

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR A CONSULTANT TO CONDUCT AN IMPACT STUDY ON DUTCH FUNDING FOR GLOBAL HEALTH AND SRHR

Terms of Reference (ToR) for a consultant to conduct an Impact Study on Dutch Funding for Global Health and SRHR

1. Background

Problem: Lack of evidence of impact with which to advocate for Dutch global health and SRHR funding.

In February 2025, the Dutch government announced plans to cut development aid by EUR €2.4 billion from 2027; almost a 40% reduction against estimated spending. In addition, the development budget allotted to grants for Dutch civil society organisations (CSOs) working on international development was cut from EUR €1.4 billion to EUR €400 million. While the cuts to development aid in the Netherlands and many other countries reflect changes in politics, they impress upon advocates of international development to show evidence of their programmes' impact. Historically, the Netherlands has been a champion of global health and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), through its development cooperation, programming and expertise; all made possible by its strong governmental funding. Yet, quantifying and summarising the impact of the Netherlands' funding and programmes is difficult due to the vast array of organisations and different reporting requirements this funding has spawned. As such, there is a lack of evidence with which to advocate for the continued importance of bilateral funding for global health and SRHR. This study seeks to address this gap.

The Dutch Global Health Alliance (DGHA), chaired by Cordaid, and the SRHR Platform seek to commission a consultant to conduct an independent, impact study on the effects of Dutch funding for global health and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). This study will leverage existing data and case studies to provide evidence of the impact of Dutch investments in these areas, with a specific focus on advocacy work. The study will support advocacy efforts targeting Dutch policymakers, including Members of Parliament, and inform broader engagement with stakeholders such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Health.

2. Objectives

The main objectives of the study are:

- To (co-)develop a definition of 'impact' appropriate for the purposes of the study, either through desk research, participatory and transdisciplinary approaches
- To provide evidence-based insights into the impact of Dutch funding for global health and SRHR, combining quantitative data with case studies.
- To highlight the importance of continued investment and policy prioritisation in these areas.
- To produce a report that can serve as an advocacy tool for engaging Members of Parliament and other key stakeholders.

3. Scope of Work

The consultant will be responsible for:

- Data Collection and Analysis:
 - Analyse existing quantitative data from sources, such as annual reports of Dutch-funded organisations, available impact data from Dutch-funded global health initiatives and multilaterals, IATI, and others.
 - Identify trends, key outcomes, and areas of impact.
- Case Studies:
 - Develop case studies showcasing the impact of Dutch-funded global health and SRHR initiatives, with an emphasis on advocacy work and outcomes that are challenging to measure quantitatively or are indirect impacts (e.g. economic impact).

- Ensure case studies demonstrate the return on investment and value of Dutch contributions.
- Stakeholder Engagement:
 - Consult with relevant stakeholders, including DGHA and SRHR Platform members, to gather qualitative insights and feedback.
 - Ensure the study reflects the perspectives and priorities of key stakeholders.
- Report Development:
 - Produce a comprehensive report synthesising quantitative data and qualitative case studies.
 - Ensure the report is accessible, visually engaging, and formatted for advocacy purposes. Max number of pages to be discussed.
 - Include actionable recommendations for maintaining or increasing funding and policy prioritisation.
 - Prepare a summary of key findings and recommendations for a roundtable discussion with the [Commission on Foreign Trade and Development](#) in October.

4. Deliverables

- Inception report detailing methodology, timeline, and work plan. This will be approved by a working group consisting of DGHA/SRHR Platform members.
- Draft report for review and feedback.
- Validation meeting, presentation of draft report.
- Final report, incorporating feedback, with:
 - Executive summary
 - Data analysis findings
 - Case studies
 - Advocacy-focused recommendations
- Summary presentation and materials for the roundtable discussion.

5. Timeline and process

WHAT	WHEN
Contract start	May 2025
Inception report	30 June
Exchange with the working group	Early July
Draft full report	20 September
Exchange with the working group	End of September
Final report and materials	20 October
Report launch and roundtable discussion	End October 2025

A working group of the commissioning organisations' representatives will be established for the duration of the research and will keep in touch with the consultant; the moments for review in between will be established once the contract is signed.

6. Qualifications

We are looking for a consultant who has:

- Proven experience conducting impact studies or evaluations, preferably in global health and SRHR.
- Strong expertise in both quantitative and qualitative research methods.
- Excellent writing and presentation skills, with the ability to produce advocacy-oriented reports.
- Familiarity with Dutch funding mechanisms and global health/SRHR priorities.
- Familiarity with the Dutch political system.
- Demonstrated ability to work with diverse stakeholders and synthesise complex information.

7. Application Process

Interested consultants should submit the following by May 18th:

- A detailed proposal, including methodology, timeline, and budget.
- CVs of key personnel.
- Examples of similar work conducted in the past.
- Contact information for two references.

Applications should be sent to Rosana Lescrauwaet (rle@cordaid.org), chair of the DGHA.

8. Budget

A budget of EUR 10,000-15,000 is available for this assignment, inclusive of all fees and expenses.