

External Midterm Evaluation of

FOKUS' programme: Removing Barriers, Improving Access to Women's and Girls' sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), Ethiopia and Kenya

(2019-2021)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

General objective	To evaluate the abovementioned program, its implementation and results.
Locations	Ethiopia, Kenya and Norway
Audience	Primary/contractor: Forum for women and development (FOKUS), Norway Secondary audience: Implementing partners, donors and other stakeholders.
Time scope	March 1 st , 2019, to September 30 th , 2021
Timeframe	The evaluation, including writing of the report, is expected to start week one, 2022 and the final report delivered by April 8 th , 2022.
Expected outputs	A report describing the evaluation method and scope, findings, lessons learned and recommendations.

1. INTRODUCTION

FOKUS, Forum for Women and Development is an umbrella-organisation consisting of 50 women's organisations based in Norway. FOKUS is a knowledge and resource centre with an emphasis on the spreading of information and women-centred development cooperation. FOKUS' primary goal is to strengthen women's empowerment, rights and access to resources. FOKUS builds partnerships with sister organisations internationally to realize women's rights and improve their situation.

SRHR encompass the rights of all individuals to decide about their bodies and lives and are reflected in and protected by the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the SDGs. According to the CEDAW Committee: 'Violations of women's sexual and reproductive health and rights, such as forced sterilizations, forced abortion, forced pregnancy criminalization of abortion, denial or delay of safe abortion and post-abortion care, forced continuation of pregnancy, abuse and mistreatment of women and girls seeking sexual and reproductive health information, goods and services, are forms of gender-based

violence that, depending on the circumstances, may amount to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment'. Nonetheless, the progress towards fulfilling women's and girls' SRHR has been slow in both countries covered by this study. This is due to weak political commitment, strong anti-abortion and anti-SRHR lobby by conservative political and religious groups, inadequate resources, persistent discrimination against women and girls, and an unwillingness to address issues related to sexuality openly and comprehensively.

The programme covers five countries, namely; Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Colombia and Guatemala. A separate evaluation of the programme in Latin America was carried out in 2020 and 2021, and it has been decided to limit the scope of this mid-term assessment to programme activities in Ethiopia and Kenya.

Abortion is legal in **Ethiopia** in cases of rape, incest, fetal impairment and when a woman's life or physical health is in danger. Unsafe abortions are one of the leading causes of maternal mortality, amounting to nearly one third of pregnancy-related deaths. Almost a quarter of Ethiopian women do not have a possibility to make decisions on their SRHR, including the use of birth control and whether to give birth in a health facility. The contraceptive prevalence rate remains very low and ranges from 2% to 56% depending on the region. Skilled providers assist 80% of births in the cities, compared to 21% of births in rural areas. Widespread harmful practices like child marriage and FGM constitute fundamental barriers to the realization of women's and girls' SRHR. FGM is also the key thematic focus of the programme in **Kenya**. According to the 2014 Kenya Demographic Health Survey, as many as 21% of all girls and women aged 15-49 have undergone FGM. The prevalence of FGM is higher in Nyanza, the programme's intervention area, where one third of women and girls have undergone the practice. Among the programme's target groups, the Maasai and Kuria people in Nyanza. Furthermore, the medicalization of FGM in Kenya (i.e. FGM performed by healthcare professionals) causes grave concerns with its prevalence at 15%.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

The overall objective of the programme is to improve women's and girls' access to safe abortion and other SRHR. The programme will be implemented in conflict-affected and/or socioeconomically marginalized areas, and where the access to public health services is scarce. The main target group of the programme are women and girls from poor rural and urban communities, including adolescents, indigenous, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LBT)-women and women and girls with disabilities. The programme builds on the work already carried out by FOKUS' partner organizations, mainly with support from FOKUS/Norad since 2015. The results achieved by the previous programme demonstrate the effectiveness of the chosen strategies to remove barriers to the fulfilment of SRHR

The program is particularly targeting the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls", in particular subgoals

- 5.1 'End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere';
- 5.3 'Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation';
- 5.6 'Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences'.

The programme is also highly relevant to the achievement of the SDG 3: 'Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages', and contributes to SDG 1 : 'End poverty in all its forms everywhere' as well as SDG 10: 'Reduce inequality within and among countries'.

The program is funded through FOKUS' frame agreement with Norad. In each of the countries Ethiopia and Kenya, the programme is implemented through one local partner and one of FOKUS' Norwegian member organisations. The annual budgets for two countries are approximately NOK 1 .000.000 for the Kenya program and NOK 3000.000 for Ethiopia.

The identified **pathways to lasting changes** are:

- Having access to information, contraception and, if necessary, abortion increases women's and girls' independence and empowers them to exercise self-determination over their own bodies, including the refusal of FGM and other harmful practices.
- Communities respecting women's and girls' SRHR. Harmful social and religious norms constitute major obstacles to women's bodily integrity and autonomy, requiring holistic approaches. Highlighting the advantages of family planning from the perspective of children's needs (child spacing) is one strategy to open the dialogue. Voicing concern about women's and girls' reproductive and mental health is another.
- Civil society promoting women's and girls' SRHR, including the right to legal and safe abortion at the national and international levels. The discussion on abortion is increasingly polarized, connected to a broader agenda of traditionalism and religion. SRHR organizations and their members risk being labelled as Western agents or victims of neo-colonialism, demonstrating the need for partnerships and sound strategies. FOKUS will keep providing networking opportunities in the context of the programme, within and across regions, to better enable the building of strategic alliances, the exchange of lessons learnt and provision of support to activists facing threats.
- Political changes allowing women and girls to access SRHR information and services, including legal and safe abortion. A gradual liberalization of abortion laws is the most realistic progress scenario in the programme countries. The approach chosen in Guatemala, to propose the legalization of abortion for sexually abused girls up to 14 years old, has not been successful so far but serves as an example of an alternative, gradual route to the realization of women's and girls' SRHR.

3. PURPOSE OF THE EVALUATION

The evaluation will carry out an independent assessment of the implementation of the Program and its progress so far. The evaluation will assess the Program's efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability and impact and provide specific recommendations to FOKUS and implementing partners for future interventions.

The evaluation will assess the following dimensions of the program (based on the OECD definition of the **main evaluation criteria** is applied¹):

- Impact: What differences has the intervention made?
- Relevance: Is the intervention doing the right things?

¹ See <https://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/daccriteriaforevaluatingdevelopmentassistance.htm> for a more detailed explanation of these.

- Efficiency: How well are resources used?
- Effectiveness: Is the intervention achieving its objectives?
- Sustainability: Will the benefits last?

EVALUATION AUDIENCE

The primary audience for evaluation review is the FOKUS secretariat, implementing partners and donors. The evaluation will be treated as an internal review but options for sharing learning externally will be discussed based on the final report

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Identify the program's progress in achieving specific results and outcomes and in contributing to the ultimate goal of the program:

1. Identify, analyse and assess the achievement of program outcomes based on the results achieved, the indicators proposed and the baseline of the program.
2. Analyse and evaluate the strategies and methodologies used by the program, partnerships and the management model implemented by organizations to achieve results, identifying successes, constraints and obstacles encountered during program development
3. Identify lessons learned around addressing the central issue (women's participation and protection), managing the program and overcoming challenges or obstacles for program staff and partner organizations.
4. Analyse the added value of FOKUS.
5. Develop specific conclusions and recommendations that are useful to partners and collaborating organizations, in order to optimize their opportunities and strengths, and to FOKUS for future interventions to improve women and girls' access to SRHR, such as safe abortion in Ethiopia and Kenya. .

4. METHODOLOGY

The evaluation will be conducted through a combination of desk study and fieldwork, and will include the following activities:

- Literature review of all central documents of the Program.
- Collection of primary data from key players/actors through interviews or other methods from, implementing partners and collaborating organizations with specific support, stakeholders and other relevant actors
- Focus groups with target population of the program.

Travels will be adapted to the current security and Covid-19 situation and the security situation in Ethiopia and thus specifically assessed and agreed between the evaluation team and FOKUS.

EVALUATION QUESTIONS

The assessment may include the following questions, the final list is to be further developed by the evaluation team:

Impacts: Analyse the Program's real and potential impact, measuring positive and negative aspects, as well as intended and unintended changes on women, institutions and society.

- Are there external factors that may endanger the impact of the program?
- Will the program contribute to development or improvement of national policies related to the central theme of the Programme (women's participation and protection).
- Are there unforeseen and unintended positive impacts on final beneficiaries?
- If there have been negative impacts on the target population, has the Program taken appropriate measures to mitigate such?
- Analyse the coordination and/or strategic alliances with relevant actors outside the Program that have contributed to the impact of the program

Relevance: Analyse the consistency of the program, its strategies and expected results to the social, political and economic contexts of Ethiopia and Kenya and the challenges faced.

- Assess the role and function of collaborating organizations (local and national). Identify organizations that have made strategic contribution to the program.
- Is the intervention well in tune with the national policies?
- Are duty bearers addressed adequately?
- Is the strategy implemented the most appropriate? What other strategies or initiatives should have been implemented for achieving results?
- Do proposed innovations have a potential for replication?

Efficiency: Analyse the adequacy of the institutional structure and program management, including the capacity and the model of the management structure, for achieving the defined results

- To which extent has planning and implementation of the Program ensured efficient use of resources?
- Are the expected products/deliverables produced/developed satisfactorily and at the right time?
- How has the program engaged local capacities of the organizations involved to achieve the expected results?

Added value of FOKUS in the achievement of results and impact of the program:

- What is the added value of the Program's organizational model, with a FOKUS secretariat, partner organizations and collaborating organizations?

5. How can the added value of FOKUS be improved?**DOCUMENTATION**

All relevant supporting documentation will be available to the evaluation team and include:

- Program/ projects application, logical framework, activities matrix, timeline and budgets
- PME systems
- Narrative and financial reports 2019,2020 and 2021
- End evaluation 2018
- Publications and audio-visual products financed by the program
- Reports done by partner organizations and their networks on the program.

6. EXPECTED DELIVERIES

- A specific methodological proposal for the evaluation, including methodological techniques and tools.
- An inception report.
- An evaluation report in Word and PDF. The main sections of the evaluation report shall include:
 1. Introduction
 2. Explanation of applied methodology, scope, limitations and contents of the evaluation
 3. Executive Summary
 4. Description, analysis and assessment of the Program. Analysis of indicators and measure of the progress of the results qualitatively and quantitatively.
 5. Program analysis based on the evaluation criteria listed above.
 6. Qualitative analysis of the Program's contributions to national women's movements.
 7. Conclusions and recommendations. Recommendations should be practical and when pertinent specified for the different actors and stakeholders.
 8. Annexes: evaluation method, work plan, list of activities, interviews and sessions for evaluation; and other relevant documents reviewed or prepared for evaluation

5. EVALUATION TIMETABLE

The evaluation, including writing of the report, is expected to be finalized by **April 8th, 2022**.

The timetable for the evaluation process follows bellow.

Date	Action	Location
November 15 th	Call for applications is published	
December 12 th	Deadline for submission of proposals	
December 16 th	Selection of Evaluation team is communicated	
December 22 nd	Signing of contract	
Jan 2022, week 1	Start-up meeting between evaluator and FOKUS	Oslo (virtual)
January 23 rd , 2022	Inception report is submitted	
Weeks 4-7, 2022	Field visits ant interviews with program stakeholders	Oslo / Kenya, Ethiopia
March 12 th , 2022	Submission of draft report	
March 23 rd , 2022	Feedback/comments from FOKUS	Oslo
March 2022, week 13	Discussion with FOKUS on draft report, findings and recommendations	Oslo
April 8 th , 2022	Submission of final report	

8. BUDGET

The total cost of the evaluation will not exceed NOK 300 000, incl. VAT and taxes and all other direct and indirect costs related to the evaluation, including travel costs of the evaluation team, the total number of working days needed for the evaluation team, per diem, accommodation, and any other related costs.

9. AUTHORSHIP AND PUBLICATION

The final report will be the property of FOKUS and shall not be circulated to other parties by the author or any other parties without prior consent by FOKUS.

10. THE EVALUATION TEAM

The team shall have a designated team leader. The team must be gender balanced. The team must have at least one member from Kenya/Ethiopia or have documented extensive knowledge of the two countries. Furthermore, the team must:

- Have demonstrable experience of producing high quality, credible evaluations (references required)
- Have demonstrable experience of working with/evaluating development cooperation through NGO work
- Have extensive knowledge and understanding of the Ethiopian and Kenyan context.
- Be familiar with participatory and partnership approaches and women's empowerment strategies
- Be fluent in English (spoken and written) and have sufficient language skills to perform interviews in Ethiopia and Kenya.

The team leader should develop a term of reference for the other team member(s) to clarify roles, division of work and deliverables.

None of the members of the evaluation team or the interpreters may have a stake in the outcome of the evaluation.

11. RESPONSIBILITY OF FOKUS AND THE EVALUATION TEAM

FOKUS' responsibility

FOKUS program program advisors will be main contact point between FOKUS and the evaluation team. Specifically, FOKUS will be responsible for the following action/s:

- Inputs to design the evaluation, key questions for research, providing information materials, providing feedback of the evaluation
- Coordinate field activities with partner organizations, and other stakeholders and acting as the liaison with the evaluation team

- Logistical arrangements
- Comment and provide input to the report
- Approval of deliverables

Evaluation team's responsibility

- Carrying out the evaluation
- Day-to-day management of the evaluation process
- Logistical arrangements for field visits if necessary
- Regular progress reporting to FOKUS
- Development of results and recommendations
- Production of deliverables in accordance with contractual requirements.

12. EVALUATION PREMISES

The evaluator must be free of any conflict of interests regarding the writing and submission of the evaluation and must be prepared to confirm that they are evaluating independently of external influences. Additionally, the evaluation team will adhere to the following principles at all times during the evaluation process:

- Anonymity and confidentiality of informants' opinions and assessments will be respected, including but not limited to: stakeholders, beneficiaries, CSOs and corporate sector companies.
- Responsibility: any disagreement within the evaluation team or between them and the program coordinators, regarding the evaluation conclusions and recommendations, will be mentioned in the final report.
- Integrity
- Independence
- Information check: the evaluation team will ensure and is responsible for the validation of the information received
- Correct and timely submittal of reports: if the reports (inception report, draft and final reports) are not submitted in due time and fashion (with an emphasis on quality and professionalism of the report) FOKUS may apply penalties as outlined in the contract between the parts.

13. PRESENTATION OF THE TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

The technical proposal should contain:

- Profile of the evaluation team.
- Proposed approach, methodology, timing and outputs – detailed description of the manner in which the evaluation team would respond to the ToR. Include the number of persons-days in each specialization considered necessary to carry out all work required
- A detailed work plan.
- Proposed team structure and team members (include CVs)
- Professional fee quotation indicating envisaged actions, the requested fee for the work in the job description
- Letter of interest (max one page)

Any request for clarifications should be referred to ics@fokusvinner.no and bb@fokusvinner.no with copy to mmi@fokusvinner.no.

Deadline for submission of the technical proposal: **December 12th, 2021, at 23h59 (CET).**

After careful review of the proposals received, a final decision will be communicated no later than **December 16th, 2021.**

Proposals should be sent to: mm@fokusvinner.no with copy to mmi@fokusvinner.no and ics@fokusvinner.no.

FOKUS, FORUM FOR WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT
November 15th, 2022