World YWCA

Call for consultancy under the RiseUp! Asia-Pacific Leadership and Advocacy Initiative
Applying Feminist Consultation Methodology (FCM)- an Action Research (Round 2)

This call for consultancy is to invite proposals for *FCM-based action research- Round 2* from interested non-government organisations (NGOs), National or local YWCAs and/or research institutes and consulting teams located in any of the nine (9) countries in Asia and Pacific (Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Samoa). All the action research studies should be designed, led, and implemented by young women, based on *World YWCA’s Feminist Consultation Methodology (FCM)*.

The Feminist Consultation Methodology (FCM) was first conceived and designed as a youth-centric and youth-led approach by World YWCA in 2018 and published in 2022 after a three-year-long participatory process of co-creation with women and young women worldwide. Anchored in a six (6)-step process (Plan, Design, Implement, Sense Make, Learn, and Iterate) and three (3) complimentary research methods (survey, focus group and interviews) rooted in participatory approaches, and guided by concepts of intersectionality, safe spaces and intergenerational conversations, the FCM can be used by anybody who works with young people or other marginalised and underrepresented communities and is interested in investing in them for systematic and process-driven change.

In 2022, to bring together theory with practice and to generate evidence on the leadership of young women driving the applicability of co-creative processes like the FCM, World YWCA commissioned four (4) pieces of action research based under the RiseUp! Young Women Leadership and Advocacy Initiative, supported by the Australian Government. These studies, led, designed, co-created and implemented by young women used the FCM to research critical thematic issues within their unique country contexts. For World YWCA, the biggest takeaway from these studies has been the evidence gathered around leadership of young women to drive co-creative processes that can drive advocacy at local to global level and reaffirm the relevance of the FCM tool.

**Encouraged by the response from Round 1, and with profound interest to continue this journey and add newer insights, World YWCA is now looking to commission Round 2 of FCM-based action research through four (4) action research consultancies in four different locations within countries of Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Samoa. Each research will be for a maximum amount of AUD 22,000 for a period of nine (9) months.**
Through these studies, World YWCA seeks to strengthen the evidence around critical issues of young women leadership driving advocacy on ground through the FCM’s use, relevance and applicability. World YWCA intends to create a community of young women feminist researchers who can drive the process of transformative change through their leadership, as highlighted in World YWCA’s Goal 2035.

**Location:** Remote (anywhere in Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Samoa)

**Closing date for submitting proposals:** 25th August 2023, EOBD CEST

**Type of agreement:** Consultancy

**Eligibility:** Independent research organisations working at the grassroots level following feminist principles, NGOs working extensively with young women and women at the grassroots level and/or National or Local YWCAs from the 9 countries. The team leading the research must be youth-led, can be part of a feminist movement and/or an intergenerational team of consultants.

**About World YWCA**

Established in 1855, the World YWCA is the world’s oldest women’s movement. With member associations in 109 countries, it works to fulfil human rights and make gender equality a reality. Sixty per cent of the members of the World Board are aged 30 and under. The purpose of the World YWCA is to develop the leadership and collective power of women and girls around the world to achieve justice, peace, health, human dignity, freedom and a sustainable environment for all people. The World YWCA has an ambitious goal: to reach 100 million young women and girls and transform power structures to end gender inequality by 2035. The World YWCA mobilises and connects millions of young women around transformational change, providing leadership opportunities in more than 100 countries worldwide. It also actively works to influence policies, regulations and social and community norms which prevent the realisation of the rights and leadership potential of women.

The World YWCA has three strategic priorities:

- Management and governance excellence towards Goal 2035
- Strategic partnerships and communication towards Goal 2035
- Engagement and mobilisation of girls, young women and women towards Goal 2035

The FCM, rooted in promoting intergenerational and intersectional leadership towards gender equity, is one of World YWCA’s efforts to advance on the path of Goal 2035. Through investing in and building young women’s unique research capabilities, the FCM wants to engage young women to lead feminist and participatory consultation worldwide.

**About the Feminist Consultation Methodology (FCM)**
FCM differs from traditional research methodologies which are often rooted in colonial approaches for evidence gathering that exclude the participants and treat them as mere subjects. The FCM, on the contrary, is an inclusive approach, with participants situated at the core of the planning, designing, data-gathering, analysis and validation. Here, power is shared with research participants who are engaged as co-researchers, and with communities who are engaged in community-led data collection and analysis. FCM has been designed as a youth-centric and youth-led approach through a process of co-creation, where it was beta-tested with more than 1800 young women across the globe. FCM places the onus of identifying solutions to local problems in the hands of young women, who through a consultative and collaborative research process, deep-dive and find solutions to problems. In doing so, FCM seeks to reverse the process of evidence generation by placing young women/youth at the center of identifying problems and finding solutions in a way that is not just representative of their lived realities but also owned by the community and their context.

**About World YWCA’s RiseUp! Leadership and Advocacy Initiative and Linkages with the FCM**

Young women in Asia and the Pacific live with constant violations of their human rights. The barriers to claiming their rights that they already faced have increased with the COVID-19 pandemic and emergencies such as natural disasters and political crises. When young women have the space, support, and recognition to rise to become leaders, they are an influential force in championing young women’s rights and social change in their families, communities and beyond.

The RiseUp! Leadership Initiative (currently in its fourth phase), based on World YWCA’s signature *RiseUp! leadership manual*, works with a cohort of young women leads across nine (9) countries in Asia and the Pacific to further facilitate young women to build their skills, knowledge, and networks to become confident leaders who can claim their rights and act together to bring about transformative social change. RiseUp! supports all leaders to work together, share their knowledge and leadership with others, and inspire all young women to use their voices and act together for social change.

Co-creation, identifying problems and working together to solve them is an essential component of the RiseUp! Initiative. Problem-solving is also a core principle of FCM that fosters collaboration and co-creation, working through power dynamics and encouraging solutions through an iterative process while using language with intention. Through commissioning the action research studies, World YWCA seeks to foster linkages between the ongoing RiseUp! Initiative and evidence-based advocacy work and the learnings from applying FCM in other similar yet diverse socio-cultural contexts. It is expected that the findings and learnings from the action research will directly feed into RiseUp!’s Theory of Change and further strengthen the ongoing work.
Here are some of the potential areas of research that can be undertaken, **but not limited to**:

- Understanding the prospects and challenges of young women’s leadership on advocacy around Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Climate Justice, or Peace and Justice.
- Fostering deep inclusion and participation of young women leaders (formal and informal) in the national and regional policy advocacy processes and spaces, on issues that impact them.
- Understanding the interlinkages between the leadership of young women, the role of peer-to-peer engagement and information technology, including technological innovations and digital safety.
- Facilitating and strengthening young women’s engagement within intergenerational organisations and spaces.

**Proposed Activities, Timelines and Processes**

Four (4) research studies will be commissioned to four different teams through this consultancy. The proposed time frame is tentative and has been broken down into 9 months for easy understanding, subject to amendment during the signing of the agreement and planning phase.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of activity</th>
<th>Indicative timelines</th>
<th>Deliverables</th>
<th>Indicative due date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Signing of contract</td>
<td>Month 1</td>
<td>Final agreement is signed.</td>
<td>September 15’ 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training on FCM by World YWCA.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Onboarding the team of co-researchers</td>
<td>Month 2</td>
<td>To be completed by November 15, 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finalising the research design, timelines, and budget for adapting and applying FCM</td>
<td>Month 3</td>
<td>Final research design, process plan and budget</td>
<td>To be completed by December 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Action research on the ground, following the process as outlined in the FCM-based research design</td>
<td>Months 4, 5, 6 and 7</td>
<td>Monthly summary reports; regular check-in calls with World YWCA.</td>
<td>Till April 15, 2023</td>
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<td>Sharing a summary document of key FCM process steps adopted, with highlights on</td>
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Application requirements:
Some key guidance on the proposals:

- The proposals must be related to or linked to the overall aims of RiseUp! Young women leadership Theory of Change.
- The proposals must include diverse young women at the very core of the action research – in the team, in the core research group and as wider co-creators and participants within the research.
- The proposals must highlight the group of young women who will be engaged- explaining their background, and/or if they belong to different under-represented communities and/or at-risk groups.
- The proposals should demonstrate how the research will be mutually beneficial for them as an organization/group.

Submit proposals including the above and:

1) Organizational background, including the team and registration status
2) A cover letter highlighting past demonstrated experience in working with young women and civil society engagement on social issues at the grassroots level and experience on using feminist methodologies and/or showcased interest to strengthen the use of feminist methodologies for evidence and engagement.
3) A two-page summary proposal of a plan to use FCM in a new initiative or an ongoing work along with a draft plan of action on process.
4) Draft a financial proposal along with timelines (do not exceed the consultancy budget window)
5) Two references (who will be only contacted in the final stages of selection)

How to apply
Kindly send the above documents to World YWCA at hresources@worldywca.org by August 25, 2022, EOBD CET.

The subject line for the email should state: Application/FCM/2023/<name>.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month 8</th>
<th>Stage-wise consolidated research report and key findings/learnings from applying FCM</th>
<th>May 15, 2023</th>
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<tr>
<td>Month 8</td>
<td>Consolidation of key learnings and evidence sharing on the research conducted, including sharing of experiences on using/applying FCM.</td>
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<td>Month 9</td>
<td>Incorporate comments from key stakeholders and by World YWCA.</td>
<td>June 15, 2023</td>
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<td>Final report(s); dissemination of findings through panel discussions/webinars</td>
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