

## CONSULTANT VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Issued on: 15 March 2017

ORGANIZATIONAL LOCATION:	UN-Habitat Jordan Office
DUTY STATION:	Amman, Jordan
FUNCTIONAL TITLE:	Urban Policy Consultant (support to the formulation of a National Urban Policy in Jordan)
POSITION	National Consultant
DURATION:	4 month extended over 12 months
CLOSING DATE:	26 March 2017

### I. BACKGROUND

#### **a. Concept of National Urban Policy**

Current trends of rapid urban growth in developing countries imply a holistic approach to synergize urban planning and policy development efforts at the regional, national and local levels and generate sustainable urban environment. In this regard, National Urban Policy has been recognized as a substantive mechanism for governments to achieve a higher level of vertical and horizontal coordination and encourage transformative change, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders. By definition, a National Urban Policy (NUP) is *a coherent set of decisions derived through a deliberate government-led process of coordinating and rallying various actors for a common vision and goals that will promote more transformative, productive, inclusive and resilient urban development on the long run*. It promotes more compact, socially inclusive, better connected and integrated cities and territories that foster sustainable urban development and are resilient to climate change. Moreover, it contributes to the implementation and monitoring of the *2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* and the *New Urban Agenda*.

The Arab region faces unprecedented urban sprawl and the proliferation of unplanned or spontaneous growth generating significant pressure on delivery of services. It requires nation-wide coordinated urban development and policy to better respond to complex and rapidly emerging urban challenges. Nevertheless, developing a long-term urban development vision has become a challenging task for many Arab countries undergoing protracted conflicts and insecurity as well as generating massive influx of migrants and refugees to urban areas. In fact, most of the Arab countries have formulated and implemented the equivalent or elements of a NUP, tacitly expressed through a combination of legislation, sectorial strategies or frameworks that guide urban development programs and projects.

#### **b. Regional Programme on National Urban Policy**

The emergence of a new generation of NUPs offers an opportunity and answers the requirement for a coordinated response to rapid urbanization in the Arab region. This new generation, supported by UN-Habitat, aims at reasserting urban space and territoriality and promoting the positive role of urbanization in national socio-economic development. In this respect, the regional programme of *"Sustainable, Inclusive and Evidence-based National Urban Policies in selected Arab States"* was initiated to strengthen policy-making capacities in four selected Arab States (Tunisia, Lebanon, Jordan, and Sudan) and promote a participatory and inclusive approach to urbanization with a focus on the evidence-base and accountability aspects. Moreover, the programme's outreach has a much broader scope that goes beyond building capacities of government authorities (primary beneficiaries). It aims to increase awareness of countries in the region about tools and best practices in NUP making and provides a platform for engagement and interactions among a cross section of stakeholders as well as various levels of government. An innovative aspect of the project is that unlike other agencies assisting governments in selected aspects of NUP, UN-Habitat supports countries throughout the public policy cycle (feasibility, diagnosis, formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation) while promoting capacity development, participation and demonstration projects throughout the policy cycle.

Despite the diverse urban and demographic contexts of the four selected Arab countries, all face a similar problem of territorial balance with over concentrated populations in capital cities and large metropolitan areas. Operationalizing an effective system of cities is an ever more urgent priority for them to spur

development. It demands convergence and coherence of public interventions across sectors and scales. Developing mechanisms and instruments for such coordination represents the principal problem that the NUP regional programme seeks to address. UN-Habitat will provide NUP support through a flexible approach that can be customized to countries, irrespective the stage of the policy process. The three pillars of the UN-Habitat strategy enable capacity development, participation and demonstration projects across the policy phases of diagnostic, formulation, implementation and monitoring and evaluation. The programme also accommodates demands of development partners in the region by providing opportunities for mainstreaming cross-cutting issues such as gender, youth, human rights and climate change. For instance, with the increasing female participation in Arab economies, the programme will work towards encouraging and strengthening women's voices in urban policy-making.

### **c. National Urban Policy in Jordan**

Jordan has been experiencing a steady increase in its urban population exacerbated by the successive waves of forced migrants from surrounding countries, living mostly outside camp situations. In addition to the estimated annual average requirement of 32,000 housing units by Jordanians, the influx of refugees adds an immediate demand of around 90,000 units. With the country's limited resources, Jordan is encountering a wide range of urban challenges, such as informal urban expansions and increasing rental prices, water deficiencies, shortage of housing and other basic services, environmental degradation and pollution. Moreover, economic growth has not been able to generate sufficient and decent job opportunities for all, and the national budget deficit and foreign debts due to energy import dependency have increased. Although the urban - rural gap appears limited in Jordan, inequalities are larger within and between urban governorates.

In this challenging environment, the current urban planning and management practices are inadequate to curb Jordan's urban growth. Although Jordan was one of the first Arabic countries to develop a National Housing Strategy in 1989 through its Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDC), it failed to create sufficient affordable housing opportunities to meet its low-income residents demand. A number of public-private partnerships were initiated in the housing sector to engage private contractors and banks to deliver affordable and subsidized housing at scale. However, these initiatives were not successful for lack of government support for credit facilitation, marketing and monitoring of implementation. For instance, a public project entitled "Decent Housing for Decent Living" was launched by the government in 2008 to offer housing units built on state land for low-income households at subsidized interest rates. Nevertheless, it was unable to target public subsidies toward the needy segments of the population as well as its high cost to the government as a subsidy-driven program.

The local governance system in Jordan is highly centralized, despite the fact that by law municipal councils and mayors are elected. Most of the municipalities lack planning capacities and qualified staff, as well as sufficient resources to respond effectively and timely to unforeseen urban problems. In addition to that, the coordination with central government is weak, hence the institutional arrangements to synchronize requirements at local level with governorate priorities are quite limited. Except the Greater Amman Municipality (GAM), the financial situation of all municipalities is critical, hampering their ability to carry out basic duties and tasks. As the country is reshaping its decentralization structures, following the 2015 approval of the Municipalities Law and the Decentralization Law, it is vital to harmonize governorate plans with municipal council plans and ensure their synergy with national plans and strategies.

In line with Jordan's local priorities in managing the country's urban growth and its Vision 2025, the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States, in collaboration with the Regional and Metropolitan Planning Unit at the Urban Planning and Design Branch of UN-Habitat, aims to support the Government of Jordan to initiate the development of a sustainable, inclusive and evidence-based NUP for the country. This will be facilitated by a number of practices including stakeholder consultation, institutional capacity development measures, evaluation of country policy processes and exchange of experiences and knowledge. The NUP development process is composed of five overlapping and interrelated phases including the feasibility, diagnostic, formulation, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. Throughout the five stages of the NUP process, three key pillars must be considered: inclusive participation, capacity development at all levels, and grounding policy through acupuncture projects, to enable the NUP to respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by urbanization.

## **II. SCOPE OF WORK**

The objective of this assignment is to assist the Government of Jordan with the development and initiation of a NUP process which covers the following three stages.

1. During the Feasibility Phase, the National Consultant will assist in building government and stakeholders' support for the NUP process and advocate for the value additions a NUP could bring to the country and the gains that can be made through its development process. (S)he will explore the value added of a NUP in the Jordanian context and the role of national government in urbanization in order to enhance both national and urban competitiveness, and achieving gains made through the NUP process. Key facts and figures will be identified in order to outline clearly the opportunities that are available which will help to build consensus and support for undertaking a NUP.
2. In the course of the Diagnostic Phase, the National Consultant will facilitate an understanding of the NUP context in Jordan and the state of urbanization in the country. (S)he will map and analyse key actors and stakeholders that should be sought and involved in the NUP process is vital as well as the identification and definition of problems and opportunities which the NUP will address in order to inform policy goals. The sensitization of all key stakeholders and their consultation in the NUP process is vital. Hence, a *National Steering Committee* will be established to guide discussions. In addition, *Sectorial Committees* will enable more focused consultations on specific themes.
3. Throughout the Formulation Phase the national Consultant will elaborate the NUP proposal with clear goals and objectives based on the evaluation of different policy options. (S)he will outline clear goals and objectives for the policy, that is implementable with strong monitoring and evaluation framework, and build consensus among stakeholders for the way forward. Moreover, human, financial and institutional capacity assessments inform capacity gaps prior to the NUP implementation as well as the elaboration of a strong monitoring and evaluation framework.

Furthermore, the assignment includes training activities at national and local levels in order to develop capacities of engaged actors on the NUP tools and guidelines. Based on the consultations and context review, a policy proposal should be formulated that would stimulate a compact, integrated and connected urban growth. Prior to moving forward to implementation, it is necessary to build consensus for the NUP among stakeholders to promote their engagement and ownership in the way forward. The project will conclude with documentation of experiences and lessons learned in the Jordanian context to be presented in a Regional Dialogue aiming to share knowledge and exchange experience among Arab countries.

## **III. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Under the supervision of the UN-Habitat ROAS and, in collaboration with the Regional and Metropolitan Planning Unit at the Urban Planning and Design Branch of UN-Habitat, and close coordination with the Government of Jordan and its focal points; the Ministry of Municipal Affairs (MOMA) and The Ministry of Housing and Public Works (MHPW), the Consultant will develop a roadmap for the NUP formulation, assist with mapping and capacity development of stakeholders and provide overall support to the NUP development process.

Building on UN-Habitat guiding framework for NUP, the Consultant should fulfil the following duties and responsibilities:

- i. Assist with advocating and building support within policy makers, community leaders, and other relevant stakeholders, to create consensus around the vision for a NUP.
- ii. Collect and review existing policies, state structure plans, legislations, regulations, documentation, programmes and interventions in Jordan related to the political, institutional, legal, spatial, socio-economic, financial and environmental frameworks as well as policies related to the country's urban development agenda, in line with UN-Habitat's *Diagnostic Framework and Diagnostic Review Toolkit* (urbanization drivers, trends and projections, urban legislation and urban regulations, urban planning, housing, infrastructure and basic services, urban economy and municipal finances, and the urban network).
- iii. Map and analyse the institutional setup within which the NUP will be developed, implemented, monitored and evaluated.

- iv. Identify relevant stakeholders to be engaged in the NUP process (local leaders, civil society, private sector, academia, think tanks and research institutions...etc.) and categorize them to identify their interests and relevance and where they fit into the NUP process.
- v. Participate in one regional exchange workshop organized by UN-Habitat on the use of NUP tools, frameworks, and procedures in the Arab region, with a particular focus on supporting spatial frameworks with NUPs. UN-Habitat will share knowledge resources and experience to advise on using and adapting NUP and the *International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning* (IG-UTP) toolkits at the country level.
- vi. Adapt existing NUP tools, frameworks and procedures developed by UN-Habitat (e.g. NUP diagnostic, NUP Framework, IG-UTP) to the Jordanian context.
- vii. Organise national Sensitization Workshops in Jordan with the participation of national, regional and local governments, academia, professional associations, civil society organizations and private sector, to present and validate the NUP policy-making approach, frameworks and procedures and to facilitate the creation of community of practices.
- viii. Support the delivery of tailored Trainings (including on-the job trainings and interactive workshops) targeted at policy makers and urban planners, with support from local academic/training institutions, to disseminate the skills, knowledge and expertise within national, regional and local governments, academia, civil society organizations, private sector.
- ix. Develop an overall discussion paper (roadmap) for the NUP that compiles the findings of the diagnostic phase and disseminate it among the authorities and stakeholders involved (National Steering Committee, Sector Committees).
- x. Support the provision of targeted advisory services to guide or improve the NUP policy-making process, with a particular focus on the monitoring and evaluation stages. This step translates the feedback received on the NUP Diagnostics through public consultations into technical policy inputs.
- xi. Gather and incorporate stakeholders' feedback into the NUP discussion paper and assess policy options and human, financial and institutional capacities for the way forward to ensure that the different components, dimensions of the NUP under preparation are set in an inclusive and participatory manner, realistic and compatible with the Jordanian context.
- xii. Draft a NUP proposal that is realistic and strengthen consensus for it by engaging a wide variety of stakeholders to support the continuity of the NUP process.
- xiii. Assist in documenting Jordan's experience, lessons learnt within and beyond project experience, with support from UN-Habitat, for wider Regional Action Learning (publications in English and Arabic to be easily accessible to relevant target groups).

#### **IV. DELIVERABLES**

According to the above described duties and responsibilities, the National Consultant will support the feasibility, diagnosis and formulation phase of the Jordanian NUP process. (S)he will also support the mobilisation of stakeholders towards the NUP process and the development of capacity, respectively. To achieve the objectives listed above, the assignment will entail:

- i. Elaboration Inception Report including proposed Work Plan and Timeline for the preparation of the NUP process, including a Roadmap for the implementation of the Jordanian NUP process. Dissemination of Roadmap based on international experience and best practices in brief report and presentation.
- ii. Production of a NUP Discussion Paper based on the UN-Habitat Diagnosis Framework, including a review of the context, stakeholder mapping and analysis, and institutional mapping and analysis;
- iii. Adaptation of NUP Tools, Frameworks and Procedures (e.g. NUP Diagnostic, NUP Framework, IG-UTP) tailored to the Jordanian context;
- iv. Provide support for the facilitation and reporting of Capacity Development Workshop(s) targeted at policy makers, community leaders, and other relevant stakeholders identified during stakeholder and institutional mapping advising among others on policy formulation and the suitability of policy choices taking into account their implementation mechanisms;

- v. Participation in a Regional Exchange Dialogue with national and international experts, in addition to the facilitation of Local Sensitization Workshops with national stakeholders to discuss the role of NUP in the implementation of the *New Urban Agenda* and the *Sustainable Development Goals*;
- vi. Formulation of NUP Proposal and compiling of feedback by wide range of stakeholders, in close cooperation with UN-Habitat;
- vii. Documentation of Lessons Learned and Best Practices of Jordan NUP process in brief report and presentation.

## **VI. TIME FRAME**

The assignment will be on part-time basis, covering 4 months extended over the period of 12 months. A detailed timeline should be submitted with the Inception Report.

## **VII. COMPETENCIES**

The following qualifications are required:

- Minimum 15 years of working experience with relevant in urban development policies and strategies. Proven experience in urban policy development and institutional capacity building is an asset;
- Relevant working experience in developing countries and recognised works produced during previous UN assignments;
- Relevant experience in public policy, decentralisation, city development strategies, urban planning and design, urban policy formulation, and sound knowledge in aligning population growth with economic, social and environmental development;
- Capability to organise and facilitate participatory meeting with the ultimate goal of working towards building consensus for policy discourse;
- Ability to work independently with a high degree of responsibility, in a flexible manner and often under pressure;
- Good communication skills;
- Ability to write technical and project documents, particularly policy documents;
- Sound judgment and excellent analytical skills, ability to plan and organise workshops.

## **VIII. EDUCATION**

- Advanced university degree (Master or PhD) in public policy development and analysis, urban planning, urban policy, urban geography, architecture, engineering, or a related field.

## **IX. LANGUAGE SKILLS**

- Proficiency in spoken and written English, and Arabic.

Interested candidates should submit their cover letter, resume and duly filled P.11 form\* for the position:

To: UN-Habitat ROAS, Email: [vacancies.egypt@unhabitat.org](mailto:vacancies.egypt@unhabitat.org);

Subject: "NUP - National Consultant Jordan"

The deadline for applications is the 26 March 2017. Please refer to the title of the position in the e-mail subject. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. A written test may be conducted to assess the candidates in addition to an interview.

\*P.11 form can be downloaded through: [www.unon.org/docs/P11.doc](http://www.unon.org/docs/P11.doc)