

## **ICTJ Assessment of Needs of Formerly Abducted Young Mothers (FAYM) and their Children in Uganda**

### **Terms of Reference for Consultancy**

In design and implementation, post-conflict reintegration programs have often ignored or overlooked the specific needs of women and girls associated with state and non-state armed forces. In Uganda specifically, the challenges facing women and girls during reintegration have not been sufficiently acknowledged or prioritized by government policies and initiatives focused on post-conflict justice and reconstruction.

Those who have children as a result of rape or forced marriage within the armed group are often among the most vulnerable during reintegration. Yet, despite the severe and long-lasting impact of their victimization, transitional justice policies and reintegration programming in Uganda have not adequately addressed the rights and needs of formerly abducted young mothers (FAYM) and their children.<sup>1</sup> In light of the recent passage of the Parliamentary resolution on addressing the plight of victims of the LRA, there is a time-sensitive opportunity to contribute toward the consolidation of a strong evidence base on the accountability needs of these young mothers and their children, in order to inform the development of a more responsive government reparations policy.

ICTJ, in partnership with local women's organizations, youth groups, victims groups, cultural institutions and religious groups, will conduct a assessment through a series of semi structured interviews and focus group meetings/consultations in the North and North Eastern region of Uganda. This assessment will seek to identify the most significant challenges to reintegration<sup>2</sup> facing FAYM and their children, and to explore their perceptions of and desires for accountability. The findings from the assessment will serve to inform concrete recommendations for how government agencies and others focused on post-conflict reconstruction and transitional justice in Uganda, and reparations in particular, can most effectively address the distinct experience of victimization and vulnerability of these young women and their children.

To carry out this work, ICTJ will retain a consultant with expertise in working with women and children survivors of conflict-related violence, qualitative research design and analysis, and the Ugandan historical, social and political context. The consultant will directly work with the ICTJ Uganda office focal point and the ICTJ Children and Youth program based in NY. The anticipated timeline for the project is February 1, 2015-June 2015 (with approximately 3.5 months of full time work over that period).

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<sup>1</sup> Eric Ochen, Adele Jones, James McAuley, 'Formerly Abducted Child Mothers in Northern Uganda: A Critique of Modern Structures for Child Protection and Reintegration,' (2012), *Journal of Community Practice*, p. 105.

<sup>2</sup> By 'reintegration' we refer to the end goal we are seeking in this work, in which ex-combatants are able to resume civilian life, and are accepted by the community to which they return, a process in which they acquire the power to think and act freely, exercise choice, and fulfill their potential as full and equal members of society and engaged citizens. (This explanation is adapted from the UK DFID's definition of 'empowerment').

## **Deliverables and Timeline**

1. Design and coordinate a plan and timetable for the development of the study.
2. Undertake desk research to determine the current scope of knowledge available on this topic and to identify the gaps in knowledge that the assessment will address. Produce an annotated bibliography of consulted sources on this topic.
3. Conduct mapping of all major organizations whose work is relevant to the scope of this study.
4. Prepare a list of contacts and conduct meetings with representatives from selected organizations in order to inform the design and development of the research.
5. Design the research instruments (questions, discussion topics, etc.) and methodologies necessary for the individual interviews and focus group consultations. These consultations will take place over twelve days in the Districts of Gulu, Lira and Soroti in March 2015.
6. Work with the Uganda country office to identify focus group participants through local partners and coordinate logistics regarding their participation, as well as coordinating/booking travel arrangements for the field work.
7. Conduct individual and focus group interviews with FAYM and their children, as well as community members and stakeholders.
8. Conduct interviews with community leaders, stakeholders and members to better understand the relational aspects of the challenges FAYM and their children are facing.
9. Submit full notes from all interviews conducted.
10. Present a written analysis of the information obtained during the field work.
11. Present outline for a final report and draft sections, as requested (final report will be approximately 40 pages).
12. Conduct validation workshop/s with select group of participants.
13. Conduct further research as needed and requested to complete the final report.
14. Contribute to writing and revisions of the final report, as requested by ICTJ Children and Youth focal point.

## **Criteria of Selection**

- Advanced degree in political science, anthropology, history, psychology, or related field;
- Strong knowledge of Ugandan context, transitional justice dynamics, gendered impacts of violence;
- 3+ years of research/field work experience in a coordinating role;
- Demonstrated ability to conduct field research using qualitative techniques;
- Previous experience working with NGOs, INGOs is desirable;
- Experience with group facilitation among children is desirable;
- Strong written English;
- Ability to work well with a team and independently manage projects;
- Strong capacity for analytical thinking;
- Ability to adhere to strict deadlines;
- High level of professionalism and attention to detail;
- Strong interpersonal and networking skills.

## **To Apply**

Submit resume, cover letter and writing sample to [ugandajobs@ictj.org](mailto:ugandajobs@ictj.org), with the subject “Consultant, Uganda FAYM assessment.” Deadline to apply is January 10, 2015.