TERMS OF REFERENCE
School-Related Gender Based Violence in Lebanon
Call for Research Proposals
UNESCO Beirut
February 2010

Introduction:

Within the framework of the project “Supporting Gender Equality in Education in Lebanon”, funded by the Government of Italy, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States in Beirut is launching a study on school-related gender based violence (GBV) and is inviting research proposals from individuals, education institutions, agencies, organizations, or other bodies engaged with issues concerning gender, education, human rights and women’s empowerment.

After review, selection, and finalization of the project proposal, UNESCO will launch the study in Lebanon in collaboration with the identified individual(s) or other entity. For detailed information please, refer to the Terms of Reference below.

Format:

Please use the attached template for submitting your proposal, providing sufficient information for each part.

Deadline:

The research proposals must reach UNESCO Beirut through email or regular mail by no later than 10 March 2010. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

Address:

Gender Equality Project
UNESCO Beirut
Citè Sportif Avenue, Bir Hassan
P.O. Box: 11-5244
Beirut

Or by emails to: beirut@unesco.org

Note: Qualified women are encouraged to apply
1. Background

Gender based violence is a global phenomenon manifested in every aspect of life. It is a violation of human rights and a manifestation of gender discrimination which poses serious threats and obstacles for the achievement of the Education for All Goals and the Millennium Development Goals, especially the ones relating to gender equality.

School-related gender based violence is a serious obstacle to learning causing not only physical harm but also severe psychological and educational damages. The issue of violence against girls is often considered as a taboo issue and together with the silence that surrounds it, often leads to no or weak mobilization. However, despite the limited research in this area, there is indicative evidence that gender based violence unfortunately permeates the school environment in Lebanon, as in other parts of the world, with severe physical, psychological and learning consequences for students. According to the results of a Global School-based Health Survey by WHO in a number of developing countries, including Lebanon\(^1\), between 20% and 65% of school-aged children reported having been verbally or physically bullied in the 30 days prior to the study which is an indication of the phenomenon of violence in schools. Furthermore, a recent study conducted by Save the Children, Sweden\(^2\) contacted in Lebanon, Palestine and Yemen, reports cases of sexual harassment at school or of early marriages depriving girls of their right to education.

According to the United Nations Secretary-General’s ‘In-depth Study on Violence against Women’ “although harassment is recognized as a grave problem” in developing countries “little is known about the magnitude of the problem” with the exception of a few studies, mostly conducted in Africa. Despite the growing mobilization around this phenomenon this kind of violence persists in all countries and represents a generalized violation of human rights and a major obstacle to the achievement of gender equality.

Development Goal

Contribute to the promotion of gender equality and promote good quality education for girls and boys by raising awareness and fighting against the phenomenon of school related gender based violence.

The current study is launched in order to investigate and understand the nature, extent and causes of GBV in schools and its effect on all school age students with particular attention to girls and their education attainment, with the overall aim of better understanding the phenomenon and identifying recommendations for addressing and preventing it at school and through education.

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\(^1\) Global School-based Health Survey: The World Health Organization
Research key objectives

- Provide a comprehensive account of the nature and the extent to which the phenomenon of school gender based violence occurs in schools in Lebanon and examine its causes and perpetrators.
- Assess the impact of school gender based violence in Lebanon on students in general and girls in particular and on their educational choices and achievement.
- Organize a national consultation to present the findings of the study and identify a set of policy recommendations for addressing and preventing gender based violence in schools.

Expected outcomes

A report presenting and analyzing the findings of the study (narrative analysis and visual charts. The report should be no less than 100 pages, preferably in English, or in French.

**Time Frame: March – August 2010**

- 10 March: Submission of research proposal
- 15 March – 19 March: Evaluation and selection of the research proposal
- April – 15 June 2010: Field work and data collection
- 15 June – 31 August 2010: Data analysis
- 31 August: Submission of the 1st final draft of the report to UNESCO
- 1 September – 30 October: review based on comments by UNESCO and finalization of the report
- 31 October: Submit the final report

Each proposal should not exceed 10 pages and should include the following:

1. **Background - Introduction:** The context of the proposed research.
2. **Objective(s):** A brief statement of the specific objectives of the research.
3. **Definition of Violence and Gender Based Violence:**
4. **Desk review:**
5. **Methodology:** how the research objectives are to be achieved, i.e. hypotheses, methods, data collection, data analysis, etc.
6. **Sample:** Identification and characteristics of the research group, by age group, sex, area of residence, religious background, etc.
7. **Results:** Anticipated results and how they might contribute to knowledge, future research and especially public policy.
8. **Work Programme and Timeline:** The brief description of activities and timeline needed for each activity. Total duration of this study is 6 months
9. **Budget breakdown:** Total estimated budget and budget breakdown by type of expenditure.
10. **Contact details:**
11. **Information in support of the researcher: background on the researchers, past experience, CVs, etc.**
The Research Proposal should be a complete description of the intended research. It must be between 8 and 10 pages (excluding annexes 1&2).

How to use this template:
Please fill in ALL sections. Please type in the relevant information after each section and attach any additional information that is requested under annex 2.

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1. Research title

2. Preferred Working Language (English or French)

3. Brief Introduction

4. Background and statement of the problem (in the light of a thorough literature review)

5. Definition of violence

6. Research question or hypothesis, aim and objectives

7. Study design (type of study)

8. Study population and sampling

9. Data collection methods and instruments
10. Data analysis methods

11. Mechanisms to assure the quality of the study – e.g. control of bias, safe storage of data

12. Study period - Timetable for completion of the research and submit the report

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13. Participants in the study – all people involved in the study, and the role they play, should be identified.

14. Ethical considerations - anonymity, harm that might be induced

15. Resources required for the study

16. A detailed total budget estimate and budget breakdown by line of expenditure/activity

17. Annex 1: Contact information

18. Annex 2: CVs and information about the
Annex 1: Contact Information

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**DATE OF SUBMISSION:** DD/ MM/ 2010
Annex 2: Please attach your CV or any other information concerning your organization