



Terms of Reference (TOR)

Digital Acceleration Programme to boost IT skills of youth in rural areas

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| Location | Uzbekistan: Andijan and Namangan regions |
| Expected duration of the assignment | 30 May 2023 – 20 September 2023 |
| Application deadline | 2023 |
| Required languages: | Uzbek is required, any other local language would be an asset |
| Reporting | The PBF project coordinator |

I. Background

In 2022, UNFPA and FAO jointly started the implementation of the UN PBF Project “Shared prosperity through cooperation in border regions of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan”. The project is aimed at enhancing cross-border environmental and socio-economic cooperation between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. The project will build confidence and trust between local governments, communities and CSOs through the empowerment of women and youth, as important peacebuilding agents.

Geographic isolation, rising population, limited employment opportunities in the traditional sectors like agriculture is driving the NEET indicator in border communities to increase. Migration is often one of few alternative sources of income for youth in these communities who are not in employment, education or training (NEET). Economic despair also can also lead to illegal activities across the border like smuggling.

Income generation in the IT sector is not bound geographically. Boosting digital competences of rural youth helps them to overcome barriers leading to isolation in the information society, increase their virtual mobility without leaving their communities, and improve their employability and livelihoods that eventually also contributes to peacebuilding in the region.

Within this assignment, UNFPA Uzbekistan sets out to hire a local organization that will deliver capacity building activities for rural youth in the PBF target communities to level up their digital skills and increase their employment opportunities.

II. Objectives and Expected Results

The vendor will train youth in the PBF target communities to acquire digital skills and to navigate in the IT job market to increase their employability.

The Programme will be carried out in two stages. During the first stage all interested participants in the target communities in the age group of 18-30 will join a 3-days programme and be trained on basic IT skills: digital literacy, privacy and security in the Internet.

After the completion of the first stage participants with more advanced skills will be selected for more advanced training sessions based on criteria established with mentors. At least 3 young



people from each PBF community will be selected for the second stage. At least 50% of all participants of the second stage will be girls. 18 participants of the second stage will be awarded with PCs by the project to be able to master advanced IT skills. PCs will be provided to participants in the beginning of the second stage by the project. The advanced training will be also open for participants with their own laptops too.

During the second stage 3 specialists will be trained in each community on the following modules:

- SMM;
- Design;
- Basics for an IT developer (skills to develop basic applications and web pages without advanced knowledge of programming).

Participants will be grouped on a district level based on an interest module. Each group will have at least 2 participants from each community in the district.

All participants will also receive training on IT entrepreneurship and freelancing to enable income generation using newly acquired skills.

Number of groups

| | SMM | Design | Basics for an IT developer | Number of groups per district |
|---|-----|--------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Marhamat district (Yolamatal and Qarabagich mahallas) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Kasansay district (Khankurgan and Abadan mahallas) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Yangikurgan district (Dostlik and Qayraqi mahallas) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Total number of groups | 3 | 3 | 3 | 9 |

Each module will contain 24 lessons for 3 hours. Each group will receive 72 hours of learning. Total number of learning hours to be delivered within the Digital Acceleration Programme will be 648.

As a result of the Programme trainees have to cooperate with self-help groups created within the PBF target communities in developing group identity and sales channels.

III. Indicative Timeline

It is expected that the selected organization will start the work on **30 March 2023** and deliver all planned outputs by **30 September 2023**.

| | May | June | July | August | September |
|---|-----|------|------|--------|-----------|
| The inception report describing curriculum and how training sessions will be delivered | | | | | |



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|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 3-days training on basic IT skills is delivered in all project communities, and at least 18 participants of the second stage are selected | | | | | |
| 648 hours of learning sessions are delivered for 9 groups | | | | | |
| Submit project completion report | | | | | |

IV. The geography of the assignment

Namangan region – Kasansay district (Abadan and Khankurgan mahallas) and Yangikurgan district (Qayraqi and Dostlik mahallas).

Andijan region – Marhamat district (Yolamatal and Qarabagich mahallas).

Training sessions should be organized in areas comfortable for trainees from both mahallas to attend.

Some training sessions can also be organized in the administrative centre of the regions provided travel of participants is ensured properly.

V. Qualifications Requirements

Organization / company requirements:

- At least 2 years of experience in delivering training for rural youth, including in the IT sector;
- Experience of working across the country and enjoys prominence in areas related to UNFPA's mandate;
- Regional presence in Andijan and Namangan regions and capacity to reach the target audience; especially vulnerable youth in border areas;
- Given that activities will be delivered in two regions at least 6 experts on different modules should be available during the period of engagement;
- No conflicts of interest with UNFPA or its personnel that cannot be effectively mitigated.
- No history of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassments. Staff of the organisation agree to perform the required UN PSEA (prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse) policy and procedures, when selected.

VI. Payment allocation:

| Deliverables | Percentage of Total Price | Delivery time |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Deliverable 1. The inception report describing curriculum and how training sessions will be delivered | 10% | 31.05.2023 |
| Deliverable 2. 3-days training on basic IT skills is delivered in all project communities, and at least 18 participants of the second stage are selected | - | 10.06.2023 |



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|---|-------------|------------|
| Deliverable 3. 216 hours of learning is delivered for 9 groups equally | 30% | 10.07.2023 |
| Deliverable 4. 216 hours of learning is delivered for 9 groups equally | 30% | 10.08.2023 |
| Deliverable 5. 216 hours of learning is delivered for 9 groups equally and the project completion report is submitted | 30% | 15.09.2023 |
| Total | 100% | |

In case the deliverable is deemed to have been completed to a standard that does not fully satisfy UNFPA performance criteria, the Fund reserves the right to withhold the payment in part or in full.

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