



TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE RESEARCH ON GBSS and Related Harmful Practices in Armenia

Project Title:	“Addressing Gender Biased Sex Selection and related harmful practices in South Caucasus: support for regional, national and South-South interventions”
Duty Station:	Yerevan and all regions(marzes) of Armenia
Start Date:	28 March 2022
Deadline:	24 June 2022
Funding Source:	UNFPA/EU

A. Background

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) World Population State of the World (SWOP) 2020¹ suggested that around 140 million women and girls are believed to be missing today as a result of son preference and gender biased sex selection (GBSS), which itself is one manifestation of extensive gender discrimination. Asia and, increasingly, some countries in the Caucasus and Eastern Europe have been in the spotlight concerning harmful acts and practices perpetuated against girls. Gender discrimination has fueled alarming sex-selection trends in several countries in those above-mentioned regions, which will impact future generations and will have demographic implications, as the world population is suggested to be at the 7.8 billion.²

The practice is evident in countries with restrictive population policies, patriarchal and patrilineal family structures, persistent son preference and where girls are undervalued. Sex ratio imbalances will have a long-lasting impact on the demographic structure and population dynamics in the affected countries with significant socioeconomic consequences, resulting in a “marriage squeeze” and further reinforcing the subordination of girls and women. The issue, therefore, sustainably requires a multifaceted response. Recent data shows some signs of a decline in sex imbalances in Armenia. The Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) in Armenia was high in early 2000 reported by the Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia that it was observed to be as high as 120 boys per 100 girls, which was stabilized at 114 boys per 100 girls in early 2010. According to Armenia birth registration and recent data, a decline on SRB was seen in 2018 from 111 boys per 100 girls to 110 per boys to 100 girls in 2020.³

¹ https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNFPA_PUB_2020_EN_State_of_World_Population.pdf

² [UNFPA PUB 2020 EN State of World Population.pdf](https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNFPA_PUB_2020_EN_State_of_World_Population.pdf)

³ <https://knoema.com/atlas/Armenia/topics/Demographics/Fertility/Male-to-female-ratio-at-birth#:~:text=Armenia%20male%20to%20female%20ratio%20at%20birth%20was%20at%20level,is%20a%20change%20of%202.20%25.>

Armenia has undergone many changes after the last study was conducted in 2016. Since then, the country has seen the Velvet revolution in 2018, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict escalation in 2020, and was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Against this background, conducting a study is crucial for Armenia as the above-mentioned factors have an impact on GBSS. A thorough assessment of this impact and the new reality will result in better tailoring the suggested interventions. Hence, in 2022, with UNFPA Armenia, OxYGen Foundation plans to conduct a nationwide survey on the prevalence and causes of gender-biased sex selection to assess changes in attitudes and to further develop evidence-based policies and programmes.

B. Purpose

The purpose of this assignment is to assess, through the methodology and research tools consistent with the previously conducted studies (UNFPA, 2011. ICHD, 2016) the prevalence of and reasons for sex-selective abortions in Armenia, which will make it possible to assess the changes in the situation in the past 5 years as well.

C. Description of Assignment

The Service Provider will be responsible for ensuring timely and proper implementation of the following activities:

Activity	End product/ Deliverables	Time frame
1. Conduct the context analysis, including the legal framework, and evaluate the factors that could affect the GBSS in the last 5 years.	Full report in Armenian and English	April 10, 2022
2. Conduct interviews with key informants (MoH, MLSA, MESCO), regional and local medical institution representatives (e.g. heads of clinics, obstetrician-gynecologists, ultrasound specialists), regional and local authorities, education institutions (e.g. YSMU), CSOs working in this field, and other stakeholders that can contribute to the assessment process.	Full report of the interviews in Armenian and English	May 15, 2022
3. Conduct a survey among the ever-pregnant women aged 15-49 residing in households randomly selected from throughout the country.	Full report of the survey results in Armenian and English	June 10, 2022
4. Organise a validation workshop to present the initial findings. Based on comments/suggestions received during the validation workshop finalize and submit the report.	Validation workshop with the representatives of state agencies, CSOs, etc. Report in Armenian and English	June 22, 2022
5. Develop a public sensitization material (presentation/leaflet/infographics) based on the assessment findings that will be further used during public discourses.	Presentation/Leaflet	June 24, 2022

D. Qualifications, Experience and Documentation Requirements

- Certificate of Organization - registered and operating in the Republic of Armenia
- Proven capacity of implementing national-scope research
- Proven qualifications or specialized knowledge/experience required for the organization and experts in the team to implement research projects aimed at promoting gender equality. These can be the CVs of personnel involved in the research, and/or links to previously conducted research studies
- Methodology of conducting the research and the full concept of implementing the Assignment
- Financial proposal – detailed budget of the Assignment,
- Work experience with UN and/or OxYGen is an asset.

E. How to apply

Interested candidate(s) with required qualification should submit the expression of interest (proposal) by 17:00, **20 March 2022**, to info@oxygenfund.am

Subject line: *GBSS research 2022*

“Addressing Gender-Biased Sex Selection and Related Harmful Practices in the South Caucasus: Support for Regional, National and South–South Interventions” project is implemented by UNFPA in partnership with OxYGen Foundation. The Project is funded by the European Union and UNFPA.