there remains limited data on men in Lao PDR and their perceptions of gender norms and roles, relationships, and violence.
* UNDP has identified the need to review and upgrade Lao PDR’s national planning and strategic framework to enable clear direction for all stakeholders to work together towards ending violence against women (EVAW). Under the [Project on Prevention and Elimination of Violence Against Women for Mainstreaming Gender in the National Development Agenda in Lao PDR](https://www.la.undp.org/content/lao_pdr/en/home/projects/project-on-prevention-and-elimination-of-violence-against-women-0.html)  (“Khan Hom” Project), UNDP aims to assist the Government of Lao PDR in implementing the Second 5-year Lao National Strategic Plan on EVAW, and establishing an effective and accountable governance framework capable of supporting GBV survivors. The “Khan Hom” Project has also been assisting the Government in streamlining current structures to better coordinate GBV interventions and ensure women’s participation in the discussion and implementation of EVAW-related initiatives.
* In the framework of the “Khan Hom” Project, UNDP has recently initiated a [Research Study on GBV Survivor’s Experiences in the Justice System in Lao PDR](https://www.la.undp.org/content/lao_pdr/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2021/10/call-for-proposals--grant-for-gender-equality-and-womens-empower.html?fbclid=IwAR3Wg7I2_Nw50TO90FkQgjZ61WzZ8OpqH9iYj739lLBDpyUgxJVlwRf6zb4), with a particular focus on the barriers faced by women survivors throughout the justice continuum, including legal protection, legal awareness, legal aid, the interlinkages between customary law practices and the formal legal system, and impunity for perpetrators.

1. **UNDP GRANT AWARD**

The UNDP Grant to “Conduct a Research Study on Male Perceptions of Gender-Based Violence in Lao PDR” aims to strengthen the expert capacity of Lao PDR-based non-governmental organizations in collecting and analyzing data on GBV, particularly on attitudes, motivation, and consequences of men’s perpetration of GBV in Lao PDR, as well as in advocating for evidence-based policies and programmes to **prevent** GBV across the country.

This Research Study will complement the existing studies conducted with women in Lao PDR, including the ongoing Study on GBV Survivor’s Experiences in the Justice System, and play an integral role in informing the implementation of the Second 5-year Lao National Strategic Plan on EVAW by deepening the understanding of men’s perceptions of gender norms and roles, relationships, and violence. The Study will also contribute to determining priority actions and interventions required to strengthen the effectiveness and applicability of the localized governance structures in the justice and police sectors that support GBV survivors.

**Research Study’s Objectives:**

* Better understand motivations and consequences of men’s perpetration of different forms of GBV in Lao PDR;
* Identify factors associated with men’s awareness of GBV and perpetration of GBV in Lao PDR (particularly, social characteristics, legal awareness, health status and substance abuse, own experiences of violence, adversity, gender norms, attitudes, and practices); and
* Promote evidence-based policies and programmes to prevent GBV in Lao PDR through targeted recommendations.

**Research Study’s Suggested Methodology** *(Applicant Organizations may propose different or refined methodology)***:**

* The Study should be conducted through a desk review as well as quantitative and qualitative methods of primary data collection from at least nine research sites, both urban and rural, without a road;
* Research sites should be selected to reflect the ethnic and religious diversity of Lao PDR;
* The Study should obtain a representative sample of at least 500 men who provided their informed consent; age group should be specified by Applicant Organizations based on their technical expertise and capacity; and
* The Study should adopt the [Human Rights-Based Approach to Data](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/GuidanceNoteonApproachtoData.pdf) and follow the international ethical and safety standards for research on GBV, including the [WHO Recommendations for Intervention Research on VAW](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/251759/9789241510189-eng.pdf) and the [ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Violence against Women and Girls Data Collection and Use;](https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20eseasia/docs/publications/2018/04/asean-vawg-data-guidelines.pdf?la=en&vs=5541) usage of personal digital assistant (PDAs) for the most sensitive questions should be considered.

**Suggested Research Questions** *(Applicant Organizations may propose different or additional research questions)***:**

1. What are the factors most strongly related to men’s awareness and perpetration of GBV in Lao PDR? (particularly, social characteristics, health status, and substance abuse, own experiences of violence, adversity, gender norms, attitudes, and practices);
2. What is the level of awareness by men in Lao PDR on GBV?
3. What is the level of legal literacy by men in Lao PDR in relation to GBV? Are they knowledgeable on legal consequences for GBV? If yes, do they support the existing legislation on GBV?
4. What is the lifetime perpetration of GBV by men in Lao PDR? What motivated them? What were the consequences?
5. What do the findings mean for prevention priorities in Lao PDR?

**Expected Deliverables:**

1. Methodology and research questions finalized in cooperation with UNDP;
2. Work Plan developed;
3. Research Study conducted with both a desk review and primary data collection;
4. Preliminary findings shared and discussed with UNDP; feedback addressed; and
5. Final Report presented to partners in a workshop format.

**Expected Duration:** 6 months

1. **GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSALS’ SUBMISSION**

**Eligibility Criteria:** The UNDP Grant not exceeding USD 50,000 will be provided to **one** Lao PDR-based (national/international) non-governmental organization.\*

*\*According to the* [*UNDP Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP)*](https://popp.undp.org/SitePages/POPPRoot.aspx)*, the Grant can be awarded to non-governmental organizations, including non-governmental academic or educational institutions. The private sector, commercial entities, and governmental organizations, such as regional governments, municipalities, National and Provincial Universities, etc., are currently not eligible to receive this Grant.*

**Selection Criteria:** The selection criteria will involve the following elements:

* Capacity of Applicant Organization;
* Experience and existing partnerships in the area of GBV;
* Experience in comprehensive research and analysis;
* Simplicity and ease of implementation, yet adopting innovative or unconventional approach;
* Effectiveness and measurability of impact; and
* Timeframe.

Proposals passing the eligibility criteria will be scored against the following:

* Applicant Organization’s institutional and technical capacity, relevant experience, and existing partnerships *(40 points)*;
* Relevance of the proposal: quality of the context/problem analysis and assessment *(20 points)*;
* Implementation strategies: soundness of strategy, proposed activities, and expected results against the context/problem analysis in designing the proposal *(20 points)*; and
* Budget proposal *(20 points)*.

**Selection Process:**

* Eligible Applicant Organizations are expected to submit proposals using the UNDP template *(Annex I)* and Proposal Cover Sheet *(Annex II)*;
* Queries should be sent to Olga Nilova, UNDP Lao PDR, Governance Team: [olga.nilova@undp.org](mailto:olga.nilova@undp.org);
* Proposals must be submitted by 23:59 3 November 2021 to [lao.procurement@undp.org](mailto:lao.procurement@undp.org) with the subject line: *Submission of Proposal to Research Male Perceptions of GBV\_Name of Organization.*

**ANNEX I: LOW-VALUE GRANT PROPOSAL**

*(to be prepared by the Applicant Organization and submitted t UNDP Lao PDR by the deadline)*

Date:

Project Title:

Name of Applicant Organization:

Total Amount of the Grant (USD):

1. **OBJECTIVE(S) OF THE GRANT**

* Indicate the objective(s) of the Grant and describe the expected result(s) the Grant is expected to achieve;
* Explain why the grantee is uniquely suited to deliver on the objectives.

1. **PROPOSED ACTIVITIES AND WORKPLAN**

* Describe the activities that will be completed to achieve the objectives;
* Elaborate if there are any target group(s) / geographical area(s) that will benefit from the Grant, other than the Applicant Organization. If so, what is/are the target group(s) / geographical area(s), and how will potential beneficiaries be selected?

**Workplan:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Planned Activities\*** | **Timeline\*\*** | | | | **Planned Budget for the Activity**\*\*\*\* |
| T1 | T2 | T3 | T… |
| 1 Activity |  |  |  |  | USD |
| 2 Activity |  |  |  |  | USD |
| … Activity |  |  |  |  | USD |
| **Total** | | | | | USD |

\* State what activities will be completed with the Grant funds; add as many activity lines as necessary;

\*\* Define the time periods relevant for the Grant and indicate when specific activities are expected to be completed *(time periods relate to when the tranches of Grant funds are released – i.e., quarterly, biannually, annually)*; add as many time period lines as necessary;

\*\*\* Indicate the budget amounts in the Grant currency.

1. **PERFORMANCE TARGETS**

State the indicators for measuring results that will be achieved using the Grant. At least one indicator per each activity is required:

| **Indicator(s)\*** | **Data Source** | **Baseline** | **Milestones** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Period 1** | **Period 2** | **Period\*\* …** | **Final Target** |
| Activity 1 | | | | | | |
| 1.1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| … |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Activity 2 | | | | | | |
| 2.1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| … |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Activity … | | | | | | |
| 3.1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| … |  |  |  |  |  |  |

\* Add as many indicator lines as necessary;

\*\* Add as many period columns as necessary.

1. **RISK ANALYSIS**

Indicate relevant risks to achieving the Grant objectives and mitigation measures that will be taken. Risks include security, financial, operational, social and environmental, or other risks:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Risk\*** | **Risk Rating\*\***  (High / Medium / Low) | **Mitigation Measures** |
| 1 Risk |  |  |
| 2 Risk |  |  |
| … Risk |  |  |

\* Add as many risk lines as necessary;

\*\* Risk rating is based on a reflection of the likelihood of the risk materializing and the consequence it will have if it does occur.

1. **GRANT BUDGET**

PERIOD COVERING FROM \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ TO\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Please note that all budget lines are for costs related **only** to Grant activities;
* The following budget categories and the number of tranches are suggested guidelines; Applicant Organizations may choose alternates that more accurately reflect their expense items and needs:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **General Category of Expenditures** | **Tranche 1** | **Tranche 2** | **Tranche … \*** | Total |
| Personnel |  |  |  |  |
| Transportation |  |  |  |  |
| Premises |  |  |  |  |
| Capacity-building |  |  |  |  |
| Sub-contracts |  |  |  |  |
| Equipment / Furniture *[Specify]* |  |  |  |  |
| Other *[Specify]* |  |  |  |  |
| Miscellaneous |  |  |  |  |
| … |  |  |  |  |
| **Total** |  |  |  |  |

*\* Add as many tranche columns as necessary.*

**ANNEX II. PROPOSAL COVER SHEET**

**General Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of Organization** |  |
| **Contact Person** |  |
| **Contact Information** | **Address:** |
| **Telephone number:** |
| **Email:** |
| **Organization Type** |  |
| **Is your Organization legally registered?** | * Yes * No   *If yes, please attach a copy of your registration document to the submission* |
| **Institutional Profile**  *(A brief description of the Organization, including its vision, mission, relevant experience, and partnerships in the proposed thematic area[s])* |  |
| **Total Requested Budget (USD)** |  |