

## Questions and Responses to YWC Impact Evaluation Tender

**Please note: Responses were only given to those questions received that directly related to the terms of reference.**

**Q1:** Has the programme started or is about to start and if yes, when?

*R1: The programme started in July 2014. Although some clubs have been established, others continue to be established across the country.*

**Q2:** From the proposed workplan, we can see that there is a ten-month gap between baseline and end-term data collection. This is a very short time frame to be able to measure any behavioural impact, as it takes time to change behaviours. The risk is that the end-term evaluation might show little changes and conclude that the programme is ineffective, while positive results might have appeared some months later. Good practices usually have a minimum of a two-year gap between measures of baseline and impact. Could SC confirm its position with regards to this issue?

*R2: Soul City would have preferred a longer implementation period before the end term evaluation. At this stage the time allocated was the best possible, and whilst we acknowledge the limitation, we hope to get as much information as possible from the evaluation.*

**Q3:** The ToR mention using biological markers to measure HIV incidence. Do you mean HIV tests? If yes, does Soul City expect the consultants to provide testing services or partner with a testing service provider in order to test a sample of women? Should the consultants cost this service as part of the proposal? If SC expects the consultants to be responsible of the testing, we need to cost this activity and would kindly request that SC provide us whether the total number of women reached by the programme OR the expectations with regards to the number of women to be tested.

*R3: SCI expects the service provider to be able to deliver, whether directly or indirectly, all the services included in their proposal. All related costs should form part of the budget. The programme aims to reach a total of 18000 women across the 5 provinces.*

**Q4:** The consultants are expected to conduct the studies with “a sample of clubs”. In order to cost the evaluation proposal, we kindly request that SC gives us the expected total number of clubs and the number of women per club, OR the evaluation budget ceiling OR the sample they expect. We would also need to know if the sampling should cover the five provinces targeted by the project (to evaluate transport costs).

*R4: A total of 900 clubs will be established across the 5 provinces, each with an average membership of 20 young women. The consultant will be expected to include a methodologically sound sampling strategy in their proposal.*

**Q5:** Will this be a phased implementation? It would be useful as part of the impact evaluation to have a sample of clubs across provinces that can serve as a control group (increase validity of design)

*R5: Clubs will be established incrementally from inception of the programme. We are not proposing a step wedge design.*

Q6: In order to sample for representivity, can you provide breakdown of number of clubs per province

*R6: Table 1 below shows the implementation provinces and breakdown of clubs.*

Province	Total number of clubs
KwaZulu Natal	360
North West	90
Eastern Cape	216
Mpumalanga	136
Free State	98

Q7: Is there a budget envelope for study. Using biological markers will substantially drive up costs for research (also see point 5)

*R7: Cost and budget will be part of the tender evaluation. (refer Annexure D)*

Q8: Is there a draft theory of change/logic model available in order to ascertain how programme elements corresponds with programme goal/outcomes.

*R8: Soul City's behavior change model will be shared with selected provider to refine the proposal.*

Q9: The approximate 10month period between baseline and post-test may be too short a period for detecting significant changes in HIV incidence levels. This will require huge sample size to power up study. Cost of research will be driven upwards

*R9: See Response to Q2 above.*

Q10: I will like to find out which provinces are referring to in the Tender, your assistance will be appreciated.

*R10: Refer to response to Q6 above.*