

Terms of Reference

National or International consultants: National

Description of the assignment (Title of consultancy): Urban Design in Karantina

Project Title: Beirut Post-Blast Response: Supporting Inclusive and Integrated Recovery in Karantina

Period of assignment/services: seventy-five (75) days, spread over a period of 15 weeks, ending no later than 30 December 2021 - To ensure deliverables are submitted on time.

1. Background

Being one of the closest areas to the 4th of August explosion site, Karantina sustained the highest level of damages in terms of human losses and physical destruction. Most buildings were severely affected and fully or partially destroyed, leaving people with no safe habitable houses and no businesses. While UNDP launched immediate projects to repair damaged buildings and houses, support shop owners, provide legal assistance to residents, rehabilitate the public hospital, and manage produced waste; it also designed an output for developing a longer-term plan to address the deeper vulnerabilities and opportunities in the area, based on the visions and aspirations of local communities.

Karantina is known to be historically marginalized and home for an already vulnerable population of mixed nationalities, ethnicities, and religions. The neighbourhood's multi-layered mental, physical, and spatial segregation has been exacerbated by unjust development planning, economic decline and conflict. Today, the presence of the military, garbage dumps, unregulated industries, and underserviced public spaces has led to an intimidating and unhealthy urban environment that takes a toll on the residents' wellbeing.

The Urban Recovery Framework (URF) team at UNDP conducted a series of participatory activities to identify urban vulnerabilities, trends, community priorities, and opportunities for improvement. On top of the daily community support, follow-up, and informal conversations, the team organized and facilitated five thematic community discussions, each involving participants of diverse backgrounds, ensuring representation of the most vulnerable groups (Syrian refugees, tenants of old rent, etc.). During these conversations, people expressed their perceptions, fears, and aspirations, and spoke about the challenges affecting their daily lives.

Additionally, the UNDP team carried out urban walks in Al-Khodor and Al-Sayde sub-neighbourhoods, accompanying groups of community members to take stock together of the area's needs for a better quality of public life. These activities, coupled with the findings from the landscape assessment, SMEs assessment, and socio-economic assessment (SEIA), led to the identification of priority needs and problems that stretch across sectors, and that can be grouped into five main challenges:

1. **Safety and Security:** People want protection against traffic and accidents, environmental hazards, crime, war, and conflict. The Beirut Blast has exacerbated the already-existing sense

of insecurity, a sense perpetuated by the deliberate processes of marginalization, isolation, and neglect.

2. **Accessibility:** People suffer from the lack of direct and easy access to the city, long distance to major services, and from the exclusivity of street and public spaces (affecting especially women, children, elderly and PWDs). This problem has direct and indirect effects on the quality of life and hinders economic opportunities in the area.
3. **Environmental and Public Health and Wellbeing:** People are exposed to high levels of pollution - air, noise, and visual – resulting from the waste facilities, traffic, industries, and other sources. The intimidating urban environment is potentially contributing to health problems to community members and offers very few options of healthy activity and sociable life in the open space.
4. **Livelihoods and Affordability:** Most residents in Karantina lack access to affordable healthcare, education, and other key services. They struggle with housing insecurity, very low income, and unemployment.
5. **Neighbourhood Character:** People wish for a more attractive neighbourhood image, an image currently associated with insalubrity and decay. This affects the community's sense of belonging as well as the local economic activity. Also, the neighbourhood's cultural heritage is yet to be protected and promoted.

To address these issues, UNDP aims to implement tactical urbanism interventions to improve the urban environment in Karantina by making it safer, healthier, and more inclusive. While many individual properties - apartments and shops - were rehabilitated, the issues related to the public and common space remain largely unaddressed. This imbalance hinders the improvement of the neighborhood's livability. It also contributes to the disengagement of the government, promotes individualism, and deepens the distrust and hopelessness felt by the community towards governmental and non-governmental institutions. Accordingly, the upgrading of streets and public spaces is a necessary step towards a just and inclusive urban recovery. This recovery should encourage social activity in the public realm and the building of a structure for peace and solidarity. It should also help the local economy thrive by improving the accessibility and overall character of the neighbourhood, while remaining sensitive to the local social and cultural contexts.

The proposed tactical urbanism projects will be small-scale, low-risk, and scalable interventions on streets and open areas. They will help instigate incremental change towards longer-term goals by testing different solutions, refining, and scaling the results to achieve optimal outcomes. These interventions will engage the local community through Citizen Science, design workshops and consultations, and will involve new ways of collaboration between different stakeholders. This will also help provide much-needed short-term employment for a group of Lebanese resident and displaced Syrian men and women, mostly from vulnerable families.

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

The Urban Designer will work on these two main outputs:

- 1) Analyzing the qualities of the streets and open spaces in Karantina, in connection with the five major issues identified in the first phase, particularly understanding the relationship between people and the urban environment.
- 2) Developing design responses to improve the safety, accessibility, and comfort of the public space, taking into consideration the projects' potential impact on the economic and social life in Karantina.

To achieve the objectives above, the following deliverables are expected:

- Data Collection and Analysis:

The Urban Designer will be responsible for analyzing the quality of the urban environment in multiple areas of Karantina. He/she will be assisted by a group of Citizen Scientists to conduct surveys and data collection on the field. The analysis should include the following:

- Land Use Mapping: identifying functions of the building on ground floor.
- Façade Study: identifying the active, friendly, boring, and inactive ground floor frontages.
- Test walks: mapping any obstacles, hindrances, waiting points, and other frustrations as well as the sensory experiences perceived on the streets/public spaces.
- Tracing Study: a study of pedestrians' movement flow and trajectories in the public space.
- Assess place quality according to the 12 quality criteria developed by Gehl.
- Demographic Analysis: Identifying the proportions of different age groups and gender groups in each place at different time slots.
- Pedestrian Analysis: Registering and analyzing how many people are passing each location.
- Behavioral mapping: Observing and mapping the types of people's activity in the public space.
- Interviews to understand why and how people are using the streets (identifying the types of activities: necessary, recreational, or optional activity)

- Designing pilot projects

- Based on the data collection and analysis, the Urban Designer will be responsible for identifying potential tactical urbanism interventions, setting goals and defining success criteria (e.g., reduction of traffic, increased pedestrian activity, better quality of environment, etc.) in coordination with the Urban Recovery

- Accordingly, he/she will design tactical urbanism projects and develop all necessary drawings, including plans, sections, sketches, elevations, collages, or any other representation. Pilot projects can include, for example, pop-up public spaces, temporary seating area, landscape design, etc.
- The design process of each tactical intervention will depend on the nature of the problem and the type of suggested solution. It can involve co-design workshops with the local community, collaboration with the municipality or other partners working on similar issues in Karantina, and so on. This should be determined in coordination with the Urban Recovery Officer.

The individual contractor with UNDP should finalize the above methodology during the first week of the consultancy and should undertake all the work in close coordination and regular follow up with the UNDP team.

3. Expected Outputs and Deliverables

Deliverables	Estimated Working days	Target Due Dates	Review and Approvals Required
<u>Deliverable 1:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed methodology and expected results as per the ToR to be finalized with UNDP. • Progress on surveys, mapping, and analysis. • Identification of five (or more) potential pilot projects. 	15 days	Three weeks from contract signature	Urban Recovery Officer
<u>Deliverable 2:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results of surveys, mapping, and analysis. • Co-design workshops with the local community and stakeholders. • Draft designs of at least five tactical urbanism projects. 	45 days	Twelve weeks from contract signature	
<u>Deliverable 3:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on Final designs of at least five tactical urbanism projects, including all necessary drawings (plans, sections, elevations, visualizations, etc.) • Presentation of the project results. 	15 days	Fifteen weeks from contract signature	

4. Institutional arrangements

- The consultant will work in close coordination with the Urban Recovery Framework team and under the direct supervision of the Urban Recovery Officer.

5. Duration of work

The IC will be recruited in August 2021; seventy-five (75) days, spread over a period of 15 weeks, ending no later than the 31 December 2021.

6. Duty station

The consultant will be conducting field work in Lebanon (as he/she finds applicable), in addition to “working from home” to produce designs and reports. He/she can also work at the UNDP office in Karantina.

7. Requirements for experience and qualifications

I. Academic Qualifications:

A minimum certificate of a bachelor's degree in urban design, architecture, landscape architecture, or related fields

II. Years of experience:

A minimum of 3 post-graduate years of experience in designing public spaces, streetscapes and/or urban landscapes.

III. Technical experience:

- Demonstrated high-quality urban design skills (public spaces, streets, sidewalks, urban furniture, landscape, etc.)*
- Proven familiarity with human-centered urban research and design*
- Proven experience in small-scale and/or temporary urban design interventions.*
- Demonstrated communication skills; Experience in producing high-quality maps, diagrams, and visualizations*

IV. Competencies:

- Fluent in Writing and spoken English and Arabic*
- Proficient in using AutoCAD, Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, or similar software.*
- Able to work collaboratively with a team*
- Good Knowledge in preparing final reports*

8. Scope of Price Proposal and Schedule of Payments

The payments will be issued based on completion and approval of the deliverables as below.

Deliverables	Expected Working Days	Target Due Dates	Payment Terms
<u>Deliverables 1</u>	15 working days	Three weeks from contract signatures	20% of the total contract price
<u>Deliverable 2:</u>	45 working days	Twelve weeks from contract signatures	60 % of the total contract price
<u>Deliverable 3:</u>	15 working days	Fifteen weeks from contract signatures	20% of the total contract price