

Terms of Reference

Title

Exploring opportunities for programming for NRC in the sector of Livelihoods and Food Security in Lebanon

Assignment background

Lebanon is going through the worst economic crisis in decades, estimates show that by late 2020 a third of the Lebanese population, 50% of Palestinian refugees and over 80% of the Syrian refugee population in Lebanon live below the poverty line. The country's macroeconomic indicators continued to show a deep depression as a result of the multiple crises that hit the country throughout 2020; the trend was further accentuated by the Beirut port explosion on August 4th. Currency fluctuations have led to price increases of 150% on consumer goods and the unemployment rate is nearing 50%. Displacement-affected are particularly affected by the impact of the multiple crises hitting Lebanon, 80-90% of Syrian refugees are experiencing some degree of food insecurity. Ten years into the Syria conflict, Syrian refugees have struggled against multi-dimensional challenges to access basic needs and secure a source of income, with restrictions on the job markets, continued restrictions on movements, increasing trend of negative coping strategies, increasing levels of debt and inability to pay rent. In addition, the past few months have seen an increase in the number of intercommunal tensions and in many cases targeting Syrian refugees.

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) is an independent humanitarian organisation helping people forced to flee. NRC works in crises in more than 30 countries, to help save lives and rebuild futures. NRC Lebanon was established in 2006. The country office is in Beirut, with additional field offices in South, North, and Bekaa. NRC is a leading actor in the Shelter, WASH, Protection, Social Stability, and Education sectors. The NRC Lebanon strategy for 2021 committed to exploring Livelihoods-focused programming as either a stand-alone or a more integrated activity with existing Youth, ICLA and Shelter/WASH programming.

Objectives and scope of work

Objectives

1. Improve NRC's understanding of the coping strategies adopted by refugees and Lebanese below the poverty line in Lebanon and establish determinants of welfare.
2. Provide an overview of the Livelihoods and Food Security (LFS) programming in Lebanon, with focus on those supporting identified key coping strategies.
3. Develop NRC positioning (strategy) on LFS in Lebanon.
4. Contribute to the resource mobilization of the LFS strategy.

Scope of work

Objective	Activity	Deliverables	Est. #days
<p>(1) Improve NRC's understanding of the coping strategies adopted by refugees and Lebanese living below the poverty line in Lebanon and establish determinants of welfare.</p> <p>(2) Provide an overview of the Livelihoods and Food Security (LFS) programming in Lebanon, with focus on those supporting identified key coping strategies.</p>	Conduct and lead a comprehensive assessment based on primary data collection & secondary data review.	<p>i. Coping strategies and determinants of welfare assessment report (max 20 pages)</p> <p>ii. Mapping of LFS programming and donors supporting LFS in Lebanon (max 10 pages)</p> <p>iii. KIs, FGDs, surveys raw data and notes from secondary data review.</p> <p>iv. Tools drafted and used.</p>	45 days

(3) Develop NRC positioning (strategy) on LFS in Lebanon.	Design, in collaboration with the country team, an evidence based LFS Strategy.	i. A completed 2021 strategy paper (max. 6 pgs). ii. Theory of Change (max. 2 pgs) iii. Macro LogFrame (max. 3 pgs).	10 days
(4) Contribute to resource mobilization of NRC Lebanon Country Office's LFS strategy.	Lead the conceptualisation and design of a new LFS project that draws from the assessment findings and strategy.	i. An LFS Concept Note (max. 5 pages) for initial fundraising. ii. An LFS Proposal (max. 20 pages) with budgets, that effectively addresses sector gaps, needs with linkages to existing programs.	5 days

The consultant will be expected to debrief with the main interlocutors following each completed deliverable and before the subsequent activity, to ensure that the programmatic direction of each deliverable stays true to NRC's positioning in Lebanon and addresses evidenced challenges.

Major tasks and responsibilities

The Consultancy has the freedom to determine the precise tasks required to complete the deliverables and achieve the Objectives. However, the Consultancy will be at minimum expected to:

- Carry out a comprehensive literature review (including assessments) of products carried out by LFS actors in Lebanon and NRC's own efforts linked to LFS (including the Global LFS strategy).
- Develop a clear mapping of actors (non-governmental and governmental) to better understand key stakeholders in the sector.
- To the extent possible, considering restrictions linked to Covid-19, the consultancy should include first-hand information from both Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese (design and conduct a field assessment).
- Adapt NRC tools, or create new ones, to carry out the required assessment.
- Ensure the final output on the strategy and TOC are aligned to findings from the desk reviews and field assessments as well as within NRC Global programmatic TOC and relevant regional and global strategies.
- Collaboratively discuss the outline for the Concept Note and Proposal with key NRC staff within the Country Programme to ensure alignment with NRC priorities in country as well as linkages with ongoing/existing program in Shelter, WASH, Youth, ICLA and Education.
- Draft the Concept Note and Proposal including detailed budget on NRC templates and programmatic design outlines finalized, which can then be used by the country office for future fundraising.

3. Institutional and organisational arrangements

Duties of the consultant

- Complete the deliverables in a timely manner.
- Ensure the main interlocutors are consulted during the implementation of each of the activities and during drafting of deliverables.
- Inform the Head of Programmes in a timely manner, in case of difficulties and potential delays, proactively providing solutions and mitigation measures as necessary.
- Make clear any expectations on resource requirements, especially for activities which is likely require NRC staff time for field visits and beneficiary contact.

- Written work should be submitted in NRC templates in Microsoft Word format, in UK English. Graphs or other graphical devices should be editable (i.e. not pictures). All references must be cited according to convention, and detailed in a bibliography, using the Harvard system as set out in the [UNESCO Style Manual](#). *All verbatim quotations must appear in quotation marks, and must not be of excessive length.*
- Budget under deliverable 3a)ii and data collected under the assessment must be submitted in Microsoft Excel.
- NRC will own the intellectual property rights to all materials submitted by the Consultancy under the contract. The Consultancy must therefore ensure that they have possession of any materials provided to NRC as a part of the deliverable. The rights to reproduce the reports will fall to NRC and its contracted agents. NRC will be free to reproduce the materials at will and to grant reproduction rights.
- Everything submitted to NRC must be the original work of the Consultancy. Any plagiarism in any form, or any other breach of intellectual property rights, will automatically disqualify the Consultancy from receiving any further payments under the contract by NRC, and NRC will seek to recover any payments already made.
- The consultant will follow [Ethical Research Involving Children](#) guidance on the ethical participation of children. In addition, all participants in any study or other interaction will be fully informed about the nature and purpose of the interaction and their requested involvement. Informed consent must be obtained for any photographs, audio or video recordings, etc., in accordance with NRC's policy on consent.

Duties of NRC

- NRC will support the Consultancy with any required applications and acquisitions of visas or permits for entering and staying in Lebanon.
- NRC will be responsible for any transportation within Lebanon.
- NRC will provide accommodation in NRC Guest Houses, as required.
- NRC will ensure that the Consultancy is provided with all the necessary templates, examples and tools. However, personal equipment such as laptop and mobile phone will not be provided.
- NRC will facilitate access to relevant documents needed for the completion of deliverables, such as for the desk review.
- NRC will facilitate contact with existing networks, key informants, forums and relevant agencies.

4. Implementation schedule and estimated inputs

Please see "Estimated timeframe" for each activity in the table under section two (2) of this ToR.

Activities are sequential; that is to say that one must be completed before continuing the other. Some overlap can be expected if preliminary results of the last activity are already available.

Timeframe

The consultancy is expected to be completed the latest by the end of May 2021.

5. Qualifications of the Consultancy

- At least 10 years of experience in similar positions/experience (livelihoods programme management, field-experience, technical supervisory role) including a variety of livelihoods programming and modalities.
- University degree (or comparable work experience) in a relevant field (ex. Humanitarian assistance, food security, economics, development, or related subject).
- Several years of technical experience in developing technical sector strategies, evaluations, assessments and support to programming.
- Strong preference for an in-depth and nuanced knowledge of the context in Palestine, including serious violations of international law that drive humanitarian needs.

- Experience in developing strategies for programmes in transition from humanitarian to longer-term development would be a plus.
- Excellent critical thinking and thrives on strategizing solutions in the face of complex challenges.
- Languages: fluent in English, with superb English writing skills.
- Preferably, familiar with NRC's Theory of Change and Strategy, as well as international trends regarding livelihoods.
- A demonstrated interest in innovative solutions, integrating environmental protection /climate change is an added-value.
- Proactive initiative-taker and need for minimal supervision.
- Outstanding personal attitude: especially sense of responsibility, concern for quality, result orientation; integrity, commitment, respect for diversity.