

Contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals by Investing in Adolescent

<p>Key results: Outputs: <i>- An evidence-based framework outlining opportunities on how to optimize adolescents' transitions to adulthood in order to accelerate progress for adolescents, their families, and communities, including the influence of education and family planning on fertility rates.</i> <i>- Adolescent Atlas for Action – an online analytical tool – expanded to 15 ODA countries for better data and evidence use for investment in adolescents.</i> <i>- Research that further the understanding of the relationship between adolescents, population growth, and climate change.</i></p> <p>Justification for support: <i>For many young Africans, and especially Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW), the lack of access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services is depriving them of their rights and the ability to make decisions about their bodies, how many children they want and to plan their families. Researchers are increasingly documenting the many implications of sexual and reproductive health (SRH). The lack of SRH has adverse outcomes that directly impact the lives of individuals, but also contribute to rapid population growth and reduces the opportunity for countries to harness the demographic dividend further hindering economic growth and development. Support to the Population Council under this project will increase knowledge and understanding of the relationship between population dynamics, environmental risks, and climate change.</i></p> <p><i>The project thus addresses the Danish development policy focus on reversing the global population trend. It also contributes to the commitments on:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>fighting for gender equality and girls' and women's rights;</i> - <i>placing sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls at the centre of our work;</i> - <i>addressing underlying causes of vulnerability and contributing to building resilience to crises, natural disasters and climate change.</i> <p>Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>COVID-19 pandemic can impact ability to achieve outcomes</i> - <i>Impact on policy change depend on continued political commitment and relevance of project outputs</i> - <i>Bribery, fraud, corruption, staff turnover</i> 	<p>File No.</p>	2020 - 1432									
	Country	Multi-country; OECD-DAC eligible Countries									
	Responsible Unit	GJL									
	Sector	Development; Equal opportunities.									
	Partner	Population Council									
		<i>DKK mill.</i>	2020	2021	2022	20xx	20xx	Tot.			
	Commitment	25	-	-	-	-	-	-			
	Projected ann. disb.	10	10	5							
	Duration	July 2020 – December 2022									
	Previous grants	Grants totaling 80,400,000 DKK in 1998-2015.									
	Finance Act code	06.36.03.11									
	Head of unit	Signe Skovbakke Winding Albjerg									
	Desk officer	Siv Behrendt									
	Reviewed by CFO	Marie Gro Svenstrup									
Relevant SDGs <i>[Maximum 1 – highlight with grey]</i>											
 No Poverty		 No Hunger		 Good Health, Wellbeing		 Quality Education		 Gender Equality		 Clean Water, Sanitation	
 Affordable Clean Energy		 Decent Jobs, Econ. Growth		 Industry, Innovation, Infrastructure		 Reduced Inequalities		 Sustainable Cities, Communities		 Responsible Consumption & Production	
 Climate Action		 Life below Water		 Life on Land		 Peace & Justice, strong Inst.		 Partnerships for Goals			

Strategic objectives:

The project contributes to the achievement of the SDG5 with an overall strategic goal of promotion of gender equality through its twofold thematic objective:

- i) Through evidence based research to get a better understanding on what programmes and policies related to AGYW have the biggest influence on population dynamics and the interface with climate change.
- ii) And to improve understanding on interface between climate change, AGYW and population dynamics.

Justification for choice of partner:

The Population Council is an international research organisation with expertise in sexual and reproductive health and rights and related health and development issues, conducting research and programs for governments and civil society organizations in more than 50 countries. Population Council is a well-known partner to Denmark, having received numerous contributions in the period from 1998 – 2015. The Population Council has demonstrated solid expertise and capacity in the specific Danish interest areas of SRHR and population growth.

Summary:

The Population Council will undertake a body of inter-disciplinary research to deliver three complementary outputs that together will: increase understanding of the population, health, development, economic and environmental impacts of more widespread and intentional investments in AGYW; equip national and global decision makers with the right kind evidence to guide investments; and, address the evidence gaps in climate and population research. Research experts involved include researchers from Population Council offices in 13 countries, as well as researchers from partner organizations with complementary expertise.

Budget:

Output 1: Framework outlining opportunities for better investments in AGYW.	9,840,474 DKK
Output 2: Scale up the Adolescent Atlas for Action to 15 ODA countries.	6,894,967 DKK
Output 3: Suit of research that further the world's understanding of the relationship between population dynamics and climate change.	8,670,694 DKK
Total	25,000,000 DKK

Project Document for single-partner project: Contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals by Investing in Adolescent Girls and Young Women

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1. Introduction

The project is a grant contribution of DKK 25.0 Million to the Population Council to enable the Population Council to significantly advance an important body of work focused on the population-level impacts of multi-sectoral investments in AGYW – with a focus on girls in sub-Saharan Africa. The project will contribute to the Population Council and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) mutual goals to increase the world's knowledge and understanding of the relationship between population dynamics, environmental risks, and climate change. The project period is planned to be 30 months from mid-2020 to end of 2022.

More than 20 years ago, the Population Council was among the first to make the case that support to adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in the global development agenda is a smart investment to achieve social and economic progress¹. When AGYW can complete their education, delay marriage and childbearing they will typically have fewer children, have them later, and will be more likely to participate in the labour-force – changes, which benefits themselves, their communities and contribute to their country's economic growth.

Researchers are increasingly documenting the many interactions between the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of AGYW and the wider development goals, including those related to climate and the environment. Demographic modelling shows how better access to sexual education and family planning helps young women to delay and space pregnancies; better evidence based policy and investments in SRH for AGYW holds the potential of substantially reduce projected population growth globally². Further, the global research communities have achieved important progress in understanding how population dynamics (in all its dimensions) affects climate change and there is now a good opportunity to harvest results by applying research findings to policy and investment decisions.

Denmark has previously supported Population Council. Their overall Strategic Priorities Framework aligns well with Danish priorities within SRHR. This proposed project will enable Population Council to build on earlier work and flesh out an aspect of this, which will help deepen the understanding on what actually has proved to work within the aspects of gender equality and investments in SRH for AGYW.

2. Brief summary of issues addressed and institutional context.

The population of Africa is projected to double to 2.4 billion by 2050 from 1.2 billion today. The largest growth rate is projected to be in Sub-Saharan Africa where birth rates in many countries are about 2.6 %. Almost 60% of Africa's population is under the age of 25. For many young Africans, and especially AGYW, the lack of access to SRH services is not only depriving them of their rights to make decisions about their bodies and to plan their families, but also adversely affects their education and employment opportunities. This affects the lives of individual AGYW, but as importantly, it contributes to rapid population growth and reduces countries economic growth and development. The COVID-19 pandemic aggravates the situation further. The closures of schools and businesses and social distancing measures that are put in place due to COVID-19 severely affects financial opportunities and access to essential services and resources, disproportionately impacting women and girls. SGBV is already prevalent around the world and early reports are that during the COVID-19 lock down cases of SGBV is on the increase³.

¹ Mensch, Barbara S., Bruce, Judith, and Margaret E. Greene. 1998. [The Uncharted Passage – Girls' Adolescence in the Developing World](#). New York: Population Council.

² Brian C. O'Neill, Michael Dalton, Regina Fuchs, Leiwen Jiang, Shonali Pachauri, and Katarina Zigova. 2010. Global demographic trends and future carbon emissions. PNAS | October 12, 2010 | vol. 107 | no. 41 | 17521–17526

³ Wanqing, Z. (2020, March 2). *Domestic Violence Cases Surge During COVID-19 Epidemic*. Sixth Tone. <https://www.sixthtone.com/news/1005253/domestic-violence-cases-surge-during-covid-19-epidemic>

Despite recognizing the multi-faceted and interconnected nature of AGYW's needs and the macro-level impact, development initiatives are often not sufficiently recognizing this interconnectivity, hence their impact and return on investment may not be fully realised. Evidence is needed to guide policies and programs that address the vulnerabilities and opportunities for AGYW as well as to better understand the effects of the investment in AGYW on individual and societal outcomes, such as population growth.

The Population Council is a global leader in research and programs on how to improve the lives of AGYW in developing countries. Other reputable organizations, such as the World Bank, have research capacity at international level, but the Population Council's clear focus on SRHR issues since its establishment in 1952 has allowed the organization to build a unique research base and be a leader in research on AGYW. Their expertise and presence in a large number of ODA eligible countries (including Bangladesh, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Pakistan, Tanzania, and Uganda) allows Population Council to work across disciplines in these target countries to identify issues, generate data, and provide evidence-based solutions targeted governments, service delivery organisations, donors, and other relevant stakeholders.

3. Strategic considerations and justification

The project directly contributes to Denmark's priorities for development cooperation. Specifically, it contributes to the ambition stated in the '*The World 2030*' – Denmark's strategy for development cooperation and humanitarian action⁴ to: "*reverse the global population trend and turn the development around from being a challenge and a potential threat to being an opportunity and a resource*" and the specific Danish commitments to:

- be at the forefront, fighting for gender equality and girls' and women's rights;
- place sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls at the centre of our work;
- address underlying causes of vulnerability and contribute to building resilience to crises, natural disasters and climate change.

The project is compatible with the development minister's four-year strategic plan, which includes the ambition on a push for girls' and women's rights. A specific foreseen activity in this push is the "analysis and public debate on challenges with reversing the demographic curve"; outputs from this project is suited to underpin this dialogue.

The project also fits within Population Council's Strategic Priorities Framework (2017 – 2030), which includes action areas aiming at demonstrating how investments in AGYW impacts positively on individual lives and population dynamics and by increasing the understanding of the implications of these on climate change. The project directly advances two of the three new strategic investments the Population Council has initiated to be executed over the period 2019 to 2024:

- The *Population, Environmental Risk and Climate Change* (PERCC) initiative around the intersection between environmental changes and demographic processes and impact on vulnerable populations (related to Goal 3 above); and
- The *Research Impact* initiative to accelerate and amplify the Population Council's ability to ensure that research inform development policies, programs, and investments in the public, private and nongovernmental sectors (related to Objective 5.1, above).

The project's three complementary outputs will together raise the level of understanding needed to accelerate better investments in AGYW by equipping national and global decision makers with the right kind of evidence to guide investments; and, address the evidence gaps in climate and population

⁴ Ministry of Foreign Affairs & DANIDA (2017) *The World 2030 – Denmark's strategy for development cooperation and humanitarian action*. Copenhagen, Denmark.

research. Recognizing that impact is contingent on political commitment to evidence-based policy making and programming, the Population Council will engage early and often with key stakeholders — governments, service delivery organisations, researchers, and donors — to secure buy-in and ensure that evidence and outputs respond to needs. The Population Council will leverage longstanding relationships in the project’s target countries and communicate findings and recommendations in a range of formats and in various fora to influence policy at country level. The 15 target countries, which all will be ODA eligible countries, will be agreed upon between MFA and Population Council as part of the dialogue and approval process for the detailed work plans. At the outset of the project, MFA will engage Danish stakeholders to generate awareness of this project and interest in international development more broadly.

4. Theory of change and key assumptions

The overall theory of change (ToC) posits that the production and dissemination of rigorous research evidence, if used by influential decision makers, will lead to more effective policies, programmes, practices, and technologies, which will improve health and well-being in current and future generations. The ToC posits that by making evidence and tools more specific to populations in OECD-DAC eligible countries, and easier accessible to policy makers and investors in development, investments will lead to better interventions for advancing the SDG5 and to improved economic growth in these countries. An elaborate presentation of the theory of change is provided in annex 3.

The Population Council will build on existing relationships with decision makers to ensure that the project outputs will be relevant and accessible. Research will be communicated in a range of formats and in person where the findings and their interpretation can be brought to bear on policy questions. In addition to traditional modes of evidence dissemination (e.g., events, engagement stakeholders, presentation, briefs, and peer-reviewed publications), the Population Council is also making access to data and research findings open and transparent and engaging key decision-makers and strategic partners, including funding partners and citizens and communities.

The activities conducted will contribute to the production, translation, and use of research for evidence-based policymaking, and, ultimately to enhanced political programming and policy. Denmark and the Population Council will work together to disseminate findings from the research to influence policy makers and focus for interventions as well as to improve program design.

5. Project objective and summary of results frame

The project contributes to the achievement of the SDG5 with an overall strategic goal of promotion of gender equality through its twofold thematic objective:

- i) Through evidence based research to get a better understanding on what programmes and polices related to AGYW have the biggest influence on population dynamics and the interface with climate change.
- ii) And to improve understanding on interface between climate change, AGYW and population dynamics.

The project’s results frame summarized below is attached as annex 4:

Results frame:

Engagement Title	Contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by investing in adolescent girls and young women (AGYW)
Outcome	The project contributes to the achievement of the SDG5 with an overall strategic goal of promotion of gender equality through its twofold thematic objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Through evidence based research to get a better understanding on what programmes and polices related to AGYW have the biggest influence on population dynamics and the interface with climate change.

		ii) And to improve understanding on interface between climate change, AGYW and population dynamics.			
Outcome indicator		Number of global or national policies, strategic plans, and/or guidelines influenced by the evidence and tools generated by this development engagement			
Baseline	Year	July 2020	Substantial gaps in actionable evidence and tools needed by policy makers to make effective and strategic investments		
Target	Year	December 2022	Five policies, strategic plans, and/or guidelines influenced by the evidence and tools generated by this development engagement (recognizing the risks laid out in Annex 5 – not least risks under 2.3 –of the Risk Matrix)		
Output 1		An evidence-based framework outlining investment opportunities that optimizes adolescents' transitions to adulthood to accelerate progress for adolescents, their families, and communities.			
Output indicator		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of evidence reviews completed • Number of evidence briefs published • Number of events/webinars/briefings held • Number of downloads of evidence reviews/briefs • Number of citations/mentions in policy documents 			
Baseline	07/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 reviews completed • 0 briefs published • 0 events/webinars/briefings held 	End target	12/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 reviews completed • 5 briefs published • 3 events/webinars/briefings held • 400 downloads of evidence reviews/briefs • 6 citations/mentions in policy documents
Output 2		Scale up the <i>Adolescent Atlas for Action</i> to 15 ODA countries for better data and evidence use for investment in adolescents.			
Output indicator		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A³ expanded to include 15 ODA countries (low and middle income countries) • Number of unique visitors per month • % of return users per month • Number of decision-makers reference A³ in their work 			
Baseline	07/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 countries • 100 unique visitors per month • 10% of return users per month • 2 decision-makers reference A³ 	End target	12/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 countries • 200 unique visitors per month • 18% of return users per month • 15 decision-makers reference A³
Output 3		A suite of research products that further the world's understanding of the relationship between adolescents, population dynamics, and climate change.			
Output indicator		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of reports/papers completed • Number of briefs published • Number of events/webinars/briefings held • Number of downloads of evidence reviews/briefs • Number of citations/mentions in policy documents 			
Baseline	07/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 reports/papers published • 0 briefs published • 0 events/webinars/briefings held with stakeholders 	End target	12/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 reports/papers published • 8 briefs published • 5 events/webinars/briefings held with stakeholders • 400 downloads of evidence reviews/briefs • 6 citations/mentions in policy documents

In addition to the above quantitative indicators, which are directly attributable to the work under this project, the Population Council will document more “qualitative” signs of success. In particular, the Population Council will seek to show how the research and evidence from this project contributes to the evolving conversation and investments among stakeholders regarding these issues. The Population Council will examine both the mechanisms by which research influences change, as well as the impact. The Population Council will share observations, lessons learned, and best practices with the MFA through regular schedule of dialogue and reporting.

6. Inputs/budget

Project: Contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals by investing in adolescent girls and young women				
Danish contribution in DKK	2020	2021	2022	Total
Output 1	1,801,965	4,482,134	3,556,375	9,840,474
Output 2	758,403	3,113,547	3,023,017	6,894,967
Output 3	1,612,804	3,371,551	3,280,204	8,264,559
Grand total	4,173,172	10,967,232	9,859,596	25,000,000

The total budget for the project for the 30 months is USD 8.9 million corresponding to approx. DKK 61.0 million out of which Denmark will finance DKK 25 million. Budget information is included in Annex 5 and summarized below:

Cost in DKK (exchange rate USD/DKK = 6.86)			
Activity	Total cost	MFA funding	Other funding (amount and source)
Output 1	18,794,270	7,846,642	DKK 5,375,548 - Gates Foundation (secured) DKK 2,808,244 - Echidna Foundation (anticipated) DKK 2,763,836 - Hewlett Foundation (anticipated)
Output 2	12,407,103	5,497,940	DKK 4,100,872 - Hewlett Foundation (anticipated) DKK 1,248,128 - CIFF (secured) DKK 1,560,163 - CIFF (anticipated)
Output 3	17,537,660	6,590,032	DKK 6,864,710 - Population Council Funds (secured) DKK 4,082,918 - anonymous/private funding (anticipated)
<i>Sub total</i>	48,739,033	19,934,615	DKK 28,804,419
Overhead	12,300,694	5,065,385	DKK 7,235,309
Total	61,039,726	25,000,000	DKK 36,039,728

As seen, the budgeted cofunding consists of secured funding and anticipated funding. Based on dialogue with the Population Council, the assumption is that all co-funding indicated in the budget will materialise, and therefore there is not deemed to be any risk to the project as a follow of anticipated cofunding not coming through. The total budget is based on calculations of costs from similar work and includes the direct costs associated with the three outputs in this development engagement, quality assurance and oversight and indirect costs. The main budget item is staff cost, which is caused by the nature of research which requires significant human resource inputs.

Population Council expresses publicly their commitment to spend funds efficiently with an expressed ambition of management cost not exceeding 16% for the organisation. The organisation has won a

number of awards for its management and governance, and has earned ‘Best in America’ seal from Independent Charities of America; indicating that the organisation performs well in efficiency and effectiveness.

MFA will stagger its disbursements to Population Council over the project period and base the actual disbursements on progress attained in the implementation of the engagement based on the agreed reports (narrative as well as financial). Progress will be measured through the Population Council’s monitoring framework.

7. Institutional and Management arrangement

The parties have agreed to the following management arrangement with the aim to ensure adequate dialogue and timely decisions about this program.

The project is fully integrated into the Population Council’s organisational structure as an integral part of the Poverty, Gender, and Youth (PGY) Program. The PGY Program Director will serve as Project Director, providing technical leadership, quality assurance, and managerial oversight; and serving as the primary point of contact to the MFA. The project will be subjected to the Population Council’s standard quality assurance procedures, which includes mechanisms for ensuring high quality and ethically sound standards for all research. Overall management responsibility falls under the Population Council Vice President for Social and Behavioural Science Research.

Anti-corruption

The Population Council has a Fraud and Corruption Policy covering: (1) Stringent financial management for thorough monthly review of all expenses and financial transactions; (2) Whistle-blower policy with clear reporting mechanisms shared annually with staff; (3) Annual ‘ethics training’ for all staff that includes anti-bribery and corruption rules; (4) Additional due diligence and monitoring for local partners; (5) Procurement policies that ensure transparency and segregation of responsibilities on all stages of procurement and enterprise resource planning system to monitor unusual trends at project, country, and HQ; (6) Signing authority matrix to ensure segregation of duties and verification/approval by staff for all types of payments; and (7) Subcontracts with partners that require compliance with anti-bribery and anti-corruption procedures.

Communication

A communication plan is provided in annex 7. The key message from the engagement will concentrate around the evidence base behind and how investing in AGYW will support the UN SDGs and Denmark’s priorities for development cooperation including in relation to the health and rights of women and girls, reducing rapid population growth and building resilience to climate change. Key audiences include national and sub-national policymakers, implementers, multilateral and bilateral global stakeholders, researchers, and donors.

The Population Council’s Office of Strategic Communications and Research Impact teams will ensure that results are communicated clearly and persuasively in a variety of fora, including presence at international and national meetings and conferences. Results will be disseminated via peer-reviewed publications, guidelines, programmatic, policy and research briefs, as well as via the Population Council’s channels including their website, newsletters, social media presence, and webinars.

8. Financial Management, planning and reporting

Financial management of the project will follow Population Council’s procedures and be integrated into their financial management system. Population Council appears to have a system, which ensures financial accountability, and that outputs are met and each project achieves value for money. The Office of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) provides financial, budgetary, and accounting support and oversight, including preparation and submission of donor financial reports, ensuring compliance with

donor regulations and adherence to financial management standards. Programme staff are responsible for financial monitoring and oversight of grant expenditure against budget. The Population Council provides financial monitoring and oversight tools to help program staff assess grant expenditure rates against budget. Expenditure reports, analyses, and updates are prepared monthly and posted on the Population Council's Intranet to provide transparency and allow proper and timely oversight of activities.

The Population Council's Global Procurement Manual, reviewed annually, sets forth global policies and procedures for the purchase of all goods and services necessary for administering operations and implementing programs in accordance with international standards.

Population Council's internal control follows an annual internal audit plan based on the risk assessment that examines high-risk environments and adherence to financial policies, procedures, and industry best practices. The organisation's internal audit of its offices are performed by Grant Thornton, since 2014 (manager changed in 2017) who reports to the Board of Trustees' Audit Committee. International offices' statutory audits are performed by locally contracted audit firms. The Annual external audit of the financial statements, audit of federal awards, funder specific audit requirements, and US Internal Revenue Service reporting are performed by KPMG, under contract since 2014, reporting to the Board of Trustees' Audit Committee.

The Project Director will oversee annual work planning and budgeting, deliver progress reports as agreed with the MFA, and engage in regular dialogue with MFA to update on implementation and discuss any challenges. The Population Council will deliver annual progress and financial reports following the instructions provided in the Danish MFA [Guidelines for Programme and Projects](#) and the grant agreement.

The responsible MFA unit shall have the right to carry out any technical or financial mission considered necessary to monitor the implementation of the programme. After the termination of the programme support, the MFA reserves the right to carry out evaluation in accordance with the provisions in the agreement and Danida Aid Management Guidelines.

9. Risk Management

A detailed Risk Management Matrix is provided in annex 6, building on the Population Council's risk management framework. Overall, the main risk to the success of this project is that use of product outputs are contingent on continued political commitment to addressing SRHR and population dynamics. However, it seems unlikely that this political agenda will not remain, and through conversations with donors and stakeholders in target countries the Population Council will work to secure buy-in and that products respond to needs.

The main contextual risk is uncertainty related to the COVID-19 pandemic, for which impact on this investment is limited as the outputs can largely be achieved through deskwork. Programmatic risks generally relate to quality and/or utility of the outputs; the Population Council's rigorous quality assurance processes and engagement of end-users will mitigate these risks. Finally, sound financial management systems and human resources policies will mitigate institutional risks. The Population Council will communicate any risks that manifest and planned response via regular dialogue with MFA and summarize these in annual reporting.

The Population Council employs a system of Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) through which they proactively and continually identify, assess, manage, and monitor the risks associated with the conduct of research and operational activities. Population Council ERM procedures include five steps: (1) risk identification; (2) risk analysis; (3) risk oversight; (4) risk mitigation; and (5) risk monitoring and review.

The Population Council undertakes a comprehensive, cross-disciplinary approach to risk management through its Risk Review Group (RRG), headed by the Population Council's Legal Counsel and comprising senior staff from across the organisation. The RRG meets regularly to assess potential new risks and develop measures to manage those already identified, and provides training and support on ERM to Population Council staff.

Building on the Risk Management Matrix (Annex 6), the Population Council will develop a project-specific risk register, based on the larger Population Council ERM structure, that includes risk identification, risk assessment, and risk review and action plans. The Project Director will report risks and mitigation plans to the Population Council RRG, and receive technical support as needed.

Annexes:

Annex 1: Context Analysis

Annex 2: Partner

Annex 3: Theory of change

Annex 4: Result Framework

Annex 5: Budget details

Annex 6: Risk Management Matrix

Annex 7: Plan for communication of results

Annex 8: Process Action Plan for Approval process

Annex 9: Quality Assurance Checklist

Annex 1: Context Analysis

1. Overall development challenges, opportunities and risks

The population of Africa is projected to more than double between 2020 and 2050 – from just over 1 billion people today to more than 2.2 billion by mid-century. Almost 60% of Africa's population is under the age of 25. For many young Africans, and especially adolescent girls and young women (AGYW), the lack of access to SRH services is depriving them of their rights and the ability to make decisions about their bodies, and to plan their families. The high rates of school drop-out, child marriage, teen pregnancy and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) experienced by AGYW are adversely affecting their education and employment opportunities and risks creating a vicious cycle trapping families and communities in poverty reflected in multiple dimensions. This directly impacts the lives of individual AGYW, and also contributes to rapid population growth and reduces the opportunity for countries to harness the demographic dividend further hindering economic growth and development.

While the world has increasingly recognized adolescence as a critical time for investment, and has increased commitments to AGYW, progress remains far too slow. Each year around 12 million girls under 18 are married and approximately 16 million adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 (and 2.5 million girls aged 12 to 15) give birth. Of the 25 million out-of-school children who are expected never to start school, two-thirds are girls. And there are around 200 million girls living in over 30 countries who have experienced female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C). In sub-Saharan Africa, four out of five new HIV infections among 15-19-year olds are among girls.

There is a growing body of research that shows which interventions are most effective in supporting AGYW to make a healthy transition to adulthood. Two Population Council evidence reviews⁵ conclude that:

- 1) Empowerment and asset-building interventions targeting multiple levels of girls' socio-ecological environment can improve education, health, economic, social capital, gender-equitable attitude, and violence outcomes for girls;
- 2) Programs are more effective at improving outcomes for adolescent girls when cash and asset transfers to households are combined with empowerment components;
- 3) Multi-component programs tended to outperform single-component programs. There remain unanswered questions on what long-term impacts they have, and what it takes to expand these interventions so they can reach different segments of AGYW.

But there is still more to do to ensure research and evidence guide policies and programs in order to harness the opportunity for progress available by empowering AGYW in development countries. Actionable insights on what works to address vulnerabilities and opportunities for AGYW and evidence on the effects of the investment on individual and societal outcomes can help to guide policies and programmes and mobilize investment across ministries and sectors.

Furthermore, understanding the interactions between population dynamics and climate change is key to creating the policies and programs needed to mitigate emissions, adapt to a changing environment, and help vulnerable populations increase their resiliency to the harmful effects of climate change. The global population, environment, and climate change research communities have achieved important progress in understanding how population dynamics influence the environment and climate. In the past, population size was the only demographic variable used in climate modelling, but today researchers are working with other demographic variables such as age, gender, urbanization, education, household structures, and spatial distribution to meet the challenges of

⁵ Population Council. 2018. [Delivering Impact for Adolescent Girls: Emerging Findings from Population Council Research](#). New York; Haberland, Nicole A., Katharine J. McCarthy, and Martha Brady. 2018. "[Insights and Evidence Gaps in Girl-Centered Programming: A Systematic Review](#)," GIRL Center Research Brief No. 3. New York: Population Council.

understanding climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Population Council's Population, Environmental Risk and Climate Change (PERCC) program is researching important questions around the intersection between environmental changes and demographic processes and environmental changes and what impact they have on vulnerable populations. Recent modelling by Population Council researchers and collaborators has shown that increasing education levels are projected to have a moderate effect on increasing carbon emissions (through economic growth). There is now an important opportunity to continue to build synergies across the climate and population sciences, which this project will be at the forefront of driving.

2. Fragility, conflict, migration and resilience

It is widely acknowledged that fragility most negatively affects the poorest and the most vulnerable groups in society, including women and children. This can be in terms of poverty, lack of access to justice, and physical insecurity that often characterizes fragile states. While state-society relations are weak in most fragile states, this is particularly pronounced for female citizens who have very limited access to state institutions.

A 2017 report⁶ by the OECD noted that “*Around the world, conflict, fragility and gender inequalities erode peoples’ opportunities to fulfil their potential and undermine our prospects for sustainable development. These challenges also reinforce each other: societal norms that discriminate against women can fuel conflict and violence, and conflict and fragility in turn multiply the burdens faced by women and girls*”. Security issues hinder women’s and girls’ access to services as well. When schools are destroyed for example, and children have to travel long distances, girls are more likely to stay at home in order to avoid the increased risk of abduction, sexual violence, and exploitation.

Evidence also shows that rapid- and slow-onset disasters (both man-made and natural) — including climate and weather-related events, epidemics, and economic crises — disproportionately affect women and girls. The ***Girls in Emergencies Collaborative*** was co-founded by the Population Council and the Women’s Refugee Committee (WRC) in recognition of the fact that adolescent girls in fragile and conflict affected settings face a multiplicity of risks during the crisis. The Collaborative has called attention to the fact that, “*many adolescent girls, the poorest girls in the poorest communities, already live in an ‘emergency’. Humanitarian crises only amplify the call on their coping and caring capacities, while exacerbating their vulnerabilities. For too many girls worldwide, an emergency begins as an ‘event’ and transforms into a lifetime... Evidence reveals that she not only faces a multiplicity of risks during a crisis, but also because she remains invisible, unprotected, and unengaged, particularly in the crucial first 45 days of a crisis. Despite a plethora of gender guidelines and litany of ‘duty bearers,’ adolescent girls are left behind in emergencies, just as they have been left behind in conventional development.*”

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the [Population Council’s Humanitarian Taskforce](#) mobilized to coordinate the generation and use of evidence to support the public health and economic response to COVID-19 in order to minimize the devastating effect of the pandemic on poor and vulnerable populations. Due to social distancing measures, women’s and girls’ access to public spaces and safe spaces have reduced significantly, which increases their risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), loss of social support, and loss of human capital. Researchers at the Population Council are gathering data and developing solutions to respond the needs of women and girls who are highly vulnerable during the crisis.

⁶ OECD (2017) Gender equality and women’s empowerment in fragile and conflict affected situations: a review of donor support.

3. Assessment of human rights situation (HRBA) and gender⁷

AGYW face a range of unique outcomes (particularly in relation to their SRH) and bear the biggest burden from social and economic inequalities, compared to their male counterparts. The goal of this development engagement is to document the priority interventions, and the strategic timing of those, so they can be implemented at the appropriate time before the architecture of adolescents' and young people's lives are set.

For many AGYW, the lack of access to SRH services is depriving them of their rights and the ability to make decisions about their bodies and to plan their families. High rates of school drop-out, child marriage, teen pregnancy, and SGBV experienced by AGYW are adversely affecting their education and employment opportunities and risks creating a vicious cycle trapping families and communities in poverty that is reflected in multiple dimensions.

The consequences of the range of adverse outcomes experienced by millions of AGYW directly impacts their ability to lead healthy and productive lives and to achieve their full potential. At the population level, the lack of progress in ensuring universal access to high-quality and rights-based health and education, including SRH services and comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), impacts economic growth, poverty reduction and the achievement of the SDGs.

4. Matching with Danish strengths and interests, engaging Danish actors, seeking synergy

This development engagement directly aligns with *The World 2030 – Denmark's strategy for development cooperation and humanitarian action* including most directly and notably to:

*“reverse the global population trend and turn the development around from being a challenge and a potential threat to being an opportunity and a resource. This will require **investments in promoting gender equality for young girls and women and securing their right to choose whether, when, with whom and how many children they want as well as an investment in young people's access to education, health and jobs.** Such investments in development will enable utilization of the positive effect it has on economic productivity when the workforce consists of an increasing number of young people and, at the same time, a declining share of the population is dependent on support” [aka harnessing the demographic dividend].*

At the outset, the Population Council will involve Danish officials, cooperation partners, private and civil society actors, and the general public (for example through an open event if circumstances allow) to generate awareness of this work, and interest in international development more broadly, and elicit input to further guide the project outputs.

5. Stakeholder analysis

In addition to aligning with Danish International Development priorities, this development engagement aligns with the priorities of the EU and other Member States including a direct focus on: Africa, human development, economic development, and climate change; through these, it will also address issues in relation to migration and peace and stability.

Importantly, this work directly aligns with expressed priorities of the African Union (AU) and its Member States most notably the AU roadmap on *“Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth”*, which was adopted in January 2017. African countries have begun to prepare national roadmaps for the investments in youth required to realize the demographic dividend, and

⁷ The purpose of the analysis is to facilitate and strengthen the application of the Human Rights Based Approach, and integrate gender in Danish development cooperation. The analysis should identify the main human rights issues in respect of social and economic rights, cultural rights, and civil and political rights. Gender is an integral part of all three categories.

the research outputs from this development engagement will speak directly to the issues that will be relevant to their progress.

This project will also make a direct contribution to the Development Effectiveness agenda by:

- enhancing the body of research and evidence on the policies, programs, and interventions to improve outcomes for AGYW; and
- increasing the world's knowledge and understanding of the relationship between population dynamics, environmental risks, and climate change.

A focus on research uptake and utilization activities, including in collaboration with the MFA (see communication strategy for examples), will ensure this development engagement has impact beyond Danish Development Assistance and is accessible to and used by a range of development actors including: national governments in target countries and OECD Development Assistance Committee countries, multilateral agencies including the UN and World Bank, and regional groupings such as the AU and EU. These efforts will lead to an increase in, and impact from, investments by these partners in these areas directly contributing to achieving the SDGs.

Annex 2: Partners

1. Summary of stakeholder analysis

The interlinkages between adolescent girls/young women (AGYW), family planning, population dynamics and climate change are included in the mandate, vision and relevant programs within many organisations such as the World Bank, the United Nation's Population Fund (UNFPA) and international- and Danish civil society organisations such as International Planned Parenthood Federation and the Danish Family Planning Association. They all provide relevant inputs to the global discussion on these issues and work as (or with) frontline organisations and governments to implement programs. They would be able to deliver important knowledge and experience to carry out the project.

However, as global recognized experts in the population, health, and development fields, Population Council has for nearly 70 years been conducting research and generating policy-relevant and actionable evidence to support governments, donors, implementing partners, and advocates to better allocate resources to implement effective policies and programs.

The Population Council brings unique multidisciplinary expertise on population dynamics and climate change, including demography, economics, epidemiology, geography, political science, public health, and social science. The Population Council has a global workforce of around 500 staff and offices in the following 12 countries: Bangladesh, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, and Zambia, almost exclusively staffed by professionals from those countries. In addition, the Population Council has staff based in Malawi, Tanzania, and Uganda and work in nearly 40 additional countries. Through this on-the-ground presence, it works across disciplines and at the global, national, and local levels to identify issues, generate data, provide evidence-based solutions, and enable governments, service delivery organisations, donors, and other relevant stakeholders to increase impact.

2. Criteria for selecting programme partners

The Population Council offers a unique combination of expertise and experience to implement this project. The Population Council is the global leader in research and programs for AGYW, with over 20 years of experience designing, evaluating, and scaling up girl-centred programs and the world's largest body of research on programs to improve the lives of AGYW in low- and middle-income countries.

The Population Council's Adolescent Data Hub is the largest open data portal on adolescents and young people. The Population Council has made evidence and tools more accessible to the end-users by creating one-stop-shop online portals on different topics: Evidence for Gender and Education Resource (EGER); BuildCommunityForGirls (intentional design for girl-centred programs); the Gender and Power Metrics database; and, Evidence Consortium on Women's Groups. These efforts aim to make data, insights and evidence more accessible and easily understood by decision maker.

Denmark has supported the Population Council with several contributions in the period from 1998-2015. Through these partnerships, the Population Council has delivered solid results and demonstrated capacity to manage Danish funds. Since 2015, Danish development officials have continued to have dialogue with the Population Council due to the extensive expertise offered by the Population Council in the fields of research/knowledge on sexual and reproductive health and rights and how this impact on individual lives and at community and population level.

3. Brief presentation of partners

The Population Council is an international non-governmental research organization registered in the US. Country directors lead the Population Council's research and programs in the countries of operation. A Board of Trustees which includes leaders in biomedicine, business, social science, and philanthropy oversees and guides the Population Council

Through its Centre for Biomedical Research, the Population Council has developed and licensed some of the most widely used long-acting, reversible contraceptives in the world. The Population Council collaborates with pharmaceutical companies to develop, manufacture, and distribute contraceptives and other products to the global market. In keeping with the Council's mission, these partnerships include provisions to ensure that products are offered to people in less-developed countries at public-sector prices

4. Summary of key partner features

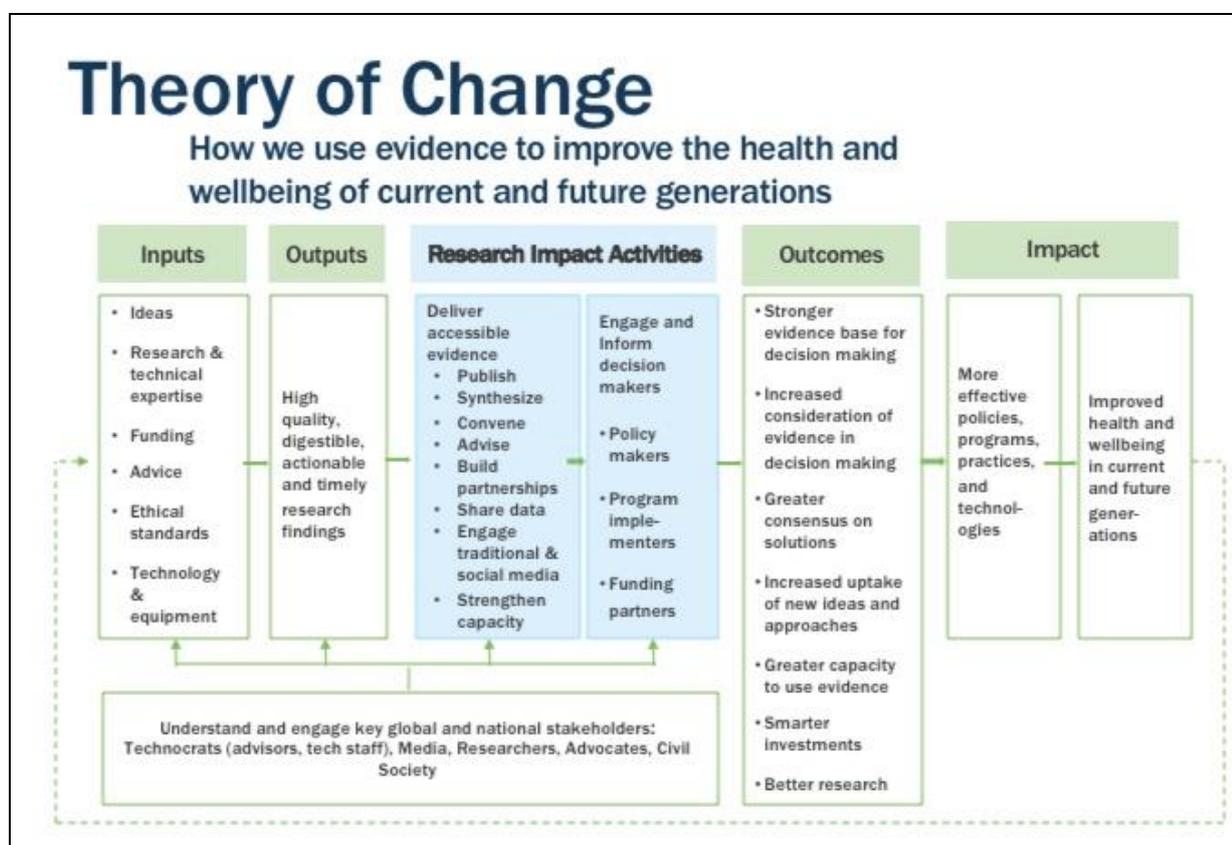
Partner name <i>What is the name of the partner?</i>	Core business <i>What is the main business, interest and goal of the partner?</i>	Importance <i>How important is the programme for the partner's activity-level (Low, medium high)?</i>	Influence <i>How much influence does the partner have over the programme (low, medium, high)?</i>	Contribution <i>What will be the partner's main contribution?</i>	Capacity <i>What are the main issues emerging from the assessment of the partner's capacity?</i>	Exit strategy <i>What is the strategy for exiting the partnership?</i>
Population Council	Research in population, health and development	Medium. The Population Council has a diversified donor base with governmental and private donors. The project will enable the Population Council to further build on other activities to maximize impact	High. The Population Council will manage the delivery of project outputs.	The Population Council is the only partner thus contributing all results.	Strong capacity with expertise in the particular research agendas addressed by the project.	The Population has a diversified donor base and will be able to continue operations and activities building on the project results following end of the project.

Annex 3: Theory of Change

The use of research evidence in policy making is crucial for making effective investment decisions. The project’s theory of change posits that the production and dissemination of rigorous research evidence, if used by influential decision makers, can lead to improvements in the health and wellbeing of populations. The types of evidence that are needed include:

- Analysis of basic demographic and health data and the underlying causes of observed patterns and trends, especially among vulnerable populations,
- Development and testing of new and better tools and technologies, and
- Testing and evaluation of evidence-based programmatic approaches and policies at scale.

Through the Population Council’s presence in over 50 countries, it’s researchers tap into global trends and local policies that inform the development of relevant research questions and timely data and evidence. The Population Council’s has relationships with key decision-makers that can be included in the evidence generation process from the onset to engage and understand data and to ensure that the project will deliver relevant and accessible evidence. In addition to traditional modes of evidence dissemination (e.g., events, engagement stakeholders, presentation, briefs, and peer-reviewed publications), the Population Council is also making access to high-quality data and research findings open and transparent and engaging key decision-makers and strategic partners, including funding partners and citizens and communities. As an organisation, the Population Council recognizes that change will not occur unless research, and its implications for policies and programs, is effectively communicated to policy makers. As such, ensuring that research has its intended impact means that it does not end with publications in peer-reviewed journals. Research findings must be communicated in a range of formats and in person where the findings and their interpretation can be brought to bear on policy questions.



Over the past few years, the Population Council has been making deliberate efforts towards open science by sharing methodologies, tools, data, and findings through the Harvard Dataverse and creating the Adolescent Data Hub, so this information is available to use for research, advocacy, and policy/program designs. The Population Council has also made evidence and tools more accessible to the end-users by creating one-stop-shop online portals on different topics: [Evidence for Gender and Education Resource \(EGER\)](#); [BuildCommunityForGirls](#) (intentional design for girl-centred programs); the [Gender and Power Metrics](#) database; and, [Evidence Consortium on Women's Groups](#). Collectively, these efforts are aimed at making data, insights, research and evidence more accessible and easily understood by decision makers, researchers, advocates, policy-makers, and programmers.

The activities conducted will contribute to the production, translation, and use of research for evidence-based policymaking, and, ultimately to enhanced political commitment to programming and policy that reduces poverty and improves economic growth, and greater, better targeted, financial investments.

Annex 4: Results Framework

Engagement Title		Contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by investing in adolescent girls and young women (AGYW)	
Outcome		The project contributes to the achievement of the SDG5 with an overall strategic goal of promotion of gender equality through its twofold thematic objective: iii) Through evidence based research to get a better understanding on what programmes and policies related to AGYW have the biggest influence on population dynamics and the interface with climate change. iv) And to improve understanding on interface between climate change, AGYW and population dynamics.	
Outcome indicator		Number of global or national policies, strategic plans, and/or guidelines influenced by the evidence and tools generated by this development engagement	
Baseline	Year	July 2020	Substantial gaps in actionable evidence and tools needed by policy makers to make effective and strategic investments
Target	Year	December 2022	Five policies, strategic plans, and/or guidelines influenced by the evidence and tools generated by this development engagement (recognizing the risks laid out in Annex 5 – not least risks under 1.2 –of the Risk Matrix)

Output 1		An evidence-based framework outlining investment opportunities that optimizes adolescents’ transitions to adulthood to accelerate progress for adolescents, their families, and communities.	
Output indicator		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of evidence reviews completed • Number of evidence briefs published • Number of events/webinars/briefings held • Number of downloads of evidence reviews/briefs • Number of citations/mentions in policy documents 	
Baseline	Year	July 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 reviews completed • 0 briefs published • 0 events/webinars/briefings held
Target	Year 1	By July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An evidence-based framework is developed • 2 reviews completed • 2 briefs published • 1 event/webinar/briefing held with stakeholders • 150 downloads of evidence reviews/briefs • 2 citations/mentions in policy documents
Target	Year 2	By July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 reviews completed • 4 briefs published • 2 events/webinars/briefings held with stakeholders • 300 downloads of evidence reviews/briefs • 4 citations/mentions in policy documents
Target	Year 3	By December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 reviews completed • 5 briefs published • 3 events/webinars/briefings held

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 400 downloads of evidence reviews/briefs • 6 citations/mentions in policy documents
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Output 2		Scale up the <i>Adolescent Atlas for Action</i> to 15 ODA countries for better data and evidence use for investment in adolescents.	
Output indicator		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A³ expanded to include 15 ODA countries (low and middle income countries) • Number of unique visitors per month • % of return users per month • Number of decision-makers reference A³ in their work 	
Baseline	Year	July 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 countries • 100 unique visitors per month • 10% of return users per month • 2 decision-makers reference A³
Target	Year 1	By July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 countries • 150 unique visitors per month • 12% of return users per month • 5 decision-makers reference A³
Target	Year 2	By July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 countries • 180 unique visitors per month • 15% of return users per month • 12 decision-makers reference A³
Target	Year 3	By December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 countries • 200 unique visitors per month • 18% of return users per month • 15 decision-makers reference A³

Output 3		A suite of research products that further the world's understanding of the relationship between adolescents, population dynamics, and climate change.	
Output indicator		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of reports/papers completed • Number of briefs published • Number of events/webinars/briefings held • Number of downloads of evidence reviews/briefs • Number of citations/mentions in policy documents 	
Baseline	Year	July 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 reports/papers published • 0 briefs published • 0 events/webinars/briefings held with stakeholders
Target	Year 1	By July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 reports/papers published • 3 briefs published • 2 events/webinars/briefings held with stakeholders • 150 downloads of reports/papers/briefs • 2 citations/mentions in policy documents

Target	Year 2	By July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 reports/papers published • 6 briefs published • 4 events/webinars/briefings held with stakeholders • 300 downloads of evidence reviews/briefs • 4 citations/mentions in policy documents
Target	Year 3	By December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 reports/papers published • 8 briefs published • 5 events/webinars/briefings held with stakeholders • 400 downloads of evidence reviews/briefs • 6 citations/mentions in policy documents

Outcome indicator: Number of global or national policies, strategic plans, and/or guidelines for investments in OECD-DAC eligible countries influenced by the evidence and tools generated by this project.

- **Output 1:** An evidence-based framework outlining investment opportunities in OECD-DAC eligible countries that optimizes adolescents' transitions to adulthood to accelerate progress for adolescents, their families, and communities.

Activities include research findings targeted national and sub-national policymakers, multilateral stakeholders, researchers and donors. The Population Council will develop recommendations pointing to the most effective interventions and investments and the impact of delivering those for optimizing adolescents' successful transition to adulthood.

This research agenda will build on the Population Council's extensive research and draw on an existing body of scientific evidence across disciplines. Through systematized literature reviews and secondary data analyses, this framework will set out a roadmap for investments for policy and decision makers, identify evidence gaps for researchers, and provide data for what works for implementers to ensure future generations of healthy and productive adolescents and young people. The goal is to document the priority interventions, and the strategic timing of those.

The Population Council will build upon relations with international and national experts. At the global level, the Population Council will intentionally identify and engage the key players to ensure activities remains interdisciplinary and innovative—these include academics, think tanks, UN agencies, and other research institutions. At the national level, the Population Council will continue to engage with national and sub-national governments, implementers, advocates, and researchers in target countries.

Products under this output include: a series of peer-reviewed publications; programmatic, policy and research briefs and guidelines that meet the needs of specific and different audiences. In addition, infographics, blogs and videos will be developed to reach a wider range of stakeholders.

- **Output 2** – Scale up the *Adolescent Atlas for Action* to 15 ODA countries for better data and evidence use for investment in adolescents in these countries.

The project will enable the Population Council to scale up the ***Adolescent Atlas for Action (A³)*** – an online analytical tool that produces insights on the vulnerabilities and opportunities for investment in adolescents and young people as a resource for key decision-makers at sub-national, national, regional and global levels.

With seed funding from the Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), the Population Council’s [GIRL Center](#) is developing a prototype for the A³ in partnership with local stakeholders in India and Kenya. The additional 13 countries will have a focus on Sub-Saharan Africa and will be selected in agreement between the Population Council and the MFA. The scaling up of the Atlas will be on a gradual basis. The prototype is expected to be completed in 2020. Activities done have included: i) consultation of evidence users at national and sub-national levels; ii) synthesizing a database to build the back-end for A³; and, iii) assessed demand for the product; availability of adequate sub-national and standardized data; whether A³ fills a product gap; and interests from other donors. Through this consultative process, important learnings for scale-up have been extracted and will feed into further refining the propotype. The countries to be included in 2021 will be agreed upon before commencement of project activities while countries included in 2022 will be finally selected in 2021 to ensure high relevance at the time of implementation.

During this project, the Population Council will:

- 1) Expand the quick analytics currently available to a broader group of 15 ODA countries, during the lifetime of the project;
- 2) Expand the data visualization to a wider range of complex challenges facing adolescents and young people; and,
- 3) Integrate the products into the Population Council’s [GIRL Center](#) website and develop tools for automatic updates of the quick analytics to support sustainability.

Despite important gaps⁸, sources of data on the lives of adolescents is growing and increasingly openly available⁹. By integrating data available through the GIRL Centre’s [Adolescent Data Hub](#), the largest open data portal on adolescents and young people, the A³ will provide a more unified picture of the lives of adolescents and young people, revealing complex trends, vulnerabilities, and opportunities. A³ will provide an opportunity to integrate indicators across different SDGs. With these insights, decision-makers can use the A³ as a compass for directing their investments more strategically.

➤ **Output 3** – A suite of research products that further the world’s understanding of the relationship between adolescents, population dynamics, and climate change.

The work under this output will facilitate a more effective and evidence-informed response to the drivers and consequences of climate change. This aims to promote increased policy responses that reflects the interface of climate change, population dynamics, and SRHR. The Population Council will provide information that makes clear the interactions between them and recommendations for appropriate and effective policy and program responses.

The Population Council will produce a suite of research products – including papers, reports and briefings of policy makers and other stakeholders either in person or via webinars – using and combining existing data sets to assess:

1. The impact of shifts in the behaviour of AGYW as they transition to adulthood (e.g., staying in school longer, delaying marriage and childbearing, reducing unintended pregnancies) on a range of economic and socio-demographic factors including labour force participation, economic growth, inequality, population growth, and the environment. Where possible, the Population Council will assess these impacts at the global, country, and sub-national levels.
2. The effects of the environment, including climate change and urbanization, on the health and well-being of AGYW, including their ability to realize their sexual and reproductive health goals. These effects may range from negative maternal health outcomes to increased risk of vector-borne diseases to reduced access to schooling and labour force participation. The ways in which gender

⁸ <https://data2x.org/pressroom/gender-data-gaps-are-just-the-start-of-the-conversation/>

⁹ See, for example: <https://odin.opendatawatch.com/Report/countryProfile/ETHAppConfigId=4>

norms interact with the effects of climate change to shape the health and well-being of AGYW will be a focus of the analyses.

3. The costs and cost-effectiveness of investments in AGYW. As policymakers weigh the benefits of investing in AGYW, these analyses provide a basis for decision-making within the limited resources available.

In addition to the above quantitative indicators, which are directly attributable to the work under this project, the Population Council will document more qualitative "signs of success". In particular, the Population Council will seek to show how the research and evidence from this project contributes to the evolving conversation and investments among stakeholders regarding these issues. The Population Council will examine both the mechanisms by which research influences change, as well as the impact. The Population Council will share observations, lessons learned, and best practices with the MFA through regular schedule of dialogue and reporting.

Annex 5: Budget Details

This document provides a project overview at the output level. In addition, the Population Council will forward detailed budget and work-plans to MFA for approval prior to commencement of activities.

	Budget in DKK million
Project : Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by investing in adolescent girls and young women	25,000,000 DKK
Output 1	9,840,474 DKK
Output 2	6,894,967 DKK
Output 3	8,264,559 DKK
Contingencies (normally not exceeding 5 % of the above)	
Subtotal Development engagement 1	25,000,000 DKK
Grand total	25,000,000 DKK

	2020	2021	2022	Total
Engagement 1	4,173,172	10,967,232	9,859,596	25,000,000 DKK
- Output 1	1,801,965	4,482,134	3,556,375	9,840,474 DKK
- Output 2	758,403	3,113,547	3,023,017	6,894,967 DKK
- Output 3	1,612,804	3,371,551	3,280,204	8,264,559 DKK
Grand total	4,173,172	10,967,232	9,859,596	25,000,000 DKK

Overview of Total costs and co-funding

The tables below separate direct costs per output from overhead costs, whereas summary tables on p. 1 (above) show direct costs and indirect costs (overhead) as a single figure broken out by the 3 outputs. This leads to lower amounts per output presented below compared to tables on p. 1.

Cost in DKK			
Activity	Total cost	MFA funding	Other funding (amount and source)
Output 1	DKK 18,794,270	DKK 7,846,642	DKK 5,375,548 - Gates Foundation (secured) DKK 2,808,244 - Echidna Foundation (anticipated) DKK 2,763,836 - Hewlett Foundation (anticipated)
Output 2	DKK 12,407,103	DKK 5,497,940	DKK 4,100,872 - Hewlett Foundation (anticipated) DKK 1,248,128 - CIFF (secured) DKK 1,560,163 - CIFF (anticipated)
Output 3	DKK 17,537,660	DKK 6,590,032	DKK 6,864,710 - Population Council Funds (secured) DKK 4,082,918 - anonymous/private funding (anticipated)
<i>Sub total</i>	DKK 48,739,033	DKK 19,934,615	DKK 28,804,419
Overhead	DKK 12,300,694	DKK 5,065,385	DKK 7,235,309
Total	DKK 61,039,726	DKK 25,000,000	DKK 36,039,728

Cost in USD			
Activity	Total cost	MFA funding	Other funding (amount and source)
Output 1	\$2,737,810	\$1,143,041	\$783,070 - Gates Foundation (secured) \$409,084 - Echidna Foundation (anticipated) \$402,615 - Hewlett Foundation (anticipated)
Output 2	\$1,807,375	\$800,899	\$597,385 - Hewlett Foundation (anticipated) \$181,818 CIFF (secured) \$227,273 CIFF (anticipated)
Output 3	\$2,554,756	\$959,987	\$1,000,000 - Population Council Funds (secured) \$594,769 - anonymous/private funding (anticipated)
<i>Sub total</i>	\$7,099,941	\$2,903,927	\$4,196,014
Overhead	\$1,791,874	\$737,888	\$1,053,986
Total	\$8,891,814	\$3,641,814	\$5,250,000

The budgeted direct costs (i.e., costs budgeted under each of the three outputs) are fully loaded to recover all costs necessary to successfully implement the project. "Direct costs" are costs that can be unequivocally attributed to a specific activity. Direct costs include: (i) all costs related to the actual time devoted by the Population Council staff for the implementation and the management of the activities; (ii) the proportionate share of related costs of fringe benefits and other directly apportioned costs for personnel whose specific inputs are required; (iii) supplies purchased for project activities; (iv) additional program management costs providing technical support, quality control, supervision and management of the project technical and administrative staff necessary to achieve the results.

General Staffing: This budget includes the costs for the Program Director to provide leadership of this effort within the Population Council and in collaboration with the MFA including technical guidance to the research, supervision of staff and administrative support. In addition to leads for each

output area, the Population Council has identified researchers to contribute to each output on an as needed basis. Research experts involved in each output will include Population Council researchers (from HQ and offices in ODA countries), as well as researchers from partner organisations with complementary expertise.

- 1) **Output 1** – An evidence-based framework outlining investment opportunities that optimizes adolescents’ transitions to adulthood to accelerate progress for adolescents, their families, and communities

Total budget for Output 1 – 9,840,474 DKK

The Population Council has estimated the cost of developing a systematic evidence framework and conducting data analyses and evidence synthesis. This cost primarily reflects staff time to do this work, and the Population Council is leveraging existing funding from other donors, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Echidna Giving and William & Flora Hewlett Foundation.

- 2) **Output 2** – Scale up of the Population Council’s *Adolescent Atlas for Action* to 15 OECD-DAC eligible countries for better data and evidence use for investment in adolescents;

Total budget for Output 2 – 6,894,967 DKK

The Population Council has estimated the costs of scaling up the A³ to 15 OECD-DAC eligible countries, including the costs of conducting interviews on user experience of the prototype with global and national key stakeholders. The primary costs are staff time, travel, data collection, analyses and synthesis, meetings, and building out the web-based platform. This output leverages funding from the Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF).

- 3) **Output 3** – A suite of research products that further the world’s understanding of the relationship between adolescents, population dynamics, and climate change.

Total budget for output 3 – 8,670,694 DKK

The Population Council has estimated the cost of secondary analyses of existing data and open access fees for publications. This cost primarily reflects staff time to do this work and is co-funded by a special allocation from the Population Council’s investment in the PERCC initiative.

Annex 6: Risk Management Matrix

1. Contextual Risks

Risk Factor	Likelihood	Impact	Risk response	Residual risk	Background to assessment
1.1 COVID-19 pandemic impacts staff safety and/or ability to achieve intended outcomes	High	Low	The Population Council has a COVID-19 Response Team that meets regularly to monitor and make decisions on issues related to the pandemic. Among these, the Population Council closed its offices globally and suspended travel and any program activities involving face-to-face interaction.	Most of the proposed activities can be done through these new working conditions, and the Project Council's IT infrastructure and management teams have developed a wealth of resources to facilitate working remotely. Activities involving stakeholder engagement, such as planning for scale-up of A ³ , may initially need to be done virtually.	The COVID-19 pandemic has upended the traditional ways of working and requires new measures to ensure the health and safety of both researchers and research participants. Given the uncertainty of the pandemic's impact in both the short- and longer-term, it is difficult to predict when and whether we will return to business as usual. The proposed activities are considered relatively low risk because most of the work is secondary analysis and will be desk-based. Given the 30-month project duration, the hope is that the situation will stabilize early enough that by the time of dissemination it will be able to conduct activities in-person in the relevant settings. If not, the Population Council has demonstrated for other projects how these can be done remotely.
1.2. Project outputs are not used by decision makers	Low	High	The Population will leverage it's longstanding relationships with governments, service delivery organizations, donors, and other relevant stakeholders. Early conversations with end-users will secure buy-in and ensure evidence will respond to their needs.	Subsequent, ongoing consultation will identify potential uptake barriers so that necessary adjustments can be met. Outputs will be produced in range of engaging and accessible formats with change-focused content.	The project's ability to achieve real impact is contingent on political commitment. A change in government, for example, can result in a more or less supportive political environment. The project products will be communicated in a range of formats and in person where the findings and their interpretation can be brought to bear on policy questions. It should also be recognized that some policy-level change may take place after the completion of this 30-month development engagement, given the time requirements often needed to yield this level of change, and the cyclical nature of some policies and strategic plans.

2. Programmatic risks

Risk Factor	Likelihood	Impact	Risk response	Residual risk	Background to assessment
2.1 Inappropriate or poor research design or outputs	Low	High	The Population Council has standard procedures to ensure the both the ethical conduct and high quality of research. As described in the project document the Project Director will review research plans	Adhering to these procedures will avoid any residual risk.	As a research institution, the Population Council is adept at ensuring high quality research conforming to the highest ethical standards. The Population Council has an Institutional Review Board (IRB), whose membership and structure adhere to the guidelines issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. As the proposed activities do not include primary data collection, they will not require

			and project outputs to ensure they are scientifically sound.		full IRB review. The Population Council will submit plans to the IRB to obtain a determination that they are non-research and/or do not involve human subjects.
2.2. Poor quality outputs which do not meet the funders expectations	Low	High	The project will be co-led by some of the Population Council's most senior staff that will directly contribute to the work and quality assure all outputs	Adhering to standard quality assurance procedures will avoid any residual risk.	The Population Council has rigorous quality assurance processes in place to ensure high standards are met. The Population Council is known for it's ability to attract, develop, and retain high calibre staff who directly contribute to and enhance the overall quality of the Population Council's work.

3. Institutional risks

Risk Factor	Likelihood	Impact	Risk response	Residual risk	Background to assessment
3.1 Bribery, fraud, or corruption involving funds causes reputational damage and/or lost funds	Low	High	Stringent financial management; Whistle-blower policy; training for staff; due diligence and monitoring for local partners; procurement policies; enterprise resource planning system; signing authority matrix; subcontracts require compliance with anti-bribery and corruption procedures; internal and external audits.	Residual risk is minimized given the Population Council's comprehensive systems and policies.	The Population Council has a well-developed, tightly-adhered-to financial management system for ensuring financial accountability for its work worldwide. The Population Council also has an established Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) structure and processes through which they routinely identify, assess, mitigate, monitor, and address potential organizational risks, including financial risks, and continually identify, assess, manage, and monitor the risks associated with conducting research and operational activities. The most recent (2018) independent financial audit by KPMG noted no transactions by the Population Council that were both significant and unusual or transactions for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.
3.2 The Population Council does not meet the conditions for a disbursement of funds	Low	Medium	Realistic work planning, regular project monitoring and communication with MFA, and robust financial management systems.	If necessary, the Population Council will draw on it's unrestricted funding to mitigate changes in anticipated timing of payments so that project funding and delivery are not adversely affected.	The proposal details management structure, quality assurance, and dialogue plans, which will collectively ensure smooth implementation and continuity of the work.

Annex 7: Communication Plan

Engagement title: Contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by investing in adolescent girls and young women (AGYW)

Key Messages:

- Investing in AGYW advances global development goals, in particular, the UN SDGs and Denmark's priorities for development cooperation;
- Evidence-based approaches are essential to inform decision-making around the strategies for healthy transitions from adolescence to adulthood and to drive more strategic investments in AGYW;
- AGYW, population dynamics, and climate change interact in complex ways. Unpacking and understanding these dynamics facilitates policies and programs that can limit the magnitude and rate of global warming, create adaptive approaches to a changing environment, build resilience, and promote sexual and reproductive health (SRH).

Audiences:

- Policymakers, implementers, advocates, researchers, donors and other bilateral as well as multilateral development stakeholders at national and global levels. These will be refined further as the evidence is synthesized, produced, and shared.

Strategies:

- Engage key partners, and end-users of research and evidence, early and often to update on plans, invite feedback, and ensure evidence and outputs respond to needs;
- Ensure accessibility of research and outputs including open data through Dataverse and the Adolescent Data Hub, actionable insights through *Adolescent Atlas for Action (A³)* for decision makers, synthesize global evidence, and open access scientific publications;
- Leverage platforms where key audiences engage, including conferences, online platforms, development publications, to showcase evidence base and increase awareness and uptake of research, evidence and recommendations;
- Develop intentional media and social media strategies to inform broader audiences about the challenges and opportunities related to investments in AGYW, and project findings;
- Utilize upcoming milestones like the UN General Assembly (UNGA), the 2021 International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP), and Women Deliver to "launch" outputs, insights and perspectives and make the case for evidence-based investment in AGYW and deciphering the links between adolescents, population dynamics and climate change.
- Engage with key policymakers and different types of decision makers through national dialogue and strategic, one-on-one meetings

When (the timing):

Year 1 (July 2020 – July 2021)

- As soon as practical (in light of COVID-19) and as often as required (but no less than annually), hold open events in Denmark for officials, cooperation partners, private and civil society actors, and the general public to generate awareness of this work, and interest in international development more broadly, and elicit input to further guide the project outputs;
- Develop specific strategies and plans for UNGA 2021, ICFP 2021 and Women Deliver 2022;
- Resurface (and as needed repackage) seminal pieces of research and raise the profile of 20+ years of work done by the Population Council about the case that investing in AGYW is a smart investment to achieve global health, social and economic progress;
- Segment key audiences and refine communications/dissemination channel(s) to reach them;

- Share draft evidence framework (output 1) with a selection of researchers and policymakers for feedback.

Year 2 (July 2021 – July 2022)

- Mid-point project update presentation to Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Dissemination side event based on first full year of work under this project during UNGA – September 2021;
- Dissemination side event at ICFP – November 2021.

Year 3 (July 2022 –December 2022 (6 months))

- Dissemination side event at Women Deliver Conference (date TBC)
- Recommendations/roadmap shared with decision-makers for investment, possible side event at UNGA – September 2022
- Close out of the grant with presentation to Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, final publication and webinar with key takeaways

How (the mechanism):

- Evidence reviews, evidence briefs, reports, peer-reviewed publications, webinars; Population Council newsletter; social media (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn); blogs; briefings, presentations at international conferences and meetings

Annex 8: Process Action Plan (PAP)

Action/product	Deadlines	Responsible/involved Person and unit
Develop project documents	15 May	Population council; Denmark MFA (Lena, Siv)
MFA review of project documents and adjustments. Sharing with MFA colleagues for internal hearing and appraisal	29 May	MFA in dialogue with Pop. Council
MFA internal hearing	11 June	MFA
Appraisal report	15 June	MFA, Birthe Elizabeth Larsen
Finalise project documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appropriation for cover note - Project document - Partner agreement - Quality Assurance Checklist 	16 June	MFA, possible dialogue with Pop Council
Approval by GJL management	18 June	MFA
Approval by Under Secretary. Documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appropriation for cover note - Project document + annexes - Signed Quality Assurance Checklist 	23 June	MFA
Approval by Minister. Documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cover note 	26 June	MFA
Release contribution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grant letter - Register commitment in MFA system - Payment request - Process payment 	1 July	MFA. Payment request submitted by Pop Council.

Annex 9 - Quality Assurance checklist for appraisal of programmes and projects¹

File number/F2 reference: 2020-1432

Programme/Project name: Contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals by Investing in Adolescent Girls and Young Women

Programme/Project period: 01.07.2019-31.12.2022

Budget: 25.000.000 DKK

Presentation of quality assurance process:

The draft documents have been shared with the GJL internal programme committee consisting of colleagues from the GJL department, a colleague from APD department, and a colleague from GDI department. The committee has given recommendations to the finalisation of the project design, which also worked as input to an appraisal conducted by a development specialist. The appraisal was more brief than usual which was considered acceptable due to the size of the project, the non-complexity and the partner's good track-record from previous engagements.

The design of the programme/project has been appraised by someone independent who has not been involved in the development of the programme/project.

Comments: Yes. Appraisal by development specialist Birthe Elisabeth Larsen, GJL department

The recommendations of the appraisal has been reflected upon in the final design of the programme/project.

Yes.

Summary of Recommendations and answers:

1: The project document be revisited and updated to take on-board the appraisal comments, at the same time aiming at tightening and focusing the text.

- The project document has been revised and all appraisal comments taken on-board whole also making the text more tight, reducing text considerably while maintaining all relevant details. At the same time the name of the project was made more clear by specifying that the project 'contributes to' instead of 'achieving' the SDGs.*

2: Information on the total cost of the project, with indications of the cost as per output and information on cofunders and whether funds from other sources are secured or yet to be sourced.

- Budget information summarized in the project document with additional information in tables are added to the budget in the annex format reflecting the information requested.*

¹ This Quality Assurance Checklist should be used by the responsible MFA unit to document the quality assurance process of appropriations where TQS is not involved. The checklist does not replace an appraisal, but aims to help the responsible MFA unit ensure that key questions regarding the quality of the programme/project are asked and that the answers to these questions are properly documented and communicated to the approving authority.

3: The commitment letter (agreement with) specify the reporting requirements and frequencies and stipulates the Danish requirement for possibility to exercise quality control

- This will be reflected in the grant agreement.

The programme/project complies with Danida policies and Aid Management Guidelines.

Comments: Yes.

The programme/project addresses relevant challenges and provides adequate responses.

Comments: Yes. The project directly contributes to the Danish development policy objective to reverse the global population trend and promote gender equality for young girls and women and securing their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Issues related to HRBA/Gender, Green Growth and Environment have been addressed sufficiently.

Comments: The project has a rights based approach taking outset in girls' and women's rights to decide over their own bodies. Gender perspective is central to the project which has as it's aim to inform investments in women and girls that promote gender equality. Environment is addressed through the project output three which focuses on how population dynamics impact climate change.

Comments from the Danida Programme Committee have been addressed (if applicable).

Comments: Programme Committee was not consulted as this is not required for the size of project. Instead, the GJL internal programme committee consulted. Recommendations are listed below and are all taken on board in the revised project document:

- Develop indicator on policy change (documents, strategies, other) as the overall goal,
- Better justification of the choice of partner; demonstrate comparative value compared to other organisations,
- Better demonstrate how the project fits into the partner (Population Council) strategic framework,
- Clearer description of the research focus in the climate change component,
- More elaboration of current status and lessons learned from piloting "Atlas for Action" output 2,
- More detail needed in the budget, especially specifying levels of co-funding for each output,

The programme/project outcome(s) are found to be sustainable and is in line with the partner's development policies and strategies. Implementation modalities are well described and justified.

Comments: Yes. The outcomes are in line with the partner's strategic framework. The partner will be able to sustain the outputs after project closure.

The results framework, indicators and monitoring framework of the programme/project provide an adequate basis for monitoring results and outcome.

Comments: The indicators are clear and measurable and capture result and outcome level.

The programme/project is found sound budget-wise.

Comments: The costs are considered reasonable for the planned results. Private foundations cofound the project. Denmark's contribution to the project is about 40% of the indicative total budget.

The programme/project is found realistic in its time-schedule.

Comments: Yes. Since the project is mainly secondary research, synthesising existing resources, the 30 months project duration is considered realistic.

Other donors involved in the same programme/project have been consulted, and possible harmonised common procedures for funding and monitoring have been explored.

Comments: There are no other governmental donors to the project. Management, administration and monitoring will be by and based on partner's policies, procedures and systems. Possible common reporting for all funders will be explored with the partner.

Key programme/project stakeholders have been identified, the choice of partner has been justified and criteria for selection have been documented.

Comments: Yes. Project stakeholders (end-users of project output) are policy makers and investors in development activities, including governmental donors, multilateral agencies and governments in targeted developing countries. The choice of partner has been justified and selection criteria described in annex 2 – partners.

The executing partner(s) is/are found to have the capacity to properly manage, implement and report on the funds for the programme/project and lines of management responsibility are clear.

Comments: Yes. The partner has in previous partnerships demonstrated solid capacity, including management and accountability, for similar projects. The management and administration modality is elaborated in the project document.

Risks involved have been considered and risk management integrated in the programme/project document.

Comments: Yes. Risks are described in the risk matrix which also outlines mitigation strategies.

In conclusion, the programme/project can be recommended for approval: Yes

Date and signature of desk officer: 20.06.2020



Siv Behrendt

Date and signature of appraiser: 22.06.2020



Birthe Elisabeth Larsen

Date and signature of management:



Signe Skovbakke Winding Albjerg

Annex: Desk Appraisal Report

Annex: Desk Appraisal Report

Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Danida

Internal Desk Appraisal

of

**Support to Population Council in support of: Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals
by Investing in Adolescent Girls and Young Women**

F2: 2020 – 1432

Final: 16 June 2020

Disclaimer: This report is an internal document presenting the observations and proposals of the desk assessment of the support to Population Council for the project 'Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by Investing in Adolescent Girls and Young Women'. The report provides input to GJL in the further work on finalising the documentation for decision on the project proposal. The views and recommendations presented in this report are those of the appraisal/assessor, which may not necessarily correspond to the views of GJL management.

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Abbreviations

AGYW	Adolescents Girls and Young Women
APD	Africa, Policy and Development
AT	Assessment Team
DA	Desk Appraiser
DED	Development Engagement Document
DKK	Danish Kroner
E&S	Environmental and Social Safeguards
ELK	Evaluation, Learning and Quality
FASB	Financial Accounting Standards Board
FRU	Financial Management and Support (Development)
GAAP	US generally accepted accounting standards
GC	Governing Committee
GDI	Green Diplomacy
GJL	Sustainable Investments, Jobs and Equal Opportunities
HRBA	Human Rights Based Approach
IP	Implementing Partner
LMIC	Low and Middle Income Countries
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
OM	Operations Manual
PANT	Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination, Transparency
PAP	Process Action Plan
PC	Programme Committee
RF	Results Frame
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
ToC	Theory of Change
US	United States
USD	United States Dollars

Executive Summary

The project proposal is for a DKK 25 million contribution to the Population Council to enable the organisation to scale up its research work on how population dynamics influences the world's development. The work will build on already existing research and synthesise this and make research results available in a user-friendly and action-oriented way. The target groups for dissemination of the work are policy makers and investors in development. The assumption underpinning the project is that by making research results and guidance notes available and action oriented, the outputs from the project will contribute to better, evidence based, policies and investments decisions leading to enhanced and better results from development programmes targeting adolescents girls and young women.

The project is relevant and aligned with the Danish development priorities as set out in 'The World 2030'; specifically the vision of placing '*sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls at the centre of our work*', and it is embedded in the Population Council's strategic vision to 'increase understanding of demographic trends and their consequences for human welfare and the environment, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.' Further, the project speaks directly to the African Union's roadmap on "Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth", which was adopted in January 2017.

The project documentation has been subjected to appraisal during the period 8 – 15 June 2020. Considering the non-complexity and size of the project and the proven positive track record of the partner, a well-known international research institution, it was decided to conduct the appraisal as a light desk appraisal to be conducted by GJL staff not involved in the preparation of the project. Birthe Elisabeth Larsen, senior consultant in GJL jobs-team, carried out the assessment. The appraisal has benefitted from comments provided by the GJL internal programme committee (meeting on 11th June 2020).

The appraisal does not provide detailed recommendation to the project document, but has constrained itself to the provision of a very few key recommendations with suggestions for strengthening of the project document text provided below in this report. The overall conclusion of the desk appraisal is that the proposed programme "**Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by Investing in Adolescent Girls and Young Women**" is relevant for being financed from the Danish development budget frame and that the project proposal is ready to be presented to management for approval, subject to revision of the project document as proposed in this report.

Summary of Recommendations:

1: The project document be revisited and updated to take on-board the appraisal comments, at the same time aiming at tightening and focusing the text.

2: Information on the total cost of the project, with indications of the cost as per output and information on cofounders and whether funds from other sources are secured or yet to be sourced.

3: The commitment letter (agreement with) specify the reporting requirements and frequencies and stipulates the Danish requirement for possibility to exercise quality control

1. Introduction

Denmark is an active player in the international community advocating for girls and women's rights and provides substantial financial support to organisations with mandates to promote the health and rights of women and girls. The proposed project is a DKK 25 million contribution to the Population Council to enable the organisation to scale up its research work on how population dynamics influences the world's developments. Specifically the project will support Population Council's work in synthesising existing knowledge on population dynamics and make this available in a user-friendly manner to policy makers and investors in development activities for attaining the SDGs.

The assumption is that through a better understanding of how the population dynamics - especially better understanding of how adolescent girls' access to sexual and reproductive health services influences the size of the population and how this impact development, environment, and climate - policy makers and investors will make evidence based decisions that will lead to increased results from investments in development projects.

The purpose of the appraisal is to provide quality assurance of the design and documentation of the programme in accordance with the Aid Management Guidelines. The appraisal has been conducted applying a rapid assessment approach, which entails a work-process conducted by GJL staff (not part of the Team Equal Opportunities) and entirely based on desk review of existing documentation, interviews with GJL resource person, and peer reviewers comments and inputs provided in the GJL internal programme committee. The existing documentation, which the appraiser finds sufficient and relevant, has provided the evidence basis for the rapid quality assessment; first-hand evidence, as normally collected by an appraisal team in the field, including first-hand assessment of the capacity of potential partners, has thus not been part of the assessment. The appraisal has benefitted from comments provided by the GJL internal programme committee (meeting on 11th June 2020).

It is known from several years of cooperation with Population Council that the organisation delivers solid management and has all required procedures in place for meeting the Danish grant management requirements; considering Population Council's track-record with managing Danish grants and the size and complexity of the project, GJL management has decided - after consultation with FRU - that the appraisal be a light desk appraisal conducted by resources in GJL involved in the preparation of the project. Birthe Elisabeth Larsen, senior consultant in GJL jobs-team, carried out the assessment.

2. Preparation Process

The proposed support to the Population Council is foreseen in the Finance Act for 2020 responding to a request from Population Council for support to its research work. The project document has been developed internally by GJL Team Equal without external assistance, save for the documentation and inputs received from Population Council. Throughout the preparation process there has been close consultations with the Population Council.

The project has not been presented to the Programme Committee for Development as this is not required for a project of this size and with a known partner; the project documentation has been circulated to relevant units in the MFA for comments and inputs and has been discussed in GJL's internal programme committee. Written comments received

have been shared with the desk appraiser who also participated in the internal programme committee meeting. These comments have been considered in the appraisal and will – together with this appraisal report recommendations – inform the finalisation process.

The DA finds that the preparation process has been solid and informed by a constructive dialogue between Denmark and Population Council; the partners' strategies and priorities have been respected as drivers of the project design.

3. Objective and Relevance of the Programme

3.1 Summary of the proposed programme

The objective of the project is stated as: '... to address challenges in sustainable development, including population growth, through support to AGYW'. The DA finds the objective of the project too broad and overall, and suggest to narrow it down to a thematic objective to establish a logic flow from objective over outputs to results.

The strategic aim of the engagement is stated as to conduct activities that: '... will contribute to the production, translation, and use of research for evidence-based policymaking, and, ultimately to enhanced political commitment to programming and policy that reduces poverty and improves economic growth, and greater, better targeted, financial investments.'

The project period is 30 months from July 2020. It has the following three key outputs:

- Output 1: An evidence-based framework outlining opportunities that optimizes adolescents' transitions to adulthood to accelerate progress for adolescents, their families, and communities;
- Output 2: Scale up of Population Council's *Adolescent Atlas for Action* to 15 LMICs for better data and evidence use for investment in adolescents;
- Output 3: A suite of research products that further the understanding of the relationship between adolescents, population dynamics, and climate change.

The document argues sufficiently and relevant for each of the three outputs and the links of these to the strategic aim; including arguing that a better understanding of the interactions between population dynamics and climate change is key to create the policies and programmes needed to mitigate emissions and help vulnerable populations increase their resilience to the harmful effect of climate change, priorities which are key to Denmark.

The DA notes that the document uses the term 'LMIC' (Low and Middle Income Countries) in relation to the eligible countries to be included in the Atlas (output 2) part-financed by Denmark. The DA proposes to be more specific and refer to the eligible countries as OECD-DAC eligible countries.

3.2 Relevance and Alignment

The DA agree with the argument presented in the proposal that the project is relevant and aligned with the Danish development priorities as set out in 'The World 2030'; specifically the vision of placing '*sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls at the centre of our work*'. The DA notes that the project fits well into Population Council's strategic vision to 'increase understanding of demographic trends and their consequences for human welfare and the environment, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.' While the

document sufficiently outlines the fit with the Danish development strategy, the DA finds the text in the document weak on the alignment to the Population Council's Strategic Priorities Framework and to other relevant stakeholders' strategic priorities. In Annex 2: Partners, it is stated: *The project directly aligns with expressed priorities of the African Union (AU) and its Member States most notably the AU roadmap on "Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth", which was adopted in January 2017*, an observation, which the DA finds very relevant. The DA suggest the document be enriched with text on the strategic alignment to the partner's strategy.

Denmark has a long-standing relationship with Population Council both from provision of financial support to Population Council's research as well as from other type of cooperation. The DA agrees with the observation raised in the GJL internal programme committee that the document does not provide a lot of information on what are the lessons learned from previous engagements and whether this project is a logic follow up to previous support, and suggest text on the fit between this proposed project and previous Danish support to the organisation be included in the project document.

The success of the project in relation to its ultimate goal rests on the assumption that the research will actually be used by policy makers and investors in development. There is an important advocacy role for Denmark to play in cooperation with Population Council in ensuring that the research and database ('the Atlas') not only are made public available but also made known to policy and investment makers. The DA propose the document be enhanced with text regarding Denmark's possible role in promoting the use of the outputs from the project.

4. Assessment of the Programme Document

4.1 General Quality

The project document follows the format for a project document for a single partner project. Overall the DA finds the project document complete as per the Aid Management Guidelines; together with its annexes the project document provides the necessary information and background. The document is very rich with detailed information on the subject, in some places almost repetitive and taking an advocating approach. Given the two partners' (DK & PC) expertise on the subject of SRHR, clear policies on and engagement in girls and women's rights, and considering the competences of the users of the project document, the DA suggest that the document may gain in user-friendliness by taking a straight forward approach in its presentation.

It is acknowledged that Population Council is a well-known research institution, respected on the global scene; however, the justification of the choice of partner is weak. The DA reiterate the comment made in the GJL internal programme committee that the document lacks information on why and what is the Population Council's competitive edge over other international institutions like e.g. World Bank in providing quality research on the subject of population demography. The DA finds that the justification of the choice of Population Council as a partner is weak and the criteria for selection of partner as outlined in Annex 2 are insufficient and stronger arguments for the choice of partner should be included in the project document.

It is recommended that:

1: The project document be revisited and updated to take on-board the appraisal comments, at the same time aiming at tightening and focusing the text.

4.2 Theory of Change and Results Framework

The Theory of Change (ToC) is built over the formula guiding Population Council's research work which has as a key assumption that the use of research evidence is a fundamental component of a policy-making processes. The ToC assumes that a stronger evidence base for decision making through the provision of high quality, digestible, actionable, and timely research, leads to more effective policies, programmes, practices and technologies, which leads to ultimate impact of improved health and wellbeing in current and future generations. The argument is that activities conducted will contribute to the production, translation, and use of research for evidence-based policymaking, and, ultimately to enhanced political commitment to programming and policy that reduces poverty and improves economic growth, and greater, better targeted, financial investments. Overall, the DA considers the project's ToC relevant and useful for guiding the design of the results frame, however it is suggested to shorten the ToC discussion in the main document and provide the detailed information in an annex to the project document.

Save for the earlier comment on the broad global objective, the DA finds that the results framework includes quantitative indicators directly related to and relevant for monitoring of progress in the outputs. The text states that Population Council will provide 'more qualitative' signs of success' showing how the 'research and evidence from' the project contributes to decisions-making and that observations and lessons learned will be shared with Denmark. The DA suggests that MFA engage in a dialogue with Population Council aiming at concretizing this and consider the relevance of include dissemination and use of the knowledge products, which are the direct output from the project, in the results frame.

4.3 Budget

A presentation of the budget distributed on the three outputs and across the project period is annexed to the program document. The documentation includes information on the considerations underpinning the budget. The nature of a research project of this type is that a considerable portion of the cost will cover researcher' salaries and associate costs. The documents explains that the Danish contribution covers part of the cost of the total project cost. Population Council foresees co-financing from a range of sources as follows:

- Output 1: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Echidna Giving, and William & Flora Hewlett Foundation;
- Output 2: Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF);
- Output 3: co-funded by a special allocation from the Population Council's investment in the PERCC initiative.

The total cost of the project is not listed; neither is it clear whether the funding from other sources have been secured or anticipated why the DA is not in a position to assess the reasonableness of the budget and the Danish contribution relative to the total cost.

It is recommended that:

2: Information on the total cost of the project, with indications of the cost as per output and information on cofounders and whether funds from other sources are secured or yet to be sourced.

An underlying assumption of success is that the output products from the project is brought to policy makers and investors' knowledge and use. This entails efforts in dissemination of the various knowledge products. There is no budget details included which enables the DA to assess whether sufficient considerations have been given to this in the budget estimate. However, it is understood that PC will provide detailed budget and work-plans to MFA prior to commencement of activities. The DA suggest that Team Equal Opportunities pay attention to the issue and ensures that cost of activities related to dissemination is sufficiently considered in the annual work plan and budget.

The project is fully embedded into Population Council's management structure, formally integrated into one of its programmes. The project document includes sufficient, detailed information on the management, including financial management, and identifies the staff function providing technical leadership, quality assurance, and managerial oversight.

4.4 Monitoring, Reporting, and Risk Management

The management set-up, including risk management, and the monitoring system is well described in the document. Management of the project is fully integrated into Population Council's administrative system. Monitoring of project progress will be measured through the Population Council's monitoring framework. Management, administration, and control, including financial management, follows Population Council's policies, rules, and procedures, including financial management and control procedures. The DA notes that the organisation adheres to US generally accepted accounting standards (GAAP) and applies accounting standard guidance issued by Financial Accounting Standard Board² (FASB) for financial management and reporting. The DA notes that Population Council's annual financial statement is audited by an external auditor appointed by the Board; as far back as DA has been able to access financial reports, the organisation has received clean audit opinions. The audited financial reports, which are accessible from the open web, does not break down the annual income as per source, hence it will not be possible to identify the Danish contribution in the audited financial statements, as is a requirement as per Aid Management Guidelines.

The text in the project document is insufficient on the reporting requirements, both what relates to the progress reporting, to the financial reporting, and the annual audit report. The DA finds that a short text on these requirements and a link to the relevant place on the Aid Management Guidelines web-page should be included in the project document and the key reporting requirements be reflected in the agreement with the partner.

It is important to ensure that the agreement between Population Council and Denmark is clear on the requirements for financial reporting and the Danish positions on anti-corruption

² Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) is the independent, private-sector, not-for-profit organization based in Norwalk, Connecticut, that establishes financial accounting and reporting standards for public and private companies and not-for-profit organizations that follow Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)

and safeguards, and the Danish requirements for possibility to exercise quality control in addition to the organisation's own quality assurance systems.

It is recommended that:

3: The commitment letter (agreement with) specify the reporting requirements and frequencies and stipulates the Danish requirement for possibility to exercise quality control.

5. Exit Strategy and Sustainability

A specific exit strategy for the project is not required for this simple single partner engagement. It suffices to note that Annex 2, includes information that due to Population Council's diversified donor based it will be able to continue and sustain the project outcomes after closure of the project.

6. Conclusion

The overall conclusion is that the proposed programme "**Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by Investing in Adolescent Girls and Young Women**" is ready to be presented to management for approval, subject to revision of the programme document as proposed in this report.

Annex 1 - Process Action Plan (PAP)

Action/product	Deadlines	Responsible/involved Person and unit	Comment/status
<p>Develop project documents</p> <p>Population council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project document + Annexes: - Annex 1: Context Analysis - Annex 3: Result Framework - Annex 4: Budget details - Annex 5: Risk Management Matrix - Annex 7: Plan for communication of results <p>MFA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cover Note - Annex 2: Partner 	15 May	Population council; Denmark MFA (Lena, Siv)	
MFA review of project documents and adjustments	29 May	MFA in dialogue with Pop. Council	1 week needed
<p>MFA internal hearing and appraisal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appraisal report <p>(In the meantime, Siv should start developing partner agreement)</p>	10 June	MFA	1.5 week
<p>Finalise project documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appropriation for cover note - Project document - Partner agreement - Quality Assurance Checklist 	15 June	MFA, possible dialogue with Pop Council	3 days
Approval by GJL management	17 June	MFA	2 days
<p>Approval by Under Secretary. Documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appropriation for cover note - Project document + annexes - Signed Quality Assurance Checklist 	24 June	MFA	1 week
<p>Approval by Minister. Documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cover note 	30 June	MFA	4 days
<p>Release contribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grant letter - Register commitment in MFA system - Payment request - Process payment 	3 July	MFA. Payment request submitted by Pop Council.	3 days