**Invitation for Proposal - *Preventing child marriage, increasing access to information and services for reproductive health and family planning needs of young couples through community led interventions and inter-sectoral convergence in two blocks of Gajapati district, Odisha***

***1.3. Specific Results***

**Background:** Ending child marriage, promoting reproductive health and rights, and empowering girls and young women is a priority for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). In line with the UNFPA’s new strategic plan, UNFPA will prioritize its investment in geographical areas where girls face multiple challenges and are at risk of child marriage, early child-bearing, gender based violence, discontinuing education and limited opportunities for skill development or vocational training. UNFPA aims to adopt a multi-pronged approach to end child marriage, enhance access to information and services for reproductive health needs of young couples and to empower girls and young women.

Gajapati is one of the southern districts in Odisha with more than half (54 percent) of its population belonging to tribal communities, majority of whom reside in scattered hamlets over a hilly terrain. As per NFHS-IV, one out of four (25.3%) currently married women aged 20-24 years in Gajapati district were married before 18 years, one out of ten (9.4 percent) girls between 15 and 19 years were already pregnant or mothers and the acceptors of spacing methods in the district was the second lowest (9.4) in the state. It is a High Priority district under Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A).

Considering very low proportion of acceptors of spacing methods, girls getting married at a young age, high proportion of tribal population, lack of focus on the reproductive health needs of young people, UNFPA plans to implement an integrated project to prevent child marriages, enhance access to information and services for reproductive health and help girls and young women in realizing their full potential. The project will be implemented in two blocks (Gumma and Rayagada) of Gajapati district, Odisha.

UNFPA is working closely with the Government to strengthen the Family Planning Programme, to promote integrated RH services (Maternal Health, Reproductive Health/FP, RTI/STI, Adolescent health, prevent unsafe abortion etc.) at public health facilities, the Rashtriya Kishore Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK), the life skills education (LSE) in tribal residential schools through partnership and technical assistance.

Current invitation for proposal (IFP) is to identify a suitable NGO to implement a multi-pronged approach to prevent child marriage, enhance access to information and services for reproductive health needs of young couples and to empower girls and young women through community engagement and multi-sectoral convergence.

**Objective:**

1. Avert child marriages and ensure young couples have the means to realize their reproductive intentions through community led interventions and improved information and services.
2. Demonstrate multi-sectoral model of convergence for empowering girls and young women in the state.

**Geographical Coverage:** Two blocks of Gajapati district, Odisha - Gumma and Rayagada

**Target Group:** Girls and young women (15-24 years) and young couples of Gumma and Rayagada blocks of Gajapati district.

**Project Period**: The project will be for a period of three years (Jan 2018 to December 2020). However, approval of the budget will be on an annual basis, based on the progress of the project.

**Strategies:** The interventions under the project will include, but not limited to, following suggested strategies:

1. Address socio-cultural and systemic barriers to prevent child marriages and to improve access to reproductive health information and services by engaging with key influencers.
2. Facilitate inter-sectoral convergence for empowering girls and young women through the departments of health, education, tribal welfare, skill development, W&CD and others.
3. Reach out to young couples with information and services for reproductive health/FP through ASHAs in the community and linkage to services at the facility.
4. Generate evidences and advocate for replication.

**Scope of Work:** The scope of work should broadly include the following:

1. Sensitization of key stakeholders including village health and sanitation committees, women self-help groups and tribal leaders in 37 Gram Panchayats of two intervention blocks once a year.
2. Training and capacity building of frontline workers such as ANMs (40), ASHA Sathis (16), ASHAs (381), and AWWs (642) including the project team.
3. Identify girls especially those who are at risk of child marriage at Panchayat level and facilitate for linkages with education and skill building opportunities.
4. Identify young married couples by strengthening eligible couple / RCH survey annually and reaching them with information and services by ASHAs/ANMs in Gumma and Rayagada blocks.
5. Organize forums such as young couples meet, and meeting of Mission Shakti self-help groups for advocacy and to disseminate information in 37 gram panchayats at least once a year.
6. Map agencies providing skill development programmes in the district and organize camps/counseling services for girls and their parents at the panchayat level in 37 GPs.
7. Multi-stakeholder consultation at district / block level for promoting skill development opportunities and other entitlements for girls and young women
8. Review and re-orientation of ANMs (40), ASHA Sathis (16), ASHAs (381), and AWWs (642) at health sector meetings and ICDS supervisor’s sector meetings.
9. Develop need based resource and communication material and establish monitoring information system (MIS) to track progress of activities and monthly reporting.

**Key indicators**:

1. Number of sensitization programmes organized for community level stakeholders
2. Number of batches of trainings organized for ASHAs/ ASHA *Sathis/ANMs* on reproductive health needs of young people and client friendly services.
3. Number of batches of trainings organized for AWWs on child marriage, rights of girls and women and their entitlements.
4. Number of girls/young women enrolled into skill development programmes from the project blocks.
5. Number of Gram Panchayats where a resolution was passed to end child marriage
6. Number of young couples meet organized at Gram Panchayat level

**Expected Results:**

1. Reduction in child marriages, more girls continue to study, the number of young women enrolling into vocational training/skill development trainings increase and reproductive health needs of young couples addressed in Gajapati district.
2. Young couples have access to family planning information and services and there is an increase in acceptors of spacing methods in the district.
3. Demonstrate multi-sectoral model of convergence for empowering girls and young women in the state.