

***Call for Proposals to Develop Teaching/Reference Materials on Gender Issues for
Post-graduate Gender Studies Program in
Sub-Saharan Africa Higher Learning Institutions***

I. Background

Several higher institutions across Africa have been running post graduate programs in gender studies; some of them have also initiated and integrated courses focusing on gender issues in their various undergraduate and graduate curricula. These studies have been instrumental in producing graduates specializing in gender studies and in enabling social science graduates acquire deeper knowledge of gender issues in contemporary social, political, and economic realities. In order to facilitate the learning-teaching process, many of the higher education institutions in the region have been purchasing text books from various sources and some of them were developing their teaching and reference materials.

OSSREA's preliminary assessment in 12 higher learning institutions across eastern and southern Africa, however, revealed that most of these institutions lack standardised textbooks, teaching materials and reference books. Instructors in the institutions often develop inadequate course materials on gender issues by scavenging limited resources available on the webs. Even those institutions which follow standard textbooks and teaching materials often fail to regularly update and make them in tune with African realities by using African based case studies. Moreover, there is absence or limited utilisation of the available resources on gender issues developed by various international and regional research, training, and think-tank institutions. The assessment also shows that almost all higher learning institutions predominantly rely on materials developed in and devoted to the context of the western world.

Cognizant of the above challenges, OSSREA has initiated a project that aims at developing teaching modules or textbooks and reference materials for graduate level studies, especially for MA programs on gender studies in higher learning institutions of sub-Saharan Africa. The project will primarily involve assessment of the available teaching textbooks, references and other course materials from various higher learning institutions and training centres in Africa. Based on the findings, the project will finally develop teaching or reference manuals which address the common gaps identified in the preliminary study and incorporate Africa wide

resource materials, research findings, case studies, and statistics from sampled African countries.

OSSREA would like to invite interested individuals to engage in the project. The project envisages having a team of experts on gender issues, curriculum development, and similar areas of specialisations within the social sciences.

II. Possible topics for teaching materials:

OSSREA's preliminary assessment shows that teaching materials available in many of the universities do not cover many pertinent topics; and invites applicants to focus on the following gender issues:

- **Gender issues in economic growth and poverty reduction** focusing on the nexus between gender and economic policy issues (fiscal policy, foreign direct investment, foreign aid, human resources development policies, poverty reduction strategies, employment policies and SME development programs); and gender responsive budgeting;
- **Vulnerability and social protection** with special emphasis on structure of gender inclusion/exclusion in society; gender differences at birth; gender and causes of death; and gender equity in health delivery systems, access to nutrition, food security, credit systems, safety nets, etc.;
- **Agriculture and natural resources** with a focus on the gender dimensions of land tenure systems, culture of production in agriculture, silviculture and aquaculture, timber and non-timber products, small mining operation, marketing systems and extension systems;
- **Policy reforms and the re-alignment of gender relations** with emphasis on land reforms, education reforms, public sector reforms, investment and enterprise development reforms, electoral reforms; as well as gender dimensions of winners and losers of reforms;
- **Political and cultural issues** with a focus on 30 years of legislation on gender equality; 20 years after Beijing; comparative action and inaction against FGM; women participation in legislative process (progress and impacts), etc.;
- **Gender and population dynamics** with special focus on the link between proportion of population and allocation of resources and services; demographic transition; diseases of

poverty and their gender dimension; gender and HIV/AIDS; gender aspects of accidents and mortality; etc.; and

- **Gender mainstreaming** in various sectors (health, education, environment, energy etc.)

OSSREA invites applicants to develop teaching or reference materials that cover the above topics but not limited to the same. In addition to the theoretical and conceptual issues, authors are required to produce teaching materials that include country specific case studies, as well as regional and sectoral comparative studies in Africa.

III. Teaching material content format:

OSSREA prefers that each module in the teaching or reference manual should incorporate the following sections:

- ▶ Introduction and background on the topic
- ▶ Objectives and lessons overview
- ▶ Tasks and estimated time
- ▶ Reference materials /handouts
- ▶ Case studies and exercises
- ▶ Recommendations section on a) mechanisms of assessing and integrating local and regional research findings, case studies, and basic gender statistics on gender issues in Africa; b) utilising ICT technology in accessing and disseminating teaching and related course materials on gender issues in African higher learning institutions.

The author/s is however encouraged to come up with a preferred structure of the module for each topic to be covered in the teaching or reference material.

IV. Eligibility Criteria:

- ▶ Applicants should be holders of PhD. in gender studies or related social science field and at least five years of experience in teaching and research OR should have masters degree in gender studies or related social science fields and at least ten years of experience in teaching and research;
- ▶ Applicants with good track record of publications on gender issues in Africa and with experiences in developing teaching or reference manuals will be given priority;
- ▶ Applicants that form a team from various disciplines and/or from different African countries are strongly encouraged; and
- ▶ Female applicants are highly encouraged.

V. Applicants are required to submit the following:

- ▶ Current curriculum vitae of the applicant(s), including age, gender, educational level, nationality, and a detailed address (P. O. Box, Phone, Fax & E-mail).
- ▶ Evidence of previous experience in research/teaching/developing teaching manuals particularly on gender issues.
- ▶ Detailed proposal reflecting the objectives, content, methodology and output, especially in relation to the issue mentioned in sections II & III; work schedule and budget for undertaking the assignment

VI. Incentives for resource persons or authors:

- ▶ OSSREA will pay the resource person or team of resource persons for developing a comprehensive teaching manual a lump sum of US\$ 15000 (US\$ fifteen thousand) in two instalments: 25% on signing the agreement and 75% upon the successful completion of the assignment. The accepted material will be edited and published in a book.

VII. Deadlines:

- ▶ Applications should be submitted to OSSREA by e-mail before 15th August 2011.
- ▶ The assignment will commence after contract is signed between OSSREA and the author(s) and is expected to be finalised within six months.

Completed applications and inquiries should be addressed to:

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