

Terms Of Reference

CONSULTANCY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BUDGET ADVOCACY STRATEGY FOR THE MALAWI ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME (MAP) TO INCREASE FINANCING FOR ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE AT NATIONAL AND DISTRICT LEVELS

1.0 BACKGROUND

Girls Not Brides is a global partnership of more than 1,400 civil society organizations from over 100 countries committed to ending child marriage and enabling girls to fulfil their potential. *Girls not Brides Malawi*, a partnership of over 96 organizations working to end child marriage.

The Malawi Accelerator Programme (MAP) is a catalytic effort to accelerate action towards ending child marriage in Malawi. Using an ecosystem approach, the Malawi Accelerator Programme (MAP) seeks to mobilise, coordinate and influence the national end child marriage ecosystem, strengthening commitment and investment to end child marriage and advance girls' rights. MAP supports the implementation of the Malawi National Strategy to End Child Marriage, contributing to national efforts to reduce child marriage from 38% to 20% by 2030. The programme is structured around two interdependent outcomes:

- **Influence** – Strengthened collective advocacy secures comprehensive implementation of existing laws and policies, supports policy reforms where needed, and increases resources to advance girls' rights.
 - **Invest** – More and better-targeted funding from domestic budgets and international donors supports action to end child marriage.
- With three intermediate outcomes**
- **Mobilise** – Strengthened leadership, collaboration and collective action across the ecosystem creates a more coordinated and cohesive movement to end child marriage.
 - **Equip** – A strong learning and evidence agenda informs advocacy and decision-making, strengthens research partnerships, and shares lessons learned to improve the effectiveness of the wider movement.
 - **Evidence and Learning**- generated contributes to shaping programming and financing decisions by governments and funders on ending child marriage.

The MAP fosters collaboration between government, civil society, UN and other key stakeholders and aligns interventions around a costed, nationally endorsed plan. The Malawi Accelerator Programme (MAP) is a multi-stakeholder initiative bringing together

Girls Not Brides Malawi, government institutions, UN agencies, civil society organisations and other strategic partners working collectively to accelerate progress towards ending child marriage. This Budget Advocacy Strategy is intended to provide a common framework for coordinated advocacy, financing and accountability efforts across the partnership in support of the National Strategy to End Child Marriage.

Key to achieving the goals of the national strategy to end child marriage is adequate financing. MAP requires the services of a consultant to develop its budget advocacy strategy to influence domestic public financing and, where relevant, development partner investments to end child marriage.

The strategy should consider both national-level and district-level budget advocacy opportunities, with particular attention to Mzimba and Machinga districts where MAP is supporting implementation efforts.

2.0 SCOPE OF WORK

The Overall objective of the consultancy is to:

Develop a comprehensive budget advocacy strategy for MAP and its partners which identifies budgeting systems and financing opportunities for ending child marriage (ECM); analyses budget allocation and disbursement trends, identifies budget bottlenecks including those arising from the multisectoral nature of ECM; assesses political economy factors affecting ECM financing, develops a clear theory of change for budget advocacy, and informs MAP's budget advocacy agenda at both national and district level

Specific Objectives include:

- Map and analyse the different key stakeholders, decision makers and influencing spaces effective for ECM budget advocacy, at both national and district levels, including in Mzimba and Machinga districts.
- Mapping out existing budgeting systems, including challenges/bottlenecks and opportunities.
- Develop a clear pathway for improving alignment of existing investments including: the establishment of a financing coordination platform; and systems of ECM financing integration in other sectors
- Identify influencing pathways for parliament; local government officials (especially those involved in Community Development Fund) sector ministries and the Ministry of Finance for increased investment in ECM.

- Develop a budget advocacy strategy and implementation plan for increased, sustained and better targeted funding from domestic public budgets and improved alignment of development partner investments where relevant to support implementation of the National Strategy to End Child Marriage.
- Develop clear proposals on the utilization of the draft investment case on ECM and utilization of the Costed Implementation Plan for NSECM, currently under finalization
- Conduct an initial budget advocacy training for GNB Malawi members, Map partners and selected strategic stakeholders to equip them to implement elements of the budget advocacy strategy and plan. The training is anticipated to be for 4 days, targeting 20 participants

3.0 METHODOLOGY

1. **Literature Review:** this will involve
 - A synthesis of existing ECM-relevant documents and analyses, including the National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage (NSECM), the Draft Costed Implementation Plan (CIP), MAP programme documents, and previous ECM budget analyses (particularly those conducted with UNICEF), and of National Budget allocations relevant to ECM. This should build directly on existing analysis rather than repeat it, drawing out what is already known, what gaps remain, and what has not yet translated into increased investment.
 - A review of budget advocacy approaches used in other sectors in Malawi (e.g. health, education, WASH, nutrition) to identify tactics, coalition models, messaging strategies and lessons including what has and hasn't worked that could usefully be adapted for ECM budget advocacy.
 - A review of relevant gender-responsive and child-responsive budgeting approaches in Malawi to identify opportunities for strengthening financing for ending child marriage within existing public finance systems.
 - The review should identify evidence gaps, financing gaps, missed investment opportunities and practical recommendations that will directly inform the Budget Advocacy Strategy.
2. **Stakeholder and influencing space Mapping:** Identify key decision makers, allies and target audiences and windows of opportunity for budget influencing, these can include district audit and finance committees, National Local Government Finance Committee (NLGFC), line Ministries, and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA).

3. **Political Economy and Financing Analysis**

- Analyse decision-making processes influencing budget allocations relevant to ending child marriage.
- Identify incentives, opportunities, bottlenecks and champions within national and district budgeting processes.
- Assess why previous efforts to increase financing for ending child marriage have or have not been successful.
- Identify priority entry points for influencing budget decisions and resource allocation.

4. **Consultative / strategy workshop:** the consultant will convene a consultative workshop with key players including MAP Team; GNB Malawi members; Ministry of Gender, Ministry of Finance, UNICEF, UNFPA, Members of Parliament, MEJN to get their input into the strategy.

5. **Budget Advocacy Strategy Formulation:**

Develop an impactful budget advocacy strategy and implementation plan complete with clear advocacy objectives and priorities;

- a budget advocacy theory of change;
- key financing asks and targets;
- stakeholder and power analysis;
- national and district-level influencing pathways;
- core advocacy messages;
- annual budget cycle engagement opportunities;
- advocacy tactics and coalition approaches;
- implementation arrangements and responsibilities;
- monitoring, evaluation and learning framework;
- risk analysis and mitigation measures; and
- a communication and influencing strategy aligned with MAP frameworks.

6. **Deliver budget Advocacy training:** Facilitate a budget advocacy training for GNB Malawi members, MAP partners and key actors to validate the strategy, strengthen capacity to deliver the strategy and support sustainability of budget advocacy efforts.

7. **DELIVERABLES**

- a. **An inception report** outlining how the assignment will be executed with detailed methodology, tools and budget to be used. This report shall be submitted for review and approval by MAP governance structures, including *Girls Not Brides*, GNB Malawi after signing the contract and before commencement of the work.
- b. **A comprehensive literature review report** including a critical analysis and review of the National Strategy on Ending Child, Marriage (NSCEM); The Draft

Costed Implementation Plan; MAP programme documents, Previous ECM budget analysis documents especially those from UNICEF; National Budgets and their allocations, the CDF architecture related to ECM. To the extent possible the analysis must pay special attention to the CDF opportunities relevant to TA Mbelwa in Mzimba and TAs Ngokwe and Nsamala in Machinga.

The report should clearly identify financing gaps, investment opportunities, political economy considerations and recommendations that will inform the Budget Advocacy Strategy.

- c. **A stakeholder and influencing spaces Map** of key stakeholders and spaces relevant for ECM Budget allocations including stakeholder categorisation, influence analysis, engagement recommendations, key budget decision points and annual advocacy timelines.
- d. **A Political Economy and Financing Analysis Report** highlighting key barriers, opportunities, incentives, champions and influencing pathways for increasing financing for ending child marriage.
- e. **A consultative workshop report** highlighting key budget influencing recommendations, stakeholder feedback and agreed strategic priorities.
- f. **A Draft Budget Advocacy Strategy** for review, validation and incorporation of stakeholder feedback prior to finalisation.

A detailed Budget Advocacy strategy including:

- implementation roadmap;
- advocacy calendar;
- financing priorities;
- monitoring framework;
- stakeholder engagement plan;
- district and national advocacy pathways;
- accountability mechanisms;
- budget advocacy messages and tools; and
- clear guidance for implementation by MAP partners.

j. A Budget Advocacy Training Package, including facilitator guide, PowerPoint presentation, participant handbook, practical tools and reference materials for future use by MAP partners.

5.0 TIME FRAME

The duration for the assignment is 45 working days over three months. Applicants should propose an appropriate methodology, workplan and level of effort, including the allocation of days across activities and deliverables.

- The consultant is expected to adhere to the set timelines.

A detailed workplan showing deliverable milestones, review points and validation processes shall be submitted as part of the inception report.

6.0 REQUIRED EXPERIENCE, QUALIFICATION, AND EXPERTISE.

The consultant(s) should have the following qualifications/expertise:

- Post graduate degree in Economics, Social Sciences, Development Studies, or others as may be relevant.
- Extensive experience and expertise of over 10 years in budget tracking, analysis and advocacy.
- Demonstrated experience in budget advocacy strategy development, political economy analysis, public finance management and multi-stakeholder facilitation in Malawi or similar contexts.
- Thorough knowledge of the Malawi national Budgets/ public financing architecture and processes.
- Knowledge of the Malawi country context in relation to ending child marriage, including contexts across the geo-graphical regions. (Essential).
- Understanding of gender-responsive and child-responsive budgeting approaches and their application within public finance systems. (Desirable)
- Excellent writing, editing, attention to detail and organizational skills (Essential)

7.0 APPLICATION PROCESS AND DEADLINE

We invite interested individuals and companies to submit the following application documents:

- Expression of interest letter detailing the qualities that makes them best suited for the consultancy
- Technical and Financial proposal (should include detailed methodology, proposed schedule/work plan with time frame) of not more than 5 pages in standard 12 font size, 1.15-line spacing.
- Recent CV of the consultant/s who will undertake the assignment, with details of related previous assignment, in not more than 5-pages.

Submit to: vacancies@cyecemw.org, keeping carol.kulemekaka@girlsnotbrides.org in copy.

Or submit physical copies to:

The Executive Director,

CEYCE,
Off M1 Road,
Area 15/6
Gogo Jenala Compound,
P/Bag 1 B-349
Lilongwe 3.

Application Deadline: 4th September 2026 5:00pm WAT

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.