



Call for Proposals

Youth-led implementation of digital resources on sexuality education in formal and non-formal learning settings

Terms of Reference

Type of Contract: Contract for Services (Institution/Organization)

Duration: August 2023 – May 2024 (10 months), tentatively

Deadline for submission: 14 July 2023, 17h30 Bangkok time (GMT+ 7:00).

Nature of the consultancy

UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office in Bangkok seeks the services of a youth-led/serving organization in southeast Asia to lead the implementation, progress monitoring and reporting of a maximum 10-month project aimed at disseminating and amplifying usage of AMAZE sexuality education videos and lesson plans adapted by UNESCO, UNFPA and Advocates for Youth for use by school children and teachers in 3 southeast Asian countries (Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam).

Specific activities will include: co-creating with youth an approach for integrating local language versions of the AMAZE videos and companion lesson plans into existing curricula or training materials; capacity-building of local youth leaders to deliver the videos and lesson plans as part of curriculum delivery in formal or non-formal learning environments and through in-person or hybrid teaching and learning approaches; working closely with the local youth leaders to deliver the integrated videos as curriculum-support materials in partnership with teachers, schools, communities or local youth networks; monitor and document the implementation of project activities and share to UNESCO, UNFPA and partners young people's experiences, lessons and results on the implementation of their sexuality education programme, using the adapted AMAZE videos and companion materials. Project activities may be implemented **in one or more of the three southeast Asian countries for which the adapted AMAZE materials have been produced (Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam).**

I. Background:

During 2022, UNESCO and UNFPA in partnership with Advocates for Youth, adapted 9 AMAZE videos and developed companion lesson plans in local languages for teachers, peer educators and facilitators in Thailand, Viet Nam, and Lao PDR. Additionally, the three partners collaborated with the Asia-Pacific Digital Sexuality Education (DSE) community to engage 13 youth content creators and platform managers to make use of an additional 6 videos that were previously adapted by UNFPA for the region and to co-create short discussion guides that can be used in formal and non-formal learning settings

alike¹. Launched in 2016, [Amaze.org](https://amaze.org) harnesses the power of digital media to provide young adolescents around the globe with free access to medically accurate, age-appropriate, affirming, and honest sex education. Amaze videos for young adolescents have over 50 million views worldwide. In the Asia-Pacific region specifically, Advocates for Youth has supported a range of partners – including UNESCO and UNFPA - to generate more than two hundred adaptations and dubbed videos of languages in the region.

Although many countries in southeast Asia have some level of mandatory life skills education, most do not require that all essential elements of comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) be covered, as promoted by the UN [International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education](#) (UNESCO et al. 2018²). Topics such as sexual rights and sexual citizenship, pleasure, violence, diversity, and relationships, are often minimised or omitted (ARROW, 2018³). According to the UN technical guidance, good quality sexuality education should be scientifically accurate, age/developmentally-appropriate, contextually relevant and responsive to the lived realities and diverse needs of young people. Yet in a non-representative sample of 1402 youth respondents in a 2019 UNFPA online survey, only 28 percent felt that their school taught them about sexuality ‘very well’ or somewhat well’. Satisfaction with sexuality education was even lower among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex youth (LGBTI) respondents compared with general youth, with 15 percent of respondents who identified as LGBTI reporting being ‘very or somewhat satisfied’ and 65 percent reporting being ‘very or somewhat dissatisfied’ with school-based CSE (UNFPA et al. 2021⁴). In the same survey, when asked about their preferred sources of information about sexuality, 56 percent of youth respondents indicated ‘their peers’ and 55 percent indicated ‘the Internet’, in contrast to 30 percent who indicated ‘schools’ as their preferred learning source.

Acknowledging this need and opportunity, UNFPA and partners produced the companion resource, [International Technical and Programmatic Guidance on Out-of-School Comprehensive Sexuality Education \(CSE\)](#) (UNFPA et al., 2020⁵). The out-of-school CSE guidance draws on evidence from around the world to provide recommendations on the design and implementation of CSE programmes in out-of-school settings, tailored to the needs of specific groups that are unlikely to be addressed in CSE programmes for children and young people generally. Furthermore, digital sexuality education spaces and tools have been well-documented⁶ as offering elements of sexuality education that can be made more accessible, engaging, and interactive for young people. DSE resources such as AMAZE videos also offer a potential avenue to complement traditional classroom delivery of CSE, as their agility means that they are used by educators in the formal education system or in non-formal, community-based learning settings or by young people themselves for informal learning or edutainment.

The current project aims to ensure that youth leaders working as school/community educators in southeast Asian schools are further supported to expand the reach and impact of their sexuality education programmes by sampling and integrating content from [the 9 AMAZE videos and lesson plans](#)

¹ English language versions of all the adapted video, lesson plans and discussion guides are available at <https://amaze.org/asia-region/>

² UNESCO, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women and WHO. 2018. [International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education. An evidence-informed approach. Revised edition](#). Paris, UNESCO.

³ ARROW. 2018. [Comprehensive sexuality education \(CSE\) in Asia: A Regional Brief](#). Kuala Lumpur, ARROW.

⁴ UNFPA, UNESCO and IPPF. 2021. [Learn. Protect. Respect. Empower. The Status of Comprehensive Sexuality Education in Asia-Pacific: a summary review 2020. Meeting needs of young people](#).

⁵ UNFPA, UNESCO, WHO, UNICEF, UNAIDS and HRP. 2020. [International Technical and Programmatic Guidance on Out-of-School Comprehensive Sexuality Education. An evidence-informed approach for non-formal, out-of-school programmes](#). New York, UNFPA.

⁶ See: [UNICEF. 2019. The Opportunity for Digital Sexuality Education in East Asia and the Pacific: A review of issues, policies and programmes](#). Bangkok, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific; [UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, and Love Frankie. 2020. Sexuality Education in Digital Spaces in Asia: Insight Report](#). UNESCO Bangkok; [UNESCO. 2020. Switched on: sexuality education in the digital space](#).; and, [UNFPA. 2022. DESIRE 2021: Digital Sexuality Education Conference Asia-Pacific](#) as some examples.

that have been adapted to their local contexts. Approaches may include: integration into existing sexuality education teaching/training curricula of entire AMAZE lessons together with the complementary AMAZE videos; integration of only the AMAZE videos into existing lesson plans/learning activities that have already been developed by the youth leaders; and/or infusion of just some elements of the AMAZE lesson plans, with reference to the complementary AMAZE videos into existing lesson plans/learning activities that have already been developed by the youth leaders.

II. Work Assignment

Under the overall authority of the Director, UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office in Bangkok, the overall supervision of the Chief of Section for Inclusive Quality Education, and the direct supervision/guidance of the Regional Advisor on Education for Health and Well-being, and working closely with relevant members of the Education for Health and Well-being Team (HWT), the contractor is expected to perform the following tasks:

- 1) Consult and co-create with youth leaders working in sexuality education, an overall approach to using the adapted AMAZE videos and companion lesson plans⁷ in the selected country(ies), by integrating these into existing sexuality education curriculum/ training materials being used by the organization, applying any updates to their sexuality education curriculum/ training materials where needed and relevant. The overall approach should include a work plan, targeted beneficiaries and a basic monitoring framework for project implementation;
- 2) Carry out a rapid mapping of the knowledge-, skills- and other capacity-needs to be strengthened among the local youth leaders working in sexuality education in the selected country(ies), so as to inform the integration (selection and placement) of the AMAZE videos and companion lesson plans (or some elements of these) within their organization's existing sexuality education curriculum/ training materials, and the design of required training activities;
- 3) Design and deliver relevant at least one skills/capacity-building workshop for at least twenty local sexuality education youth leaders to address the needs identified in 2.2 above and to be able to deliver up-to-nine integrated AMAZE videos and companion lesson plans in formal or non-formal learning environments and through in-person or hybrid teaching and learning approaches, as appropriate;
- 4) Together with the local sexuality education youth leaders, deliver up-to-nine integrated videos with lesson plans as curriculum-support materials in partnership with teachers, schools, communities or local youth networks;
- 5) Provide overall coordination of, and implementation support to the local sexuality education youth leaders in the delivery of their co-designed approach for rolling out the integrated AMAZE videos and companion lesson plans in 2.1 and 2.4 above;
- 6) Track and document the progress of implementation by the local sexuality education youth leaders of their activities through routine monitoring reports, stories or other means, capturing project reach and results in digital and non-digital formats (eg social media engagement; event participation lists etc);
- 7) Design and deliver a learning exchange involving the local sexuality education youth leaders in the respective southeast Asian country(ies) to share the achievements, challenges and lessons learned in carrying out project activities 2.1 through 2.6 above, and identify any further refinements

⁷ Adapted videos and companion lesson plans are available at: <https://amaze.org/asia-region/>

needed to their existing curriculum/training materials for effective integration of the AMAZE videos and companion lesson plans, as appropriate.

III. Work Schedule and expected Deliverables

The contractor shall submit the following deliverables (submission dates provisional):

- 1) **Inception narrative report** containing: updated approach to carrying out the work including the work plan, targeted beneficiaries and country(ies) and a basic monitoring framework for project implementation, along with the results of the rapid mapping of skills/capacity-building needs of the local youth leaders working in sexuality education (maximum 10, A4 pages, excluding annexes). (31 August 2023)
- 2) **Interim narrative progress report** on all project activities carried out up to that time, including: agenda for the skills/capacity building workshop(s) for the local youth leaders working in sexuality education; report on the skills/capacity building workshop(s) conducted; and activity plans for rolling out the integrated AMAZE videos and companion lesson plans by the local youth leaders working in sexuality education in their respective country(ies). (maximum 10, A4 pages, excluding annexes) (30 November 2023)
- 3) **Interim narrative progress report** on all project activities carried out up to that time: report on the roll-out of the integrated AMAZE videos and companion lesson plans by at least twenty local youth leaders working in sexuality education in their respective country(ies) ; and, draft agenda for a learning exchange meeting (maximum 10, A4 pages, excluding annexes) (15 March 2024)
- 4) **Final report**, covering all project activities carried out under the project, including: report on how the adapted AMAZE videos and companion lesson plans are being used by the local youth leaders working in sexuality education in their respective country(ies) - including reporting on numbers reached and results achieved; report on the learning exchange meeting and any next steps (maximum 25, A4 pages, excluding references and annexes) and certified financial statement of the expenditures. (31 May 2024)

IV. Duration of contract:

The contractor will be required to work for a maximum period of 10 months spanning the period **August 2023 to May 2024**.

V. Location and Travel:

The consultancy is home-based and will take place in the contractor's usual place of residence/work. Where travel is required by a representative(s) of the contracted organization for any UNESCO-organized meeting for the project, the relevant travel and meeting participation costs will be borne by UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office in Bangkok.

The contractor will report directly to, and be supervised by the Regional Advisor for Education for Health and Well-being who will maintain regular communication using available channels (eg via email, Microsoft Teams, telephone etc.)

VI. Qualification and experience requirements:

Eligibility: The consultancy is open to suitably qualified youth-led or youth-serving institutions/ organizations working in southeast Asia according to **Annex I** of these TORs.

Qualification/experience requirements

The organization/institution:

Required:

- Must have minimum 3 years of related professional experience working with, or on behalf of young people, including LGBTIQ+ young people and young people especially at risk of poor sexual and reproductive health outcomes;
- Must have demonstrated subject matter expertise in one or more of the following: education – including sexuality education, gender, human rights, social inclusion and social justice, public policy, social work or other social sciences. *This expertise must be demonstrated with at least two (2) references/supporting examples of relevant projects previously implemented.*
- IT infrastructure, software and devices to support remote meetings, communication and online/digital data collection, as appropriate.
- Must be able to engage in project implementation meetings with/organized by UNESCO, and provide written technical and financial project reports in the English language.

Desirable:

- *Demonstrated* previous experience working with the UN and/or other multilateral, bilateral or civil society development partners.
- *Demonstrated* previous experience working with formal education institutions, including with teachers and education personnel in leadership roles.
- *Demonstrated* previous experience in working with especially socially vulnerable young people, including young key populations in the AIDS response.

Personnel

Lead Consultant

Required:

- Advanced degree (at least Bachelor's degree) in any of the related areas: education – including sexuality education, gender, human rights, development studies, public policy, social work or other social sciences or public health;
- Knowledge and experience (3 - 5 years) in relevant technical areas, including from among the following: youth development; gender equality and social inclusion; human rights literacy and access to justice; health and well-being equity.
- *Demonstrated* experience in project management in any of the technical areas mentioned above. *This expertise must be demonstrated with at least one reference/supporting example of relevant projects previously managed.*
- Excellent analytical, writing and communication skills, *as demonstrated with at least one writing sample.*
- Fluency in spoken and written English.

Desirable:

- Understanding of the social and political sensitivities associated with youth sexual and reproductive health and rights; HIV responses, including the needs of young key populations; LGBTIQ+ inclusion; SOGIE-based discrimination and violence;
- *Demonstrated* previous experience in the design and delivery of interventions for youth mobilization and capacity-building among socially marginalized groups.
- *Demonstrated* previous experience working with formal education institutions, or with learners, teachers and other education personnel in formal learning settings.

Junior Team Members

Required:

- Minimum 1 year training or experience in a field related to civic engagement, education, social sciences or social justice work;
- *Demonstrated* experience in working with youth-led groups or networks, including for/with LGBTIQ+ young people.

Desirable:

- Experience in creation and use of communication tools and approaches.

ANNEX I – Guidelines on the preparation and submission of Proposals.

Suitably qualified organizations that satisfy the eligibility criteria are invited to submit an Expression of Interest in these TORS, composed of both Technical and Financial Proposals.

The entire Expression of Interest should not exceed 10, A4 pages, including reference to relevant examples/reports of successfully carrying out similar or comparable assignments.

A. Technical Proposal

The technical proposal must include the following information:

1. A cover letter identifying relevant contact information (organizational name, telephone and email address) and why you are interested in the consultancy and the project area.
2. Description of the organization's innovative approach to carrying out the consultancy that will include the compulsory tasks of the Work Assignment (Item II. of these TORS).
3. Details on the targeted learning setting(s) (eg community, school, vocational centre etc), the targeted youth leaders/ youth networks (with priority attention on young people under age 25) and any other partners and allies will be involved in the project, and their roles.
4. Timeline for delivering the key activities and expected deliverables.
5. Rationale as to why your organization is best suited to carry out this work with UNESCO's support, together with relevant examples that demonstrate your experience carrying out similar initiatives (see Item VI. of these TORS on Qualifications and Experience Requirements).
6. CVs of all the qualified key personnel that will lead/contribute to this assignment, along with information on their respective role(s) in project coordination, implementation, monitoring and reporting (see Item VI. of these TORS on Qualifications and Experience Requirements).

B. Financial Proposal

Interested organizations may submit a price proposal for all project expenses related to the maximum 10-month implementation period.

Your financial proposal should provide an itemized, detailed breakdown of all costs associated with carrying out the consultancy, including: coordination/ management or running costs; training expenses, small grants to local youth leaders/youth networks to implement their activities; personnel hours for time on tasks delivered by relevant team members etc.

Note: At least 80 percent of the total project budget should go to activity costs, including small grants implemented by youth advocates themselves.

The complete Expression of Interest shall be submitted on or before 14 July 2023, 17h30 Bangkok time (GMT+ 7:00).

Note:

Please submit your application within the stipulated deadline to ehwb.bgk@unesco.org. Any Expressions of Interest submitted after the deadline will automatically be disqualified from the process.

Any inquiries about these TORS may also be addressed to ehwb.bgk@unesco.org.

Due to the large number of applications we receive, we are able to inform only the successful candidate(s) about the outcome or status of the selection process.