International Planned Parenthood Federation
UK Registered Charity No. 229476

4 Newhams Row, London
SE1 3UZ, United Kingdom

Phone +44 (0) 20 7939 8200
Email info@ippf.org
Website www.ippf.org

Indicator 8 Second-Round Study: Support to Social Movements/Marginalised Communities and Defending Activists

Terms of Reference – External Consultancy

1. Background

IPPF is a global healthcare provider and a leading advocate of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for all. Led by a courageous and determined group of women, IPPF was founded in 1952 at the Third International Planned Parenthood Conference. Today, we are a movement of Member Associations (MAs) and Collaborative Partners (CPs) (henceforth referred to collectively as 'Affiliates') with a presence in over 146 countries.

Our work is wide-ranging, including comprehensive sexuality education, provision of contraception, safe abortion, and maternal care, and responding to humanitarian crises. We pride ourselves on being local through our members and global through our networks. At the heart of our mission is the provision of, and advocacy in support of, integrated healthcare to anyone who needs it regardless of race, gender, sex, income, or how remote their location is.

IPPF's Strategy 2028, Come Together, commits the Federation to feminist, rights-based action across four strategic pillars. Under the *Solidarity for Change* pillar, the Support Social Movements pathway commits IPPF to increase support for intersectional social movements, to "join and amplify" without gatekeeping, and to "prioritise the protection of human rights defenders from opposition attacks".

This commitment is tracked through Strategy 2028 Results Framework Indicator 8, which measures IPPF's contribution to supporting social movements and defending activists. IPPF holds some evidence relevant to this indicator, but it is uneven across communities.

In 2024, IPPF commissioned the first Indicator 8 study. It was a qualitative baseline covering three Affiliates in South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Caribbean and one in Europe, with 31 participants in total.

This consultancy is the second round of Indicator 8 research. The Round 1 sample was small, and this round should broaden and diversify it, include the perspectives of social movements and activists who engage with IPPF, and establish a repeatable way of reporting on Indicator 8 through to 2028. The Solidarity for Change and Voice (S4CV) team, with support from the Performance, Learning and Impact (PLI) team, are commissioning this consultancy. The S4CV team has developed a set of research and learning questions that directly inform the scope, methodology, and resulting research (see Section 4).

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2. Objective of the Consultancy

The primary objective of this consultancy is to assess IPPF's progress and contribution in supporting social movements and defending activists, organised by community, and to provide the Federation with a repeatable approach to reporting on Indicator 8 for the rest of the Strategy period.

The consultant(s) will work across four phases:

- Phase 1: Inception and desk review
- Phase 2: Focus group discussion with community engagement leads to define social movements and confirm the communities for review
- Phase 3: Federation-wide progress review by community
- Phase 4: Key informant interviews, analysis and reporting

IPPF has developed an outline approach, set out in Section 3. Applicants should explain in their technical proposal (see Section 10) how they would deliver it and answer the research questions (Section 4), and may propose changes where these would strengthen the work. This proposed methodology is a key selection criterion. Each phase ends with an output that the co-leads review and approve before the next phase begins, so the scope can be adjusted if different priorities surface.

3. Scope of Work

Provisionally, the defined movement categories of interest for this work are:

Community	**Existing Evidence Summary from 2025 APR**
LGBTQ+	In 2025 the SOGIESC Centre of Excellence (hosted by the Danish Family Planning Association and in collaboration with Reproductive Health Uganda) mapped SOGIESC engagement across IPPF. Findings indicate that some MAs have established programmes and others face hostile political climates. Grants were made to 11 MAs.
Sex workers	The Sex Work Policy Consortium, hosted by PPAT (Thailand) with Affiliates in Thailand, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Paraguay and Colombia working alongside sex worker organizations, reported 77% partner satisfaction in a host-MA evaluation.
People who inject drugs (PWID)	This category will rely most heavily on primary data, and data from national and regional partnerships with PWID organisations.

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The consultant(s) will carry out the following activities:

Phase 1: Inception and Desk Review

- Review relevant documents, such as the 2024 Round 1 Indicator 8 report, including its findings, limitations and recommendations, and set out where this round repeats, extends or departs from it. Other relevant documents may include Strategy 2028 and its Results Framework, the 2025 APR, the SOGIESC Centre of Excellence mapping, and the Sex Work Policy Consortium evaluation.
- Map which existing data sources can be disaggregated by movement category and which cannot.
- Refine the draft progress scale/scorecard (below).
- Develop the sampling plan, data collection instruments, and an ethics and safety protocol (see Section 9).

Phase 2: Focus Group Discussion with Community Engagement Leads

- Facilitate one or two virtual focus group discussions (FGDs) with community engagement leads across IPPF, split by time zone or language if needed.
- Cover how participants define social movements and their priorities, what progress looks like in their region, how IPPF supports marginalised communities, roadblocks (political, legal, financial, internal), and current priorities and focus areas.
- Test the provisional categories (LGBTQ+ communities, sex workers, people who inject drugs) and the draft progress scale.
- Ask participants to help identify activists and movement organisations for Phase 4 through routes other than MA referral.
- Produce an FGD synthesis and a recommendation on the final communities for review, for co-lead decision.

Phase 3: Federation-wide Progress Review by Community

- For each confirmed category, assess where (a sub-set of) Affiliates and IPPF Secretariat Regional Offices sit on the progress scale, using existing reporting and, where gaps remain, a short structured data request to Regional Offices, and Affiliates issued through the ROs.
- Identify contrasting cases (strong engagement, stalled engagement, limited legal environments) to inform interview sampling.
- Where possible, compare against the position at the start of the Strategy, drawing on Round 1 and earlier reporting.
- Produce a progress mapping by community and region, with proposed interview sites.

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Draft progress scale: Levels are built from the Strategy's priority actions and 2028 commitments and are meant to describe levels of engagement. Proposals are welcome to propose edits and alternatives to the scale below, recognising that progress is not always linear.

Level	Description
0. No engagement	No working relationship with the movement.
1. Inclusive services	Services are accessible to and designed with the community.
2. Partnership	Joint advocacy, coalition membership or formal partnership.
3. Resourcing	Re-granting, funding or capacity support.
4. Amplification	IPPF channels carry community-led narratives and calls to action.
5. Protection and shared leadership	Security support, links to rapid response, and community members in decision-making roles.

Phase 4: Key Informant Interviews, Analysis and Reporting

- Carry out key informant interviews to test and deepen the Phase 3 mapping and to address contribution (RQ3) and protection (RQ4) directly, using the indicative sample below. It is anticipated that interviews will be remote; budget should not be allocated to travel.
- Code and analyse the data, applying the progress scale agreed in Phase 1.
- Answer the research questions (Section 4), comparing findings with Round 1 where the data allows, and clearly note any questions that remain only partially answerable and why.
- Present findings and incorporate feedback into the final report.
- Produce a final report with findings, recommendations, and a proposed approach and tool for annual reporting on Indicator 8, alongside a documented progress mapping dataset and coding framework that IPPF can reuse.

Group	**Proposed sample**	**Selection notes**
MA staff	4–6 staff per MA	Contrasting cases identified in Phase 3 (strong, stalled and hostile-context engagement).
RO staff, including AOCs	6	One per region, individually or in small groups. Include the European RO given the coalition and rapid response model described in Round 1.
Regional and global community-led networks	6	Network leaders with a broad view of the issues facing each community.
Community activists and movement organisations	8–12	At least three per confirmed community. Recruited through community engagement leads and movement networks, not only MA referral. Include activists who do not

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Group	Proposed sample	Selection notes
		currently work with IPPF.

4. Key Research and Learning Questions

The following questions were identified by the Indicator 8 co-leads and should directly inform the methodology proposed in the consultant's technical proposal (Section 10) and the data collection and analysis carried out in Phases 2 to 4. Applicants should address how their proposed methodology would answer these questions, and note where a question may only be partially answerable and why. Questions may be further refined upon award.

#	Research question
RQ1	How do community engagement leads define social movements and community-led movements? How do they define and measure progress on supporting these movements, and what are their main roadblocks and priorities?
RQ2	For each confirmed movement category, what is the extent and nature of engagement with each group across the Federation. How has this engagement changed since the start of the Strategy? To what extent does this engagement respond to movement-defined priorities?
RQ3	How do activists and movement organizations experience IPPF's support, if any, do they attribute to it? To what extent does IPPF contribute to movement strengthening, collective organising, leadership and advocacy, while respecting the autonomy and priorities of the movement?
RQ4	To what extent are activists and MA service providers protected from violence and legal oppression and linked to rapid response mechanisms, and where are the gaps?
RQ5	What gaps exist in IPPF's support for social movements and defending activists? What additional support is needed, and how can IPPF help further in the future?

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5. Deliverables and Timeline

Deliverables must be completed by the **end of March 2027**. A complete list of deliverables and suggested timeline can be found in the table below.

#	Deliverable	Description	Illustrative timeline
1	Inception report and workplan	Methodology, sampling plan, data collection instruments, ethics and safety protocol, refined progress scale, and detailed timeline.	January 2027
2	FGD synthesis and community recommendation	Synthesis of the FGD(s), with a recommendation on the final communities for review, for co-lead decision.	March 2027
3	Progress mapping	Assessment of MA and RO engagement against the progress scale, by community and region, with proposed interview sites.	March 2027
4	Data collection and analysis	Completed key informant interviews, with coded and analysed data.	April 2027
5	Indicator 8 findings presentation	Presentation of findings and answers to the research questions to the co-leads and PLI team, with a summary of feedback received.	April 2027
6	Summary of Findings	To comply with internal IPPF reporting deadlines, a one-page briefing with high-level findings **must** be completed by early May.	May 2027
7	Final report and dataset	Final report incorporating feedback, presenting the methodology, findings, comparison with Round 1, recommendations, and a proposed approach and tool for annual reporting on Indicator 8, together with the documented progress mapping dataset and coding framework.	June 2027

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6. Required Qualifications and Experience

Technical Expertise

- Strong experience leading evaluations or reviews using qualitative methods, including FGD facilitation and key informant interviews.
- Experience working with or conducting research related to social movements, human rights defenders or community-led organisations.
- Knowledge of SRHR and of issues affecting LGBTQ+ communities, sex workers and/or people who use drugs.
- Experience developing indicators, scorecards or measurement frameworks for federated, multi-country or multi-stakeholder organisations.

Consultancy and Analytical Skills

- Proven ability to synthesise diverse and fragmented evidence into clear, actionable findings.
- Strong skills in research design, including translating open-ended learning questions into an answerable and feasible methodology.
- Ability to work independently, meet deadlines, and produce high-quality outputs with limited supervision.

Sector and Organisational Experience

- Experience working with federated organisations, INGOs, or multi-country programmes (experience with IPPF or SRHR organisations is an asset).
- Demonstrated experience of safe and ethical research with activists in high-risk or hostile contexts.
- Lived experience or professional background in community-led movements is an asset.

Communication and Facilitation Skills

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English; additional languages (particularly French, Spanish, or Arabic) are an advantage.
- Strong facilitation skills, including experience presenting findings to and gathering input from technical steering groups or committees.
- Availability to engage with geographically dispersed teams across different time zones.

The consultant will have a demonstrated commitment to SRHR, the rights of marginalised communities, and inclusive, rights-based approaches to research and measurement.

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7. Reporting & Coordination

Team	Role
Performance, Learning & Impact (PLI)	Support and guidance on the research approach and methodology; quality assurance; link to APR and Results Framework reporting.
Solidarity for Change and Voice (S4CV)	Overall technical leadership; provide the research and learning questions; take decisions at each review point; broker access to ROs and community engagement leads; sign off the final report.
Community engagement leads and regional offices	FGD participants and interviewees; help identify activists and movement organisations; support introductions to MAs and the MA data request.
Consultant(s)	Delivery of all outputs, including the desk review, FGD facilitation, progress mapping, data collection and analysis, and final report.

8. Budget & Payment Structure

The budget for this consultancy is $20,000 USD. Payment will be made in tranches linked to milestone deliverables, as agreed in the final workplan.

9. Ethics, Safety, Confidentiality & Data Protection

Many participants will be activists and human rights defenders working in hostile legal and political environments. The consultant will be expected to:

- apply a do-no-harm approach, with informed consent, the option of anonymity, and the right to withdraw;
- use secure communication channels and data storage, and comply with IPPF's safeguarding policies;
- avoid recording or reporting any detail that could identify participants or expose them to risk;
- ensure recruitment of activists does not depend on MA referral alone.

The consultant must comply with IPPF's Data Protection Policy. No raw data, internal documentation, or consultation outputs will be stored or shared externally without prior written consent from IPPF. All materials developed under this consultancy remain the intellectual property of IPPF.

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10. Proposal Submission Requirements

Interested consultants should submit the items below to **Morgan Brown** at **mbrown@ippf.org** with the subject line "**Proposal for Indicator 8 Study**" by **11 December, 2026 at 11:59 PM GMT**.

Shortlisted candidates will be contacted by early January 2027. The desired start date for this consultancy is 11 January 2027. Proposals will be assessed based on technical expertise and relevant past work experience, feasibility of the proposed methodology, value for money, and demonstrated ability to complete the work within the specified timeframe.

Technical Proposal (5 pages maximum)

- Contact information: Include your name, address, and contact information.
- Relevant experience: Describe relevant projects and contextual knowledge, including work with social movements and community-led organisations.
- Methodology: Outline how you would deliver the approach in Section 3 and answer the research questions (Section 4), including any proposed changes, sampling and recruitment of activists, safety measures, and an indicative timeline. This proposed methodology will be a key criterion in consultant selection.
- Approach: Outline the proposed approach to managing this consultancy, roles and responsibilities of the team member(s), and a workplan. Include risks and mitigation strategies.

Annexes

- CV(s) of the lead consultant and any team members, no longer than three pages each.
- Two samples of relevant previous work (e.g. evaluations or reviews involving social movements, human rights defenders or community-led organisations).
- Contact details of two professional references.

Financial Proposal

The budget for this consultancy is USD $20,000. The financial proposal should include a detailed line-item budget as shown below. Payments will align with deliverables, as agreed at contract signing.

Type of costs / budget line (e.g. daily fee)	Number of units (A)	Unit value excluding tax, USD (B)	Total line value excluding VAT (C)=(A)*(B)	VAT as per the current rate applicable (D)= …% *(C)	Total fee (E)=(C)+(D)
TOTAL					

Please confirm: I am a VAT payer and my VAT number is: _____ *[or]* I am not a VAT payer.