TERMS OF REFERENCE

National Research Consultant

Individual Consultancy

Project:	Network of Local Governments II project
Consultancy:	National Consultant: Conducting and managing research on the Behavior of Jordanian Voters in Elections in Amman.
Duration:	4 months
Expected Contract Start Date:	30 July 2022
Contract End Date:	30 November 2022
Duty Station:	Amman – Jordan

BACKGROUND

UNDP Jordan seeks to enhance transparency, accountability, decentralization and citizen participation through an open government approach across three levels of Jordan's public administration through the *Network of Local Governments – Phase II* project. The intervention is taking a three-layered approach to allow for a bottom-up and top-down approach to strengthen the interconnectivities between the different layers of government while reinforcing the social contract. The Project contributes to: 1) improved transparency through enhancing vulnerable groups participation in the decision making utilizing digital transformation tools, 2) enhanced accountability at the institutional level contributing to better public sector performance and responsiveness to citizens' needs; and 3) strengthened and responsive citizenry through improved civic participation quality and level.

A quick reading to the Jordanian political context reveals that vulnerable groups' representation in elected bodies is lagging behind regional and global ratings. Voters' apathy was clearly evident in the last 2020 Parliamentary elections with a very low voter turnout rate of 29.9%, with approximately 6% less than the turnout in the previous 2016 parliamentary elections. None of the Members of Parliament (MPs) are under 30 years of age. A large proportion of young voters were, therefore, excluded from running for political office. Historically, persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Jordan have rarely participated in elections, either as candidates or voters and none of candidates managed to win a seat in Parliament,

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although PWDs make up 11.1% of the Jordanian population[1]. On the other hand, women did not manage in 2020 to win even one seat through competition, although a total of 360 women ran for the 2020 elections. The same applies to local elections, where, governorate and municipal council elections registered a voter turnout of 29.64 %%. A total of 1,363,465 citizens cast their ballots, with 15.56 % male voters and 14.08 % female voters. Consequently, for Jordan to fulfil its commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goals 5 " *Gender equality*" and 16 " *Peace, justice and strong institutions",* reform measures need to be taken. In the meantime, the government's policy on Support to Counterterrorism, Stabilisation and Counter-Radicalisation in Jordan concludes that violent extremism in Jordan is fundamentally "the result of frustration and exclusion" and that "extremism is first and foremost a socio-political phenomenon".

The new Elections Law of 2022 brought in many amendments: The new law substantially changes the electoral system. For the next parliamentary elections, the kingdom will be divided into 18 electoral districts, in lieu of the 23 stated by the previous law, containing 97 out of the 138 seats, whereby candidates compete in an open list proportional representation system. 41 seats will be allocated to the national district, where political parties will participate in a closed list proportional representation system. In other words, 30 % of the seats in parliament will be reserved for political parties. These parties' lists must have at least one woman for every three candidates. In a bid to encourage the political engagement of youth, the minimum age for a parliamentary candidate has been reduced from 30 to 25, and political parties' lists must have at least one candidate aged below the age of 35 among the first five candidates. The law also stipulates that the number of seats allocated to the national district—and hence to political parties—will gradually increase in subsequent elections. According to the new law, the voter is obligated to cast his or her vote in the district where he or she actually resides.

PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTANCY

At the 2020 parliamentary elections, the final number of voters stood at 1,386,749, out of around 4.6 million eligible voters. The voter turnout represented 29.9 % (34.12% for men and 26.11% for women) down from 36 % in 2016. As for local elections, a total of 1,363,465 citizens cast their ballots, with 15.56 % male voters and 14.08 % female voters, according to the Independent Election Commission (IEC). The total number of eligible voters was 4,602,135, of which 2,437,340 were women.

There is an urgent need to identify deep rooted causes related to the gaps in participation, especially in the Capital Governorate with the aim of informing policy makers of specific challenges to voter turnout. It will also provide recommendations to enhance informed political development related to the new Election and Political Parties Laws. **The effects of political reform and legislative amendments on voter's behaviour should be subject to analysis and observation.**

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[1] http://www.dos.gov.jo/dos_home_e/main/population/census2015/Disability%202021.pdf

The study of political participation supports political analysis through building relationships with people, outside of formal and elite political institutions and draws attention to alternative citizens' views to political participation, bringing in an examination of local meanings. UNDP Jordan seeks to contract a Research Consultant to conduct research on The Behaviour of The Jordanian Voter: A qualitative contribution to explain low voting turnouts in the Capital Governorate. In the most recent elections, voting in Amman and Zarqa was significantly lower than in the 2016 elections. In Amman's third district, it stood at 11. 7 %, down from 19.2 in the previous elections, a key indicator of public mistrust in the political process. Amman, the capital city of Jordan, can be described as a Mosaic in terms of demography, socio-cultural backgrounds, sub identities and circles of belonging. This affects voting attitudes and behaviours.

This proposed research is meant to be a multi-faced and inter-disciplinary one using qualitative and insightful analysis revealing socio-cultural effects and blending the human aspect with economic, demographic, geographical and cultural aspects. All these perspectives are to be used in this research.

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Under the overall guidance of the Governance and Peace Team Leader and the Senior Programme Specialist, the consultant will work closely with the UNDP project staff

RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE CONSULTANCY

The electoral districts in Amman are divided into five electoral districts, in which research will be conducted, focusing on vulnerable groups (youth, women and PWD).

The Research consultant will support the Governance & Peace Pillar by conducting and managing research on The Behavior of The Jordanian Voter: A qualitative contribution to explain low voting turnouts in the city of Amman with a special focus on vulnerable groups (Youth, women and PWD). The consultant will build a Model in order to be able to understand the *Behavior of the Ammani Voter*s.

What does this research offer?

- Identifying patterns of voting and non-voting behaviors.
- Identifying the "Reference of Influence" leading registered voters to decide whether or not they will cast their votes. (Is it the family? actual friends? virtual friend? Tribal ties, etc.).
- What factors affect the non-voters more: Candidates themselves? Legislative barriers or the election process itself?
- Perceptions of the public towards the Parliament and Members of the Parliament?
- Perceptions of the public towards elected local representatives.

- Identifying what motivates and de-motivates the voters.
- Providing reliable insights that can guide any future interventions or amendments to encourage higher voter turnout.

Overall responsibilities include:

1- Draw parallel maps to reflect: Sociological Map (reflects kinship and tribal ties within each district); Economic Map (the presence of wealthy, poor or middle-class neighborhoods/ communities within the districts), and Political Map (if applicable). These maps should help in examining the effect of a wide range of variables on voter's behavior.

2- Develop Voting Biographies for selected individuals and/ or families to track what is constant and what has changed over the last three decades.

3- Conduct in-depth interviews with representing segments of the society: Former MPs and former candidates for Parliamentary elections, and other "Election Keys".

4- Conduct interviews with local community officials: Examples include Greater Amman Municipality regions directors and staff.

5- Field interviews with individuals and groups.

6- Conduct Focus-group discussions with university students and others, including academia.

7- Conduct meetings with high school students to examine the perspectives, attitudes, and tendencies of voters-to-be.

SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS & DELIVERABLES

The payments will be effective upon the achievement of the corresponding milestones and for the following amounts:

%	Deliverables	Estimated date
20%	Submission of the workplan for the duration of the contract	10 days from signing contract
20%	Develop Voting Biographies for selected individuals and/ or families to track what is constant and what has changed over the last three decades.	30 days from signing the contract
40%	Submitting a report with the findings and analysis of the in-depth interviews conducted with representing segments of the society	60 days of signing the contract
	Submitting a report with the findings and analysis of the interviews conduct with local community officials.	
	Submit a report with the findings and analysis of the field interviews conducted with individuals and groups.	

	Submit report with the finding and analysis of the conducted focus-group discussions with university students and other academia.	
	Submit report with the finding and analysis of the conducted meetings with high school students to examine the perspectives, attitudes, and tendencies of voters-to-be.	
20%	Submit draft analytical report on Ammani voters' behavior, including challenges, positive/negative or neutral influence of the political reform legislations and the way forward. All raw data documents should be shared with UNDP.	100 days of signing the contract

QUALIFICATIONS OF THE SUCCESSFUL EXPERT

Education

- Master's degree in social sciences or equivalent.

Work Experience

- Minimum ten years of Experience in human centric research and studies.
- Minimum ten years of Experience in research and studies on development issues and Jordanian society
- Ability to manage research projects and team of field researchers for data collection.
- A deep understanding of local politics, challenges, problems, and access to research data over the past 15 years.
- Experience in working with national government organizations, with development actors, civil society, UN or related development organizations.
- Strong Communication skills, research and analytical skills, and ability to receive and integrate feedback.
- Deep experience in history and trends of Parliamentary and local elections.

Core Competencies:

- Demonstrates integrity by modelling the UN's values and ethical standards.
- Promotes the vision, mission, and strategic goals of UNDP.
- Displays cultural, gender, religion, race, nationality and age sensitivity and adaptability.
- Treats all people fairly without favouritism.
- Fulfils all obligations to gender sensitivity and zero tolerance for sexual harassment.

Language

Fluency in Arabic Language with good skills in English language.

SHORT LISTING CRITERIA – PASSING SCORE (70%)

Criteria	Maximum points
Master's degree in social sciences	20%
Over ten years of experience in anthropology research and studies on development issues and Jordanian social history	30%
Strong communication skills, research and analytical skills, and ability to receive and integrate feedback.	20%

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF BEST OFFER

The award of the contract shall be made to the individual consultant whose offer has been evaluated and determined as:

a) Being responsive/compliant/acceptable, and

b) Having received the highest score based on the following weight of technical and financial criteria for solicitation as per the schedule below:

* Technical criteria weight: 70%

* Financial criteria weight: 30%

Only candidates obtaining a minimum of (70%) in the technical evaluation shall be considered for the financial evaluation.

Of those offers considered in the financial evaluation, the lowest price offer will receive 30 points. The other offers will receive points in relation to the lowest offer, based on the following formula: $(P_n / P_l) * 30$ where P_n is the financial offer being evaluated and P_l is the lowest financial offer received.

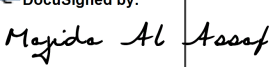| Technical Criteria	Maximum points
Clear methodology identifying the route and requirements for performing research with a logical timeframe. A detailed workplan summarizing the different activities and resources needed to fulfil them.	30
Full understanding of the political context in Jordan and challenges and opportunities around low voter turnout in urban cities of Jordan.	30
The research includes analysis of underrepresentation and low participation of vulnerable groups (youth, women and PWDs).	20
Ability to manage research projects and team of field researchers for data collection	20

IX. DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED

Interested consultants are invited submit the following documents/information to be considered:

Offeror's letter, as per the attached form (Annex 3)

Personal History Form (P-11), including 3 references with their emails and contact details.

Technical proposal

i. Explaining why they are the most suitable for the work

ii. Providing a brief methodology (not more than 3 pages) on how they would approach and conduct the work.

Financial proposal in accordance with the attached schedule (Annex 3)

UNDP	Consultant
Majida Al- Assaf Deputy Resident Representative Signature:	DocuSigned by: *Majida Al Assaf* 46208828AB55400...