

Scope of Work
Researcher on Child Marriage and Early Unions
Central America and Mexico Youth Fund (CAMY Fund)

I. Overview

The Central America and Mexico Youth Fund (CAMY Fund) is an initiative of the Seattle International Foundation (SIF) in collaboration with Ford Foundation, NoVo Foundation and The Summit Foundation. The CAMY Fund provides financial and technical support to high-impact social change projects led by young adult leaders (ages 18-35) working in or with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras Mexico and Nicaragua. The Fund is particularly focused on the issues of girls' equality and adolescent/youth sexual and reproductive health and rights. The CAMY Fund launched a Latin America and Caribbean-wide initiative to focus on child marriage and early unions (CM/EUs) in June 2017.

This is an open Scope of Work for researchers (independent or that form part of academia or a research institution) in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua. The deadline for submission of application materials is October 6, 2017 by 5pm CST.

II. Project Background

Recognition of the human rights violations implicated by child marriage and early unions has been limited and slow to catch on in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region where nearly 1 in 4 girls are married before the age of 18. Two countries in the region, Mexico and Brazil, are among the top 10 countries in the world with the highest populations for girls marrying or entering early unions before their 18th birthday. A 2015 [study](#) by the Latin American Faculty for Social Sciences (FLACSO – Guatemala) highlights the high correlation between early marriage or union and adolescent pregnancy, and reveals disturbing data about the frequent age disparity between young girls and their partners.

Under its new CM/EU initiative, the CAMY Fund will issue two rounds of grants to organizations working to address, or advocate for girls' rights in the context of CM/EUs in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua. These grants will be accompanied by technical assistance to the youth project leader and their immediate team.

In addition to providing resources and technical assistance to organizations working on this issue, the CAMY Fund will commission research to better understand the drivers, challenges or innovative responses associated with child marriage and early unions in a regional context. To facilitate this learning each organization that receives a grant award will be matched with a researcher. Together, the researcher and grantee partner will develop and implement a research protocol, conduct field work, and possibly co-present their findings.

III. Project Objectives

Overall objective: To increase knowledge about the unique manifestations of child marriage and early unions in Central America and Mexico, by documenting drivers and/or efforts to implement responses to end them.

Specific objectives based on project lifecycle:

1. Develop a research protocol with local partner organization that will result in documenting the unique manifestations of child marriage and early unions in the region, and/or efforts to implement responses to end them.¹
2. Implement research protocol in collaboration with local partner organization.
3. Systematize results and document findings.
4. Publish and/or present findings in professional journals or at relevant events.

IV. Implementation

The researcher will need to be engaged with the CAMY Fund and grantee partners over at least an 18-month period beginning in November 2017. The precise time commitment during this period will be established at a later date but will not be greater than 50% of full time.

A rough timeline for implementation of activities and tasks is below:

Activities/tasks	Months																		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
Interview with grantee organization																			
Meetings with grantee organization and CAMY Fund to establish research topic																			
Development of research protocol																			
Submission of research protocol to IRB																			
Implementation of research protocol – field work																			
Write-up of research findings																			

¹ The protocol must include a solid research design (qualitative, quantitative or mixed methods), with the corresponding sample calculations and/or description of sample characteristics.

Activities/tasks	Months																	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Presentation of research findings internally with grantee partner and CAMY Fund																		
Drafting of research findings for various publications (could include peer-reviewed but not necessarily)																		
Development of presentation of research findings																		

V. Expertise required

This Scope of Work is for an independent researcher or someone associated with academia or a research institution, ideally from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico or Nicaragua.

Educational qualifications:

- Master’s degree in social sciences, or related subjects, from an accredited university.

This work requires proven experience in:

- Developing and implementing research protocols for qualitative and quantitative social science research focused on adolescent girls. This includes experience in submitting protocols to the IRB for review.
- Collaborating with non-governmental organizations in carrying out participatory qualitative and quantitative social science research.
- Drafting social science analysis and recommendations for publication.
- Using critical theories for analysis for example, post-colonialism, multiculturalism and feminist theories.

Additionally, the researcher should have:

- Fluency in Spanish and English
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Skills in communicating with diverse actors
- Analytical and critical thinking skills
- Organizational skills and the ability to prioritize tasks and fulfill deadlines
- Ability to work remotely and in different time zones.

Researchers will regularly interact with designated members of their assigned partner organization in carrying out the work. Researchers will report directly to the CAMY Fund CM/EU Project Manager and Program Officers.

VII. Application process

Interested researchers should submit the following documents via email to Perla Vazquez, Project Manager: pvazquez@seaif.org, with subject "Researcher on Child Marriage and Early Unions":

- Cover letter describing interest and relevant experience
- CV with highlighted relevant publications
- Sample of published research on adolescent girls or another relevant topic
- 2 letters of recommendation from peer researchers

VIII. Available funding

A budget of between \$15,000 and \$22,000 USD will be available for each project and researcher. This amount includes compensation, travel, equipment and any other costs associated with the implementation of the research protocol.

VI. Timeline for selection

September 11, 2017	Scope of Work Launched
October 6, 2017	Deadline for submission of applications
Late-October 2017	Review of applications by Advisory Committee
November 2017	Notification of selection and contact established with grantee partners