

Evaluation

Terms of Reference

“Enabling Syrian Refugee Children in Bourj Hammoud Access to Education”

Implemented by Misereor and Jesuit Refugee Service

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Background

Since the beginning of the crisis in Syria, Lebanon has been straining to cope with the huge influx of refugees. High vulnerability levels, low assistance coverage, and increased prices of necessary items have hurt the coping mechanisms of refugees who are also facing increasing exploitation, debt, and depletion of assets to compensate for the lack of unmet needs.

Additionally, the country has been immersed in a multifaceted crisis for years, at the political-social, economic, health and educational level which has been aggravated by the outbreak of COVID-19 and the explosions in the port of Beirut on August 4, 2020. Consequently, the vulnerable populations living in Lebanon have been deeply affected by a strong rising poverty level, significant gaps in basic supply chains, such as electricity or gasoline, and limitations in access to food, health, education and other basic services.

In response to the situation in the country, Misereor and JRS Lebanon have been implementing a 20 months program aimed at supporting the most vulnerable refugees in Bourj Hammoud, Mount Lebanon.

Misereor is the German Catholic aid organization for development cooperation. Together with its local partners, Misereor supports human beings of every faith and culture. The overall goal in its work with partners in countries of the global south is to contribute to sustainable development by promoting projects and programmes that are directed above all towards the poor.

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) is an international Catholic organization (HQ based in Rome) with a mission to accompany, serve and advocate on behalf of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons. JRS has been operating in Lebanon in 2012 following the start of the war in Syria and resulting refugee crisis. JRS Lebanon has been implementing multisectoral response programs in education in emergencies, protection, MHPSS, and livelihoods. Following the 2020 Port of Beirut Explosion, JRS has extended its programming to serve the increasing number of vulnerable Lebanese host community through emergency response, specialized medical care, and educational opportunities. In 2022, JRS Lebanon served approximately 7,300 vulnerable individuals across four project sites.

JRS has been active in Bourj Hammoud since July 2013. Despite the presence of NGOs in Bourj Hammoud providing emergency assistance to Syrians, rapid needs assessments have detected a significant need for educational, psychosocial and food assistance programs. Today, JRS continues to visit over 230 families in the neighborhood and serves through its center, school, and youth club over 1,500 refugees.

JRS has founded the FVDL Centre in 2014, providing early childhood education and learning support in collaboration with MEHE, psychosocial support, recreation activities, home visits, emergency & basic assistance, adults' education and protection.

Project Description

Project Name: Enabling Syrian Refugee Children in Bourj Hammoud Access to Education

The project focuses on the following pillars:

- **Education:** *provision of education opportunities to vulnerable children in Bourj Hammoud*
- **Youth Club:** *engaging youth in psychosocial, recreational, and educational activities*
- **Social center:** *provision of adult education and PSS for vulnerable adults in Bourj Hammoud*
- **MHPSS:** *provision of mental health and psychosocial support*
- **Home visits:** *accompaniment and provision of basic assistance and mental health services to families in Bourj Hammoud*
- **Protection focused awareness raising**
- **Referrals:** *internal and external referrals*
- **Staff Capacity Building:** *staff participation in capacity building activities*

Project Design

Goal

Refugees and vulnerable Lebanese in Bourj Hammoud have strengthened protection response and improved well-being through access to quality multi-sectoral services, especially in the field of education.

Outcome-based Objectives and Results Indicators

The specific objectives of this project include:

Objective no. 1: Vulnerable children have access to quality basic education in a safe learning environment.

Indicators:

1.1. By the end of each school year, 60% of the children who participate in the preschool programme are integrated into the public school system.

1.2. By the end of each school year, the level of education of at least 75% of the children in the learning support programme has improved.

1.3. 80% of teachers and social workers who receive regular training respond appropriately to the needs of children and their family members (survey: follow-up by trainers, self-assessment).

1.4. By the end of each school year, 80% of the children have attended school regularly.

Objective no. 2: The resilience of the children reached by the project and their family members is improved through accompaniment and provision of basic assistance and mental health services.

Indicator:

By the end of each school year, 70% of the students who receive counselling from a social worker have shown signs of improvement.

Targets

Age Group	Female	Male
5 – KG2&3 (CB-ECE)	103	103
6 to 14 (LS) – 8 to 12 (LS)	260	260
11 to 18 (Youth Club)	50	35
18 to 22 (Youth in Action)	8	7
Up to 18 (Youth Club Life Skills)	70	50

Evaluation Goals

Misereor and JRS are interested to design a learning-oriented evaluation to understand what processes have worked well and what changes should be made in order to better meet the needs of the target population. The evaluation will provide Misereor and JRS with a learning opportunity to improve upon existing practices by assessing the extent to which the outcomes of the project have been achieved, highlighting accomplishments and underachievement as well as main factors contributing to them and determining the appropriateness, efficiency, effectiveness, coherence, impact, and sustainability of the program. The findings and recommendations from this evaluation will also assist in planning the next phase of the project.

Evaluation Questions and Criteria

Criterion	Questions to be Asked
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Relevance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent have the project services and activities been relevant to the needs of the targeted groups? And how well did the program adapt to evolving needs and context of the target population ? • What emerging challenges and opportunities in the external environment affected the program's design and implementation? • How did the program address gender disparities and promote gender equality?
Coherence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In what respects is the project consistent with the interventions of other actors in the same context? • Where appropriate, are activities harmonised and coordinated with those of other actors and do they complement each other? To what extent does the project create added value and at the same time avoid the duplication of work activities?
Effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How effectively did the program collaborate with local partners and communities? • Were the initial objectives realistic? Is the result chain clear, coherent, and logical? Have the agreed project or program indicators effectively monitored the expected changes and been utilized by the project leadership for project management? • What evidence suggests that the program achieved its intended outcomes and impacts? • Which activities and outputs had the most significant contribution to the achievement of goals, and which needed revision to be more coherent with the overall goal? • What feedback mechanisms were in place for beneficiaries to express their opinions and suggestions? And to what extent were the beneficiaries informed about the feedback mechanisms? • Were there any unanticipated challenges or barriers encountered during program implementation? What mitigation plans were put in place, in any?
Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were resources used efficiently, and were there opportunities for optimization? • Were the results achieved within an appropriate timeframe? Were adjustments made, e.g. due to changed conditions? • How did the program adapt its strategies to maximize efficiency during implementation?
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent are the initial objectives and the design of the project still appropriate? • To what extent are the outcomes of the intervention sustainable? What evidence exist that the benefits and/or changes the intervention contributed to will continue? Did the project design include a clear exit strategy? • What are the factors that could influence the sustainability of the project? Could these be managed? • What role do risks, potential conflicts of interest and resilience (e.g. of target groups and partners) play in this context? • To what extent has the project promoted and empowered the self-sufficiency of the target community, rather than solely providing services?

Proposed Methodology

A set of varied and adapted methods is to be applied (taking a gender-sensitive approach) that focuses on quantitative and qualitative aspects in the following steps of the evaluation:

- **Prior to field work:** document review, preparation of interview guidelines, assessment of the available regional and technical analyses and data, preparation or implementation of quantitative surveys designed by the project team where this seems appropriate ...
- **During field work:** kick-off workshop, document review, participant observation, qualitative interviews (open, semi-structured), focus group discussions, context analyses, interviews with key persons, debriefing workshop ...
- **After the field work:** report writing, commenting on the report by JRS and Misereor, debriefing with JRS and Misereor.

Organization of the mission

JRS will provide the evaluation team with all necessary information and documents to carry out the evaluation. During the field work, JRS will provide logistical support. Deliverables will be expected as per the below workplan:

1. Inception Phase:

- Meet with JRS Lebanon to kick-off the evaluation.
- Review project documents such as the proposal and reports to understand the project.
- Meet with key stakeholders, including project staff, to gather initial insights and expectations.
- Create an inception report outlining the evaluation plan, methodology, and data collection tools, along with a schedule for field visits and data collection.

2. Data Collection:

- Training of consultants and data collectors in JRS Child Protection Policy.
- Visit project site in Bourj Hammoud to observe activities and interact with beneficiaries.
- Review existing project documents and relevant materials.
- Conduct surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions with different stakeholders.

3. Data Analysis:

- Analyze both qualitative and quantitative data.
- Identify key themes, patterns, and trends.
- Assess the project's context and relevance, design and logic, implementation, participation and engagement, gender and equity, effectiveness, efficiency, innovation and adaptation, beneficiary feedback and sustainability.

4. Reporting and Recommendations:

- Prepare a draft report summarizing findings, analysis, and conclusions.
- Share main findings with JRS Lebanon and Misereor, seeking feedback.
- Incorporate feedback and finalize the report.
- Provide recommendations based on findings for future project strategies and organizational development.
- Submit the final report within the agreed timeframe.

Throughout the evaluation, the external evaluator will maintain open communication with JRS Lebanon, addressing any concerns. The methodology will be adapted to the project's context and needs, ensuring a comprehensive evaluation that supports organizational learning and program improvement.

Suggested Report Outline

The evaluation report is expected to be between 25 and 40 pages in length (excluding annexes) and must include the following components:

1. Cover page
2. List of abbreviations
3. Contents
4. Executive summary (max. 3 pages)
5. Description of the evaluated project
6. Methodology
7. Results
8. Analysis and interpretation
9. Conclusion and Recommendations
10. Annexes

A more detailed outline will be provided during the kick-off meeting.

The evaluation is expected to assess the project from **April 2022 till present**. The final report should be submitted during December 2023.

Qualifications and Requirements

The consultant should possess the following qualifications:

- An advanced university degree in Law, International Relations, Education, Human Rights, Social Science, or a related field.
- 5-7 years of prior experience in conducting evaluations, with additional expertise in monitoring and evaluation and/or humanitarian project management considered advantageous.
- Prior experience in conducting evaluations within the context of Lebanon is highly recommended.
- Advanced knowledge in Protection Standards, safeguarding, and gender mainstreaming principles.
- In-depth knowledge of the Syrian refugee crisis response and the protection systems in Lebanon.
- A demonstrated track record of quantitative and qualitative research and analytical capabilities.
- The ability to offer technical recommendations and guidance relevant to the scope of the project.
- Strong cultural sensitivity and adaptability.
- Experience in facilitating focus groups with children.
- Proficiency in leading a team of data collectors.
- Fluency in Arabic, along with excellent reading, writing, and verbal communication skills in English.

Financial Offer and Required Documentation

Your offer should include the taxes, bank transfer fees and all expenses associated with field work, that is, air and / or land transportation, accommodation, data collectors hiring and any other expenses that could be required. Payment will be done in three instalments through (fresh) bank transfers:

- The first payment will be 20% of the total, upon submitting the inception report.
- The second will be 40% of the total, upon approval of the evaluation design.
- The third, remaining 40% of the total, once the final report is agreed between the three parties.

Note 1: All the transfer fees related to the payment will be completely covered by the supplier (the sender bank fees, the correspondent bank fees outside Lebanon & the receiver bank fees).

Note 2: VAT is paid in LBP on *Sayrafa* rate of the issued invoice.

Required Documentation:

Interested candidates should submit their applications by the specified deadline, **October 27, 2023**.

Submission should include a cover letter, a technical proposal highlighting relevant experience and qualifications, a detailed curriculum vitae (CV) of main consultant(s), two previous evaluation reports authored by individuals matching the submitted CVs, and a comprehensive financial proposal.

Applicants should ensure their application is complete and meets all requirements. Any additional documents or information requested should be submitted accordingly.

The detailed evaluation timetable will be confirmed and shared later with the selected consultant.

Proposals should be sent to the attention of Dana AlAshkar, JRS Lebanon Country MEAL Officer, at the following email: dana.alashkar@jrs.net and to Joelle Saade, JRS Lebanon Country Programmes Officer, at the following email: joelle.saade@jrs.net . JRS can also be contacted for any technical question regarding the assignment before the closing date.