

## UN Adolescent Girls Task Force

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### Background

The United Nations Adolescent Girls Task Force (UN AGTF) was established in 2007 in partnership with the UN Foundation. The impetus for this Group is simple: the UN agencies recognized that one agency alone cannot adequately address the multi-sectoral needs of adolescent girls, yet together greater impact can be made. In March 2010 during the 54<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, as a result of 15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000), the Task Force launched a UN Joint Statement for Accelerated Efforts to Advance the Rights of Adolescent Girls signed by the heads of the six agencies to guide collective efforts with governments and partners.

By 2015 at least additional 20 countries will initiate joint programming for adolescent girls. In four countries—Guatemala, Ethiopia, Liberia, and Malawi—the UN Adolescent Girls Task Force has initiated girl-targeted activities, and with a financial contribution by the UN Foundation, launched UN joint programmes for adolescent girls in 2011.

#### Purpose and Objectives of the Task Force

In the spirit of UN Reform and “delivering as one”, the overall purpose of the UN Adolescent Girls Task Force is to strengthen interagency collaboration at both global and country levels for more effective programmes targeting adolescent girls in support of achieving the MDGs and elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against them.

In particular the **United Nations Adolescent Girls Task Force**

- Advocates for making adolescent girls a priority , promoting /supporting /formulating strategic, targeted investments in national policies and development programmes to support the realization of their rights
- Focuses on equity approaches and aims to reach the most vulnerable, especially the 10-14 age group as strategic entry point for breaking cycle of exclusion and exploitation
- Promotes an integrated programme framework that enhances the human rights environment through five strategic areas: 1) Educate adolescent girls; 2) Improve adolescent girls’ health; 3) Keep girls safe and free from violence; 4) Promote adolescent girls’ leaders; and 5) Ensure that girls are counted.
- Supports governments and partners to strengthen delivery systems, policy and legislative environment to achieve sustainable social transformation for adolescent girls
- Demonstrates leadership by senior officials within the United Nations system to advance the rights of marginalized adolescent girls

The specific objectives include:

- To support UNCT in developing coherent and coordinated policy and programme development with governments and national partners in order to more effectively reach adolescent girls,

particularly the marginalized and disadvantaged girls and ensure their access to social services, education, and protection within the national plans of achieving the MDGs;

- To promote common approaches and complementary action among UN agencies in areas of policy advocacy; information, communication and programme development for adolescent girls; and
- To support documentation of reliable national and sub-national data on the situation of adolescent girls and highlight the strategic importance of investing in adolescent girls as part of strategies for national development, poverty reduction and social justice and mobilize support towards that end.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

The UN Adolescent Girls Task Force will serve as a mechanism for coordinating and enhancing UN leadership in addressing the needs and rights of adolescent girls, particularly the marginalized and disadvantaged. The particular responsibilities include:

- To guide UNCT in strategic, targeted efforts aimed at marginalized adolescent girls;
- To position the UN family as an integral partner in the development landscape for advocacy, policy development, and programming for adolescent girls through unified participation in various forums;
- To develop and disseminate common advocacy messages on the importance of investing in adolescent girls as part of country-level development strategies;
- To act as a forum for information exchange and sharing of programme approaches, tools, and good practices on what the different agencies are doing with respect to adolescent girls.
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- To explore opportunities for joint programming and programmes on adolescents girls

### **Modality of Work**

**Membership.** The United Nations Adolescent Girls Task Force is comprised of focal points representing different UN agencies. The agencies who participate in the Task Force include: UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR, UN Women, WHO, ILO and UNAIDS. Membership is voluntary and the Task Force is open to other interested agencies. Depending on the agenda items of a meeting, colleagues from other agencies may be requested for participation.

**Co-Chairs.** The United Nations Adolescent Girls Task Force is co-chaired by UNFPA and UNICEF.

#### ***Global UNAGTF Coordinator***

A Global Coordinator, located currently at UNFPA HQ, has primary responsibility for the day to day coordination of the UNAGTF global activities. The Coordinator will work with the co-chairs of the UNAGTF Pakistan to lead and manage in achieving its goals and objectives. S/he manages the joint programming initiative including monitoring, evaluation and reporting functions, and will provide technical support and advisory services to this initiative at country level.

***Meetings/communications.***

- The Task Force convenes meetings once a month.
- The Task Force will as a whole group meet at least once a year for planning purposes.
- Regular meeting minutes will be drafted by the Co-Chairs and circulated among the Task Force focal points.