Appendix A.

Questionnaire:
There are five criteria listed below, each with 3 questions. You will be asked to type your answer [Yes (1), No (0) or, Don’t know/Not sure /Not sure (0.5)] next to each research question from the consolidated list, to the best of your knowledge.

**Criterion 1. Answerable**
Likelihood that research topic would lead to new knowledge (enabling a development / planning of an intervention) in an ethical way
1. Would you say the research option is clear and has well defined endpoints?
   (a) No: 0 points
   (b) Yes: 1 point
   (c) Don’t know/Not sure /Not sure : 0.5 point

2. Based on: (i) the level of research capacity required to conduct the proposed research; and (ii) the size of the gap from current level of knowledge to the proposed endpoints; would you say that a study can be designed to answer the research option and to reach the proposed endpoints of the research?
   (a) No: 0 points
   (b) Yes: 1 point
   (c) Don’t know/Not sure : 0.5 point

3. Do you think that a study needed to answer the proposed research question would obtain ethical approval without major concerns?
   (a) No: 0 points
   (b) Yes: 1 point
   (c) Don’t know/Not sure : 0.5 point

**Criterion 2. Effective**
Assessment of likely impact that the outcome resulting from the proposed research will have on efficacy and effectiveness of existing / new interventions

1. Based on the best existing evidence and knowledge, would the intervention(s) which would eventually benefit from the proposed research be efficacious in reducing unmet need related issues?
   (a) No: 0 points
   (b) Yes: 1 point
   (c) Don’t know/Not sure : 0.5 point

2. Based on the best existing evidence and knowledge, would the intervention(s) which would eventually benefit from the proposed research be likely to be effective under programme conditions?
   (a) No: 0 points
   (b) Yes: 1 point
   (c) Don’t know/Not sure : 0.5 point

3. Would you say that the 'evidence' upon which your opinion is based is of high quality?
   (a) No: 0 points
   (b) Yes: 1 point
   (c) Don’t know/Not sure : 0.5 point

**Criterion 3. Deliverable**
Assessment of deliverability, affordability and sustainability of the intervention resulting from proposed research

Important consideration when scoring
- When scoring research options from the domain of basic epidemiological research, it will seem difficult to judge their likely effect on deliverability or affordability. However, try to think beyond the proposed endpoint and decide (within a given context) whether this endpoint would generate knowledge that could be of help in improving deliverability, affordability or sustainability of existing, or even new interventions, and answer either 1; 0; or 0.5 as explained.

1. Taking into account (i) the infrastructure and resources required to deliver effective interventions (e.g. human resources, health facilities, communication and transport infrastructure), and (ii) the need for change in demand, beliefs and attitudes of users, would you say that the endpoints of the research would be deliverable (or the findings of this research would improve deliverability of other interventions)?
2. Taking into account the resources available to implement the research results, would you say that the endpoints of the research would be affordable (or improve affordability) within the context of interest?

(a) No: 0 points  
(b) Yes: 1 point  
(c) Don’t know/Not sure : 0.5 point

3. Taking into account (i) the capacity of the government (e.g. adequacy of government regulation, monitoring and enforcement; governmental intersectoral coordination), and (ii) internal and external partnership required for delivery of interventions (e.g. partnership with civil society and external donor agencies), would you say that the endpoints of the research would be sustainable (or would improve sustainability of other interventions) ?

(a) No: 0 points  
(b) Yes: 1 point  
(c) Don’t know/Not sure : 0.5 point

**Criterion 4. Burden reduction**

Assessment of maximum potential of disease burden reduction

Important considerations when scoring

- When scoring research options from the domain of basic epidemiological research, it will seem difficult to judge their likely effect on disease burden reduction. However, try to think beyond the proposed endpoint and decide (within a given context) whether this endpoint would generate knowledge that could be of help in reducing disease burden in an indirect way, and to what extent, and then answer each question as 1; 0; or 0.5 as explained.

1. Taking into account the best available information, would you say that reaching of research endpoints would eventually, assuming high deliverability, affordability and sustainability of health interventions, have a capacity to directly and indirectly reduce unmet need in family planning up to 5% ?

(a) No: 0 points  
(b) Yes: 1 point  
(c) Don’t know/Not sure : 0.5 point

2. To reduce unmet need in family planning by 5 to 10% ?

(a) No: 0 points  
(b) Yes: 1 point  
(c) Don’t know/Not sure : 0.5 point

3. To reduce unmet need in family planning by more than 10%?

(a) No: 0 points  
(b) Yes: 1 point  
(c) Don’t know/Not sure : 0.5 point

* Please note: for the above-mentioned question on unmet need burden reduction in family planning you can select 'ONE' option and opt for 'NO' in other two questions. For example if you select option one as 'YES', i.e. less than 5%; then opt for 'NO' in option 2 and 3 respectively.

**Criterion 5. Equitable**

Assessment of the impact of proposed health research on equity

1. In given context, would you say that the present distribution of disease burden primarily addressed by the proposed research affects mainly the underprivileged in the population?

(a) No: 0 points  
(b) Yes: 1 point  
(c) Don’t know/Not sure : 0.5 point

2. Would you agree that the immediate results of the proposed research could be of help to all segments of the society?

(a) No: 0 points  
(b) Yes: 1 point  
(c) Don’t know/Not sure : 0.5 point

3. Would you say that the proposed research has the overall potential to improve equity in disease burden distribution in the longer term (e.g. in the next ten years)?

(a) No: 0 points  
(b) Yes: 1 point  
(c) Don’t know/Not sure : 0.5 point