

National or International consultants: National Consultant

Description of the assignment (Title of consultancy): Assessment of economic support programs available to Palestinian youth in the gatherings

Project Title: Improving Living Conditions in Palestinian Gatherings Host

Period of assignment/services: 2 years.

1. Background

This TOR falls under the UNDP project “Improving Living Conditions in Palestinian Gatherings Host Communities”. Palestinian Gatherings are informal areas located outside the boundaries of official Palestinian refugee camps and represent one of the most vulnerable and marginalized host communities in Lebanon. 135,000 host and recently displaced Palestinian refugees, living in forty-two Palestinian gatherings distributed along the regions of Lebanon, suffer from dire conditions that have long existed in the gatherings. In addition to poverty caused by insufficient household income, legal restrictions imposed on Palestinian refugees in Lebanon contribute to the worsening of their socio-economic conditions. In spite of the recent limited changes in labour regulations, Palestinian refugees in Lebanon remain excluded from economic life in general due to the restrictions applied to their working in many professions in the formal sectors. In addition, Palestinian refugees are unable to own property assets in the country since 2001 and required to bequeath them to religious authorities, if they have already purchased them. The situation was worsened since the Syrian crisis that entailed some 20% population rise in these already impoverished areas with the displacement of some 25,000 refugees. As result, Palestinian gatherings have been witnessing unmet demand on services and additional competition over resources, jobs and relief.

While Palestinian refugees living in the Gatherings are registered with UNRWA and/or the Lebanese Government, their place of settlement, unlike camps, is not officially recognized. This has a number of implications on refugees’ living conditions starting with their tenure security that is frequently threatened in the absence of a framework of rights and entitlement. In addition, UNRWA’s mandate to provide basic urban services is defined within the borders of the 12 recognized camps only. Therefore, refugees living in the Gatherings do not benefit from UNRWA WASH services or physical upgrading initiatives. While refugees living in Palestinian Gatherings have the right to access UNRWA health and education facilities, most of these facilities are located in the camps. At the same time, Palestinian Gatherings remain excluded from national development plans, local upgrading projects and the provision of municipal urban services. The general lack of municipal engagement could be attributed to a number of factors ranging from limited municipal resources and increased burden by the Syrian crisis to political sensitivities and informality of lands. Instead, refugees rely on short-term alternative solutions to access urban services, resources and jobs, which are usually associated with informality, risks and lack of efficiency.

UNDP has been working in Palestinian gatherings to improve access to WASH services, shelter conditions and the state of the physical environment. Taken all the previously mentioned issues that pertain to Palestinian gatherings in Lebanon, the UNDP project introduced in 2016 a component that aimed at the economic empowerment of local communities and individuals, particularly youth and women, in the Gatherings. In the light of the latest waves of illegal migration, spread of risky behavior and conflicts and relapse into violence, local NGOs have been raising their voices to increase support especially for addressing at-risk Palestinian youth. In response, the UNDP project organized in December 2016 and February 2017 two workshops that brought together UN agencies and international and local NGOs in order to identify gaps and priorities for the socio-economic empowerment of youth in Palestinian

Gatherings. Participating organizations are now members of a Youth Working Group that convenes bi-monthly in Beirut. The lack of a coordination framework and the concentration of youth services and facilities within the camps were identified, among other factors, as key challenges. Participants recognized key strategic areas to invest in; mainly: economic empowerment through innovative income generating initiatives; combating school dropout and supporting formal vocational training; integration of youth and children with special needs; and life skills education. For more information on participants, outcomes, provided services and identified challenges of the workshops, refer to **Annex 1**.

In this context, the services of an Individual Consultant (IC) are required to carry out mapping of available economic support services to youth in Palestinian gatherings and assess those to recommend measures and key strategic interventions for better response. The results will be used by the UNDP project to further develop its economic empowerment interventions in the gatherings, with the support of the IC, as well as to guide the coordinated interventions of the Youth Working Group.

2. Scope of work, responsibilities and description of the proposed analytical work

Under the supervision of the UNDP Project Manager, the services of an Individual Consultant are required to carry out a mapping and assessment of economic support programs available to Palestinian youth in the gatherings. The purpose of the assignment will mainly be the following:

- Assess available economic support programs mainly in the two fields of education (acceleration programs for drop-outs, vocational training, higher education) and income generation (employability, loans and grants) to identify gaps, remaining needs and potential synergies;
- Disseminate information on available socio-economic support programs to Palestinian youth living in the gatherings through an information dissemination campaign led by UNDP in collaboration with members of the Youth Working Group;
- Provide guidelines for the Youth Working Group for better response and improved coordination to address the economic empowerment of youth in the gatherings;
- Develop strategic and sustainable intervention directions that aim at the economic empowerment of youth in Palestinian gatherings and assist the UNDP project in developing its economic empowerment interventions (2017 – 2018).

The IC shall take into consideration the following, which the UNDP project will assist in providing:

- The legal framework that governs access to jobs and income generation activities to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon;
- Available market studies and employment database developed by UN organizations and NGOs;
- Available and planned support programs, projects and activities provided by UN organizations and NGOs;
- Outcomes of the meetings of the Youth Working Group.

3. Expected Outputs and deliverables

All deliverables shall be delivered in one original hard copy and one electronic soft copy, preferably in Microsoft Word format, where applicable in English.

The Individual Consultant will be requested to complete the following tasks and submit a completion report per task:

- Task 1:** Carry out desk review of available secondary data, especially on the frameworks mentioned above, and consolidate findings;
- Task 2:** Carry out service mapping and assessment of available socio-economic support programs, facilities, projects and activities targeting Palestinian youth in the gatherings; these data will be mainly provided through the Youth Working Group;
- Task 3:** Identify gaps in provided support and recommend guidelines to members of the Youth Working Group for improved services;
- Task 4:** Design the components of an information dissemination campaign, based on data collected, targeting Palestinian youth in the gatherings;
- Task 5:** Recommend strategic and sustainable intervention directions that aim at the economic empowerment of youth in Palestinian gatherings to be carried out by the UNDP project and members of the Youth Working Group;
- Task 6:** Assist the UNDP project in further developing selected economic interventions to be carried out in the context of the project (2017 – 2018) and provide concept notes and required supporting documents of the selected interventions;
- Task 7:** Take part in meetings of the Youth Working Group and conduct field visits and focus groups as necessary in selected Palestinian gatherings to achieve the required tasks.

REPORTS VALIDATION MODALITIES

Provisional approval by the Project Manager of the submitted reports shall take place at each of the defined milestones. It is expected that such approval shall not exceed five working days from the notification of the completion of a specific milestone.

4. Institutional arrangements

- a) The Individual Consultant will report to and work in coordination with the Project Manager. The project will provide the Consultant with all available data and secondary sources and will facilitate the Consultant's field work when necessary.
- b) For each initiative, the consultant shall submit reports after completion of the requested tasks.
- c) The consultant shall submit a final report after the completion of works.

5. Duration of work

Two years from contract signature.

6. Duty station

The Consultant will not report to a duty station.

Meetings with Project Manager and the Youth Working Group will take place in Beirut.

Field work will take place to selected Palestinian Gatherings distributed all over Lebanon as necessary.

7. Requirements for experience and qualifications

I. Academic Qualifications:

- A bachelor degree in economics or relevant field.

II. Years of experience:

- A minimum of 3 years of experience in relevant assignments.

III. Technical experience:

- Previous experience in economic data analysis, market research, business solutions, project development and valuations;
- Demonstrated knowledge of research methods and tools;
- Demonstrated knowledge of youth conditions in Lebanon;
- Knowledge of the particular context in Palestinian gatherings or for Palestinian refugees is an asset.

IIV. Competencies:

- Strong communication skills;
- Strong command of Microsoft Office;
- Command of statistical programs is an asset;
- Fluency in Arabic and English.

8. Scope of Price Proposal and Schedule of Payments

The consultant shall be paid upon completion of each requested task and submission of the related report. In this respect, the consultant shall take into consideration the following:

- The daily fee must be all-inclusive (professional fees, transportation fees, living allowance, communication fees, consumables, insurance, etc.).
- For each task, a report and an IC time sheet duly approved by the Project Manager shall serve as the basis for the payment of fees.

7. Criteria for selection of the best offers

The offers will be evaluated based on Combined Scoring method.

- a) The technical evaluation criteria will be as follows:

Criteria	Weight	Max. Point
Technical Competence	70%	100
Academic: Bachelor degree in economics or relevant field		15
Experience:		65
Minimum of 3 years of experience in relevant assignments		10
Previous experience in economic data analysis, market research, business solutions, project development and valuations;		20
Demonstrated knowledge of research methods and tools;		20
Demonstrated knowledge of youth conditions in Lebanon;		10
Knowledge of the particular context in Palestinian gatherings or for Palestinian refugees is an asset		5
Competencies		20

Strong communication skills;		5
Strong command of Microsoft Office;		5
Command of statistical programs is an asset;		5
Fluency in Arabic and English.		5
Price proposal	30%	
Total score	Technical Score * 0.7 + Financial Score * 0.3	

b) Financial Proposal:

Interested candidates shall submit all-inclusive fixed daily fees and ensure that all costs are duly incorporated in the financial proposal submitted to UNDP. The number of days for each activity will be set mutually by the UNDP and the consultant before starting each activity.

The following financial proposal table is to be submitted by the candidate:

Task description	All-inclusive Half daily fee (USD)	All-inclusive Full daily fee (USD)
Activity 1 - Data review and analysis, which include the following tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Task 1: Carry out desk review of available secondary data, especially on the frameworks mentioned, and consolidate findings; Task 2: Carry out service mapping and assessment of available socio-economic support programs, facilities, projects and activities targeting Palestinian youth in the gatherings; Task 3: Identify gaps in provided support and recommend guidelines to members of the Youth Working Group for improved services. 		
Activity 2 - Outputs design and development, which include the following tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Task 4: Design the components of an information dissemination campaign, based on data collected, targeting Palestinian youth in the gatherings; Task 5: Recommend strategic and sustainable intervention directions that aim at the economic empowerment of youth in Palestinian gatherings to be carried out by the UNDP project and members of the Youth Working Group; Task 6: Assist the UNDP project in further developing selected economic interventions to be carried out in the context of the project (2017 – 2018) and provide concept notes and required supporting documents of the selected interventions. 		

<p>Activity 3 - Field visits and meetings, which include the following task:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task 7: Take part in meetings of the Youth Working Group and conduct field visits and focus groups as necessary in selected Palestinian gatherings to achieve the required tasks. 		
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