

Impact Evaluation: UNICEF Project	
Terms Of Reference	
Country / Region	Lebanon
Start date	01/10/2023
Source of funding	UNICEF
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1. CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION

1.1. CONTEXT

Lebanon has recently found itself grappling with an unprecedented set of challenges. The economic crisis that has unfolded in Lebanon has given rise to a complex and multifaceted humanitarian situation. The severe economic downturn, characterized by hyperinflation, a sharp devaluation of the national currency, and soaring unemployment rates, has created an environment fraught with risk factors that pose a significant threat to the well-being of its vulnerable populations, particularly mothers and children.

One of the most concerning aspects of this crisis is its direct impact on nutrition indicators among these vulnerable groups. In this turbulent environment, basic necessities like food have become increasingly scarce and unaffordable for many households. Inflated food prices, coupled with reduced purchasing power, have placed immense strain on families, making it a daunting challenge to provide balanced and nutritious meals for pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) and young children.

Furthermore, the economic crisis has rendered Lebanon's food system fragile, with disruptions in supply chains and a reduced ability to import essential food items. This fragility has contributed to an alarming increase in food insecurity, threatening the nutritional well-being of mothers and children across the country. Access to critical healthcare services, including antenatal and postnatal care, has also been significantly hindered by the crisis, further exacerbating the vulnerability of these populations.

1.2. Justification

To address this Première Urgence Internationale (PUI), and Relief International (RI) will be carrying out a comprehensive set of health activities aimed at enhancing health outcomes for mothers and children/infants, under the UNICEF budget. These activities span across three key fronts: Primary Healthcare Centers (PHCC), communities, and households, and encompass a wide range of interventions designed to address the healthcare needs of marginalized populations.

The project encompasses a comprehensive set of interventions, including but not limited to:

- **Immunization:** Ensuring that children receive essential vaccines to protect them from preventable diseases.
- **Antenatal and Postnatal Care:** Providing care and support to expectant mothers before and after childbirth.
- **Nutrition and Early Childhood Development (ECD):** Promoting proper nutrition and early childhood development to ensure the healthy growth of infants and young children.
- **Emergency Response:** Delivering prompt and effective responses to healthcare emergencies.
- **Health Awareness Activities:** Conducting campaigns and activities to raise health awareness among the target communities.
- **Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Screening, and Follow-Up:** Addressing NCDs among beneficiaries through comprehensive screening, and ongoing follow-up on their treatment plan.
- **Malnutrition Activities for PLWs and Children:** Implementing targeted interventions to combat malnutrition among Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLWs) and children, thereby enhancing their nutritional status and promoting healthy development.

Implemented across three catchment areas in Lebanon—South, Beirut and Mount Lebanon (BML), and North—the project's primary objective is to redress healthcare disparities and improve the overall health and well-being of marginalized populations within these regions.

1.3. RATIONALE

The impact evaluation of the UNICEF-funded project is crucial to assess the effectiveness of these interventions, particularly in mitigating the impact of the economic crisis on the nutritional, immunization, and other health indicators. This evaluation will provide critical insights into the project's achievements, challenges, and lessons learned, helping to inform future programmatic decisions and enhance the project's impact.

2. CONSULTANCY OBJECTIVES

2.1. OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The main objective of this impact evaluation is to assess the effectiveness and outcomes of the UNICEF-funded project in improving health and development outcomes for mothers and children/infants, and other NCD patients in the designated catchment areas of Lebanon. The evaluation aims to provide insights into the project's achievements, challenges, and lessons learned to inform future programmatic decisions and enhance impact.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Evaluate the extent to which the project has augmented access to healthcare services for marginalized populations at the community level.
- Assess the impact of the project on ANC/PNC services' compliance and its influence on positive delivery outcomes.
- Determine the effectiveness of project interventions in upscaling nutrition and early child development efforts.
- Examine the efficiency and impact of preventive care measures executed by the project, including NCD screening and follow-up as well as malnutrition screening.
- Evaluate the coverage and effectiveness of immunization services provided under the project.
- Assess the optimization of the continuum of care across different levels of the healthcare system.
- Evaluate the reach and impact of health promotion, social, and behavior change (SBC) interventions.
- Analyze the utilization and impact of digital health solutions for data collection and referrals within the project.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1. OVERALL SCOPE OF THE WORK

The scope of work for the consultant undertaking the impact evaluation of the UNICEF-funded project in Lebanon encompasses a comprehensive set of tasks and responsibilities. The consultant will work closely with PUI and RI, and other relevant stakeholders to conduct a thorough assessment of the project's effectiveness in improving health outcomes for targeted populations in the context of Lebanon's challenging economic crisis.

3.2. MAIN TASKS

In the frame of this assignment, the consultant will carry out the following tasks:

1. Preparation and Inception

- Preliminary meeting with PUI and RI, and relevant stakeholders to finalize the evaluation framework, objectives, and methods. Develop an inception report

outlining the evaluation approach, data collection tools, and a comprehensive work plan.

2. Data Collection Tools: The consultant will employ a variety of contextually relevant tools to collect both quantitative and qualitative data. These include:
 - **Surveys**: Conduct surveys targeting beneficiaries, healthcare providers, and community members to quantitatively assess indicators related to healthcare service utilization, compliance, and awareness.
 - **Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)**: Organize FGDs with project beneficiaries to gain qualitative insights into their perceptions, experiences, and the impact of project interventions on their lives.
 - **Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)**: Conduct KIIs with project implementers, healthcare professionals, and community leaders to gather expert opinions and insights on project effectiveness and challenges.
3. Comparative analysis:
 - Utilize appropriate statistical and analytical methods to compare project outcomes against baseline data or control groups, where applicable.
4. Site Visits:
 - Visit project sites across different catchment areas to observe activities, gather on-the-ground insights, and validate collected data.
5. Data Analysis:
 - Analyze quantitative data using statistical software and qualitative data through thematic analysis to derive meaningful conclusions.
6. Report Writing:
 - Prepare a comprehensive impact evaluation report that includes findings, conclusions, recommendations, and lessons learned.

4. AREA OF INTERVENTION

The study will cover all areas of operation including Akkar, BML, South, and Tripoli.

5. DURATION OF THE STUDY

The assigned activities are estimated to **start by 04 December 2023** and have to be **finalized by 30 December 2023**. The timeframe to implement the following activities will be defined by the consultant.

6. FUNCTIONAL LINKS

The Consultant will be working directly under the overall supervision of PUI Health Coordinator. One Consultant that must meet the criteria specified in Section 8 (Requirements) will lead this support.

7. EXPECTED DELIVERABLE

7.1. RESEARCH PROTOCOL

- A comprehensive research protocol outlining the detailed methodology for the impact evaluation, including data collection tools, sampling methods, ethical considerations, and a work plan with clear timelines. This protocol should be submitted for review and approval by PUI.

7.2. PRELIMINARY REPORT AND DATA SET

- A preliminary evaluation report that offers an initial overview of key findings and observations from the impact evaluation, complemented by a preliminary dataset. The report should include an executive summary, methodology description, key preliminary findings, and initial conclusions. The dataset should be well-structured, containing both quantitative and qualitative data, and should be ready for further analysis and interpretation.

7.3. FINAL REPORT

- Following the validation of the research by PUI technical team, the consultant should submit the final report incorporating all inputs:
 - a. Executive summary
 - b. Background
 - c. Objectives
 - d. Methodology
 - e. Results
 - f. Discussion (including relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, sustainability and Lessons learned)
 - g. Conclusion
 - h. Recommendations and priorities
 - i. References
 - j. Acknowledgment
 - k. Appendices including Assignment of clusters, field test, Questionnaires etc.

Consultant will submit:

Final report, which should not exceed 100 pages, attached with annexes.

A draft of the report must be presented to PU-AMI before the end of the consultant mission

- The report must be provided 1 soft copy sent by email to the Health Coordinator on the date formerly agreed.
- PUI can request corrections or modifications within Two months after the report is released and the consultant must ensure that s/he is available if necessary.

8. PREREQUISITE QUALIFICATIONS

8.1. Education

A master's or PhD in the field of medicine, and/or public health

8.2. Professional experience

- At least 3-4 years' extensive experience in carrying out similar evaluations.
- Excellent knowledge in Lebanese healthcare system.
- Experience working with INGOs and/or UN agencies
- Experience in assessment of health sector /RH programmes
- Experience, knowledge, and expertise in health systems and public health in Lebanon

8.3. Competencies and knowledge

Ability to produce high quality analytical reports in English and Arabic

8.4. Languages

- Fluency in English and Arabic

9. SELECTION CRITERIA

9.1 Technical evaluation

Evaluation criteria are the following:

- TORs understanding (25 points)
- Relevance and quality of the proposed methodology (25 points)
- Experience and portfolio of previous projects (15 points)
- Candidates profile (15 points)
- Only the technical offers reaching at least 70% of the score will be declared technically valid and selected for the next phase of evaluation

9.2 Financial evaluation

Only the financial offers from the candidates with at least 70% of the technical evaluation score will be considered. A financial evaluation score will be calculated for each offer, starting on the lowest bid.

9.3 Finale evaluation

The final evaluation will combine both prior evaluations, accordingly a 70% moderation for the technical offer and a 30% moderation for the financial offer. The candidate who will have the higher score will be selected. The financial offer will be analyzed and possibly negotiated with the candidate within the limit of the available budget. An interview will be set according to do the final

selection.

10. OFFERS PRESENTATION

10.1 Technical offer composition (in English)

- A technical offer **(5-10 pages) including:**
 - o Understanding of the challenges of the study and the Terms of Reference (ToR): development of a problematic and formulation of questions, which the offer proposes to respond to
 - o The methodology and tools proposed for the assessment
 - o The timetable showing the details for the completion of each of the assessment phases. The proposed schedule should include time for briefing and debriefing on the mission.

10.2 Financial offer composition (in English)

- A financial offer including a budget with detailed sections (fees, other costs)
 - o Fees
 - o Medical insurance and coverage
 - o National transportation
 - o Communication fees
 - o HR fees (enumerators...)
 - o Other expenses

Deadline for submission: Your offer must arrive before **17 November 2023 midnight (Beirut time)** by email.

Applications submitted after the above stated deadline for submission, for whatever reason or cause, shall be considered defaulting.

Submission of applications

All documents must be submitted to the following email:

Heal.co@premiere-urgence-lib.org and log.proc.off@premiere-urgence-lib.org and
CC:log.proc.spec@premiere-urgence-lib.org;

Only applications including the full list of requested documents will be considered.