


## TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT

<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE (to be completed by Hiring Office)</b>	
Hiring Office:	UNFPA Thailand Country Office
Purpose of consultancy:	The purpose of this consultancy is to conduct a scoping study on “ <b>The Economic Costs of Adolescent Pregnancy in Thailand</b> ”. The assignment is to assess a feasibility of to conduct the study. See details in the concept note in the annex.
Scope of work:  <i>(Description of services, activities, or outputs)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct a desk review to formulate a study suitable to Thailand’s contexts following the methodology suggested in the concept note;</li> <li>• With support of UNFPA Thailand, attend consultative meetings with key counterparts to discuss about the study design and availability of data to conduct the study;</li> <li>• Develop a study design and methodology, including recommendations on the data sources that might be needed for the analysis;</li> <li>• Review the current data availability according to the proposed study design and methodology and suggest if any data collection will be needed to meet the study’s objective;</li> <li>• Present preliminary findings to key stakeholders for comments;</li> <li>• Prepare a scoping study report;</li> <li>• Prepare a TOR to conduct the full study.</li> </ul>
Duration and working schedule:	20 work days during 18 July – 31 October 2018
Place where services are to be delivered:	Bangkok
Delivery dates and how work will be delivered (e.g. electronic, hard copy etc.):	18 July 2018: start of contract. 31 August 2018: submission of a draft report for UNFPA 30 September 2018: presentation of preliminary findings to stakeholders 31 October 2018: submission of a final report
Monitoring and progress control, including reporting requirements, periodicity format and deadline:	Consultant shall communicate with UNFPA regularly via email and phone call, and update the progress of work done against the delivery dates as stipulated in the above section.
Supervisory arrangements:	Ms Wassana Im-em Ms Rattanaporn Tangthanaseth (alternate)
Expected travel:	n/a
Required expertise, qualifications and competencies, including language requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Master’s degree with a major in economics, public policy, or related field.</li> <li>• At least 5 years of relevant work experience.</li> <li>• Demonstrated skills in economic studies.</li> <li>• Understanding UNFPA’s mandate in population development and reproductive health will be an asset.</li> </ul>
Inputs / services to be provided by UNFPA or implementing partner (e.g support services, office space, equipment), if applicable:	Technical inputs on the design of the scoping study and studies on the subject conducted by UNFPA in the Philippines and El Salvador
Other relevant information or special conditions, if any:	Consultant will be paid in 3 instalments upon satisfactory submission and acceptance of the deliverables to UNFPA as follows;  1 <sup>st</sup> instalment: 30% of total amount upon submission of a draft report. 2 <sup>nd</sup> instalment: 30% of total amount upon submission of a presentation of draft report to stakeholders. 3 <sup>rd</sup> instalment: 40% of total amount upon submission of a final report.
Signature of Requesting Officer in Hiring Office: Date: 20 June 2018 <span style="float: right;"></span>	

## Study on the Economic Costs of Adolescent Pregnancy in Thailand

### Rationale

During the past decade, Thailand has made impressive progress in achieving a substantial reduction in poverty, enjoying economic growth with the current GDP per capita at USD5,910 [1], providing education and health care to most of the population. Alongside this progress, Thailand is currently facing population challenges. The country is aging rapidly, with the lowest population growth rate (0.3% per annum) and the second lowest total fertility rate (1.5) in Southeast Asia [2]. Although there was a decline of birth rate among all ages between 1990 and 2000, there has been an increase in the adolescent birth rate among women aged 15-19, from 31.1 per thousand in 2000 to 53.4 per thousand during 2011-2012 [3], being over 128,000 babies, or 16% of the total births in the country. The adolescent birth rate has declined somewhat in recent years but is still relatively high when compared to other countries in the region.

Adolescent pregnancy creates significant negative effects on girls, families, and the country. Pregnancy and childbirth complications are the leading cause of death among 15 to 19 year-old girls globally. Newborns born to adolescent mothers are also at greater risk of having low birth weight, with long-term potential effects. School-leaving can be a choice when a girl perceives pregnancy to be a better option in her circumstances than continuing education, or can be a direct cause of pregnancy or early marriage. Based on their subsequent lower education attainment, many have fewer skills and opportunities for employment, often perpetuating cycles of poverty. Nationally, this can also have an economic cost, with countries losing out on the annual income that young women would have earned over their lifetimes, if they had not had early pregnancies [4].

In lower and middle income countries, there are not many studies related to the economic cost of adolescent birth. One such study is an analysis to measure the share of early childbirths due to child marriage and the impacts of child marriage and early childbirths in 25 countries, mostly in Africa and South Asia [5]. The study looks at five domains of impacts: (i) fertility and population growth; (ii) health, nutrition, and violence; (iii) educational attainment; (iv) labor force participation, earnings, and productivity; and (v) decision-making and other areas. For some of these impacts, the associated economic costs of child marriage and early childbirths are estimated. Some of the findings from the study include: (1) child marriage is likely the cause of at least 75 percent of girls having children before the age of 18, (2) ending child marriage and early childbirths could reduce population growth substantially, (3) child marriage is likely the cause of at least 84 percent of births of children from mothers younger than 18, (4) each year of secondary education may reduce the risk of child marriage by six percentage points on average, (5) through its impact on education, child marriage reduces earning in adulthood for women marrying early by 9%, (6) globally (for 106 countries) the welfare gains from ending child marriage could be more than US\$ 4 trillion, and when adding early childbirth, could be above US\$ 5 trillion for the period 2014 to 2030, (7) ending child marriage and early childbirth would provide significant savings for the education budget. In a set of 18 countries, simulations suggest that by 2030, cost savings could reach \$17 billion annually versus the cost of achieving universal secondary education. Overall, the impacts and economic costs associated with child marriage are high. They suggest that investing to end child marriage is not only the right thing to do, but also makes sense from an economic point of view.

Another study is conducted by UNFPA in the Philippines [6] using data from the 2013 National Demographic and Health Survey and the 2012 Labour Force Survey-Family Income and Expenditure Survey to explore associations between adolescent birth and various socio-demographic factors. In relation to education, the results revealed that (1) early

childbearing reduces the probability of completing high school, and (2) teenage girls from richer households are more likely to complete high school than teens in poorer households. With respect to the associations between education, wage rates and lifetime foregone earnings, the results showed that (1) the age-earnings (wage rate) profile is higher among those who completed high school compared to those who did not, (2) early childbearing reduces age-earnings (wage rate) profile through its effect on high school completion, and (3) the discounted lifetime wage earnings foregone by a cohort of teenage women 18-19 years resulting from early childbearing is estimated as representing between 0.8% and 1.4% of GDP with a mean of 1.1%. These results suggest that policies that reduce early childbearing are likely to have substantial impact on the education and economic conditions of women and their families, as well as on society in general.

The study on the economic costs of pregnancy in girls and adolescents by UNFPA El Salvador [7] addresses a dimension that changes the traditional analysis that focus exclusively on costs of the provision of healthcare for adolescent mothers and their newborns, or on obstetric events and early childhood. This study focuses on the individual implications of early fertility on girl's education and the consequences at an aggregate scale for the State and for society, as a fiscal return of social investment. The study moves away from a more individual perspective and comprises a more collective view. It seeks to determine the economic impact of the teenage pregnancies on the Salvadoran State seen from a perspective of fiscal return on investment that will play a part in scaling up the consequences of the problem that affects the society as a whole. The cost estimates for this study are centered on those associated with the costs of education of the adolescent, until she abandons school resulting from a direct consequence of the pregnancy. The costs of the teenage pregnancy are measured as the difference of the taxes they will pay, calculated in accordance with their low incomes mediated by the achieved schooling and its consumption patterns, with regards to the public costs invested on education for girls that deserted from the formal education system. Additionally it incorporates the losses on public investment return for pregnant teenagers that died due to causes related to pregnancy, birth and suicide; also considering the years of productive life lost and consequently, the non-generation of taxes during the same period.

In the United States of America, the average cost nationally to provide medical and economic support during pregnancy and the first year of infancy is \$16,000 per teen birth. The declines in births among teens in the USA save \$4.4 billion in public spending each year [8].

A Study on Economic Costs of Adolescent Pregnancy will provide data that offer potential for Thailand to better prioritise resources for reduction of adolescent birth rate.

### **Specific objectives**

To conduct a scoping study to assess feasibility of a study on the economic impact and costs of adolescent pregnancy in Thailand, at both individual and public levels. The study will focus on the individual implications of early fertility on adolescent's education and the consequences at an aggregate scale for the country and for society, as a fiscal return of social investment including the impacts on health, employment as well as loss of economic opportunities due to early pregnancy.

### **Method**

1. Conduct a literature review to formulate a scoping study to inform the development of a study on the economic costs of adolescent pregnancy which is best fit and feasible to Thailand's context;
2. Review the extent to which the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys, and other existing data sources (such as Population Census, Household Socio-Economic Surveys, Labour Force Surveys, and registry of student drop-out related to pregnancy, and other data sources), can contribute to a solid evidence-based study on the subject to

support policy engagement in increasing resources and investment to reduce and prevent adolescent pregnancy in Thailand;

3. Identify the data gaps and any potential challenges in conducting the study;
4. Suggest policy options to be considered how to use the study results for policy engagement;
5. Develop the Terms of Reference (ToR) for a study on economic costs of adolescent pregnancy in Thailand.

### Expected Output

A scoping report concerning the economic costs of adolescent pregnancy in Thailand, including methodological approach, recommendations about data needs, review of data sources availability and a TOR on how to conduct the study.

### Timeframe

The timeframe of the activity is estimated to be 6 months, from June to November 2018. It is expected that the preliminary findings will be available in September 2018 and the final report will be available in October 2018 which will be used to guide the development of the ToR.

Sub-activity	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
(i) Literature review	x					
(ii) Scoping study		x	x			
(iii) Report writing			x	x		
(iv) Presentation of preliminary findings				x		
(v) Final report					x	
(vi) Develop ToR for the study					x	x

### References

- 1 World Bank Database. Available from <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD>
- 2 United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) (2016), Statistical Database. Available from [www.unescap.org/stat/data/statdb/DataExplorer.aspx](http://www.unescap.org/stat/data/statdb/DataExplorer.aspx)
- 3 Thailand Public Health Statistics. Available from <http://rhdata.anamai.moph.go.th/index.php/adolescent/adolescent6>
- 4 WHO 2018. Adolescent Pregnancy Factsheet. Available from <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs364/en/>
- 5 Quentin Wodon et al. *Economic Impacts of Child Marriage: Global Synthesis Report*. June 2017.
- 6 Alejandro N. Herrin (2016). *Education, Earnings and Health Effects of Teenage Pregnancy in the Philippines*. UNFPA Publication in the Philippines.
- 7 UNFPA El Salvador (2017). The economic cost of pregnancy in girls and adolescents. UNFPA Publication  
<http://elsalvador.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/EconomicCostPregnancy.UNFPAElSalvador2017%282sheets%29.pdf>
- 8 National Conference of State Legislatures. Available from <http://www.ncsl.org/research/health/teen-pregnancy-prevention.aspx>