



UN Resident Coordinator's Office

Consultancy for an International Researcher - SDGs and Awqaf

Project Description

Awqaf – Islamic endowments – have been a central form of social finance in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) for centuries. Awqaf have been used to fund, on a perpetual basis, institutions and projects that support poverty alleviation, education, health care, and numerous other social objectives.

The United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO) in Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD) have identified Awqaf as an important source of sustainable financing for the National Transformation Plan (NTP) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In partnership, UNRCO and ICD envision undertaking a strategic study on the potential of Awqaf in the KSA for SDG financing.

Scope of Work

The International Researcher (IR) will undertake relevant literature search, provide reference and background documents and draft two chapters of the study and will contribute to other sections.

S/he will also contribute to the Recommendations chapter, Executive Summary, and Conclusion as required to reflect his or her chapters.

Expected Outputs and Deliverables

Deliverables/ Outputs	Estimated Duration to Complete	Target Due Dates	Review and Approvals Required
1. Workplan for delivering results <ul style="list-style-type: none">Based on the ToRs, and in consultation with the SDCO, prepare a workplan for delivering results.	1 week	Within 1 week of start date	Senior Advisor with EC Secretariat
2. Draft and Final version of Chapter II: Context and Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">Objectives of the studyThe importance and urgency of the UN 2030 Agenda and the SDGsThe importance of Vision 2030 and the National Transformation PlansThe KSA's commitment to the SDGsPrior research (light literature review) on Awqaf and social developmentThe unique contribution(s) of the current study	4 – 6 weeks	TBD	Senior Advisor with EC Secretariat

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sponsors' (UN and ICD) commitment to the SDGs 			
3. Chapter IV: Draft and Final version of Framework for SDG alignment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce framework for SDG and Vision 2030 alignment of Awqaf on three levels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of the Waqf; The projects of the Waqf; and The investments of the Waqf (when relevant). Discuss the alignment of purpose through Waqf charters and registration Discuss the alignment of projects through UN tools on SDG impact measurement Discuss the alignment of investments through UN principles and frameworks 	4 – 6 weeks	TBD	Senior Advisor with EC Secretariat
4. Other contributions to overall report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the Recommendations chapter, Executive Summary, and Conclusion to reflect Chapters II and IV. Participate in reviews of the full report when ready, including possible working sessions with the Advisory Committee or Executive Committee Amend relevant chapters of the report as needed through rounds of feedback from the Advisory Board and Executive Committee 	2 - 4 weeks	TBD	Senior Advisor with EC Secretariat

Institutional Arrangement

The IR will report to the project's Steering Committee and will take day-to-day direction from the Senior Advisor responsible for quality control.

Duration of the Work

The project is planned for a duration of 12 working weeks, spanning 14 calendar weeks due to holiday breaks for Eid al-Fitr, Hajj, and Eid al-Adha. In consideration of logistical challenges and lockdowns associated with the pandemic, it is anticipated that the project may span more calendar weeks. The scope and total days of work, however, would remain as contracted.

Duty Station

The IR will work from home. S/he will be required to attend meetings by video or teleconference.

Qualifications of the Successful Individual Contractor

Education:

- Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent degree) in economics, finance, or a related

field. A first-level university degree in combination with two additional years of qualifying experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree.

Experience & Skills:

- Expertise in the SDGs and sustainable finance;
- Familiarity with the Waqf sector, Islamic finance, or philanthropy more broadly;
- Excellent writing and communication skills (English-language);
- Strong experience in qualitative and quantitative research;
- Demonstrated ability to source and analyze information and data (English-language) from published reports and data;
- Expertise in conducting stakeholder interviews to generate qualitative findings;
- Strong project management skills; and
- A proven ability to effectively work independently.

Language:

- Fluency in English is required, as the report is in English.
- Fluency in Arabic is highly preferred, as reference documents may not always be available in English.
- Working knowledge of other languages in which Awqaf research is conducted is desirable to the extent that such documents may be referenced as international practices.

Scope of Price Proposal and Schedule of Payments

1. Remuneration will be on a Lump Sum Monthly Basis
2. The lump sum amount will be "all-inclusive" except travel undertaken by request of the Senior Advisor of the Executive Committee in support of delivering the results,
3. Duty travels (if any) will follow UNDP rules and regulations including the UN's Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) rates prevailing at the travel locations.
4. The contract price is fixed regardless of changes in the cost components;

Recommended Presentation of Offer

The Offer will to be submitted, with the following documents;

- a) Duly accomplished **Letter of Confirmation of Interest and Availability**;
- b) **Personal CV or P11**, indicating all past experience from similar projects, as well as the contact details (email and telephone number) of the Candidate and at least three (3) professional references;
- c) **Brief description** of why the individual considers him/herself as the most suitable for the assignment, and a methodology, if applicable, on how they will approach and complete the assignment.
- d) **Financial Proposal** that indicates the all-inclusive fixed total contract price, supported by a breakdown of costs, as per template provided.

This TOR is approved by:

Signature

Name and Designation

Date of Signing

Nathalie Fuster
UN Resident Coordinator, KSA