



## **Terms of Reference for Conducting Study on Maternal health in Dadaab Refugee Camp.**

### **I.0 INTRODUCTION**

The African Gender and Media Initiative Trust (GEM Trust) implements a program that seeks to strengthen the influence and position of young women whose Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) are neglected the most. The program aims to have young women play a leading role in strengthened and inclusive organizations and movements that enjoy increased public support and have convinced duty bearers and health service providers to take steps towards implementing laws, policies and practices that respect and protect these young women's SRHR.

GEM Trust in collaboration with the Ministry of Health- Division of Reproductive, Maternal, newborn, Child and Adolescent Health, Kenya Redcross- Info Main Health Facility is therefore proposing to conduct a comprehensive research study on maternal health-with a specific focus on post abortion care, in Dadaab Refugee Camp-Garissa County. The study aims to gather vital evidence to address critical issues such as maternal and neonatal mortality, teenage pregnancies, and post-abortion care (PAC). By engaging a broad range of professionals and community members, this study will inform targeted interventions to improve service delivery, resource mobilization, and policy implementation for maternal and neonatal health. The research is expected to drive meaningful change and contribute significantly to our overarching goal of achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in Kenya.

### **2.0 About African Gender and Media Initiative Trust (GEM Trust):**

The African Gender and Media Initiative Trust (GEM Trust) is a research organization that works to advance gender equality through research and action on women's human rights. GEM Trust began as a research arm and a reservoir of knowledge and information for the African Women and Child Feature Service (AWCFS) media content development but has since grown to a fully-fledged registered organization. GEM Trust brings together women experts in women's human rights issues specifically women's health, sexual and reproductive rights, economic empowerment, media advocacy and research. The advocates came together in response to the need for evidence-based programming in women's human rights work in Kenya and Africa.

Our **Vision** is a just and equitable society where all women and girls enjoy their human rights without discrimination, irrespective of their status.

Our **Mission** is to advance gender equality through research and action on women's human rights with special recognition of marginalized women and girls.

GEM Trust is guided by the principles of equality and respect for human rights, our priority issues are Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights of Women and Girls, Violence against Women and Girls, and Economic Justice.

### **2.1 Objectives of the Study**

The primary objectives of the research study are to:

- Assess the current maternal health status in Dadaab, Garissa County, focusing on key indicators such as maternal and neonatal mortality, teenage pregnancies, and PAC rates.

- Identify critical gaps in service delivery and resource mobilisation that contribute to poor maternal health outcomes.
- Provide evidence-based recommendations to enhance policy implementation, improve healthcare service quality, and strengthen resource allocation for maternal and neonatal health.
- Facilitate and foster stakeholder engagement by integrating insights from healthcare providers, community members, and policy experts to drive sustainable interventions.

## **2.2 Scope of Work**

The consultant in close collaboration with GEM Trust shall undertake a comprehensive review of existing literature and project documents related to maternal health in Dadaab, Garissa County. This includes:

- Conducting a thorough review of current policies and identifying barriers to effective implementation.
- Develop a comprehensive research proposal for ethical review.
- Provide technical support for research assistants including training on data collection and editing.
- Develop data collection tools for key informant interviews, focus group discussions, and community surveys involving healthcare providers, rightsholders, and community leaders.
- Facilitate a reference group for the study with members drawn from GEM Trust, Ministry of Health- Division of Reproductive, Maternal, newborn, Child and Adolescent Health, Kenya Redcross- Info Main Health Facility.
- Analysing quantitative and qualitative data to assess maternal health indicators and service delivery gaps.
- Developing actionable recommendations to be integrated into future program interventions to improve maternal and neonatal health outcomes.
- Preparing an Inception report, a data collection report, a Draft research report, and a Final Report incorporating stakeholder feedback and recommendations.
- Delivering a presentation summarising key findings to project stakeholders.

## **3.0 Deliverables**

The consultant will be expected to deliver the following within the 30-day engagement period:

- An Inception report detailing the methodology, work plan, and data collection tools.
- A comprehensive research proposal for submission for ethical review.
- A Data collection report summarising the initial findings and identifying key gaps.
- A Draft report for review by GEM Trust.
- A Final report incorporating all feedback, including an executive summary, methodology, findings, and recommendations.
- A comprehensive presentation of key findings and proposed interventions for further discussion and action.

- A Participatory assessment toolkit developed as part of the study to facilitate future community-based assessments.

#### **4.0 Timeline**

The study will be conducted over 30 working days immediately upon signing the contract.

#### **5.0 Qualifications and Experience**

The ideal consultant will have the following:

- A degree in Public Health, Gender Studies, Social Sciences, Monitoring and Evaluation, or a related field (Master's degree preferred).
- A minimum of 5 years' experience in sexual reproductive health field, conducting health-focused research, baseline studies, or evaluations, preferably in maternal health or related sectors.
- Expertise in both qualitative and quantitative research methods, with a proven track record of working with women's rights organisations, religious leaders, and healthcare institutions in Kenya.
- Strong analytical, writing, and communication skills.
- A deep understanding of social norms, gender equality, and human rights issues in the humanitarian settings context.

#### **6. Application Process**

Interested consultants should submit the following as a single PDF file:

- An update CV with evidence of academic and professional qualifications
- Copy of KRA pin.
- An expression of interest indicating clear understanding of the TOR and methodology for carrying out the assignment

Applications not including all the above information will not be reviewed. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Interested consultants should submit their application to: [procurement@gem.or.ke](mailto:procurement@gem.or.ke)

The Deadline for Application is **14<sup>th</sup> February 2025 by 5.00 pm**