

TERMS OF REFERENCE

WATER TRUCKING & DESLUDGING MARKET STUDY – LEBANON

Country: Lebanon

Location: Bekaa & Akkar (Locations to be discussed/ possible national coverage)

Desired start date: 30th of September

Duration: 40 working days

Under the responsibility of: SI WaSH/Shelter Coordinator & SI Head of Programs

1 Context

Since the beginning of the conflict in Syria, Lebanon has welcome about 1.5 million refugees. Among those families, 17% live in informal settlements while the rest are spread across a wide range of shelters in Lebanon. Different initiatives were taken to support access to safe water and adequate sanitation of the refugee population while the situation was already difficult in the country before this population influx. Indeed the water and sanitation sectors in Lebanon face a large range of challenges including limited financial means and weak governance in the public sector; limited and/or mismanaged water resources; limited coverage of the sanitation network and limited number of functioning treatment plans.

Support provided by NGOs and UN agencies to facilitate refugees' access to safe water and adequate sanitation has been dependent on the type of shelter they have settled in. In Informal settlements no facilities pre-existed and they were set up within the scope authorized by the Ministry of Water and Energy. To function, those sanitation facilities became dependent on private desludging services in the absence of local public resources to do so and in absence of the authorization to connect to public networks. In terms of water, and despite a number of local arrangements with private well owners, provision necessitates private water trucking services which are frequent in Lebanon as quantity of water received through public networks and private boreholes are rarely sufficient to meet household's consumption need.

Within this context Syrian refugees and humanitarian NGOs were added as new actors of both the desludging and water trucking markets. While this new demand and those new stakeholders have

certainly led to changes within those two markets (e.g. price, number of actors' suppliers, competition, behaviour & practices) the chain and dynamics of those markets have not been fully documented yet. This limits the understanding of humanitarian and institutional actors and thus the ability to fully plan for a desired change of approach in the short and long run (price negotiation, shift in modality, attempts to regulate the market etc.). Indeed in the context of a protracted crisis, WaSH actors and donors are increasingly looking at alternative approaches to ensure effectiveness of the assistance, cost-efficiency and an increased sustainability of the support provided.

SOLIDARITES INTERNATIONAL (SI) has been established in Lebanon in 2013. Since then it has been a central actor providing Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH) support to Syrian refugees in Informal Settlements, supporting up to 30% of those settlements across Akkar and Bekaa Governorates.

2 Scope & Objectives

The overall objective of this study is to gain a **better understanding of the water trucking and desludging markets and their respective value chain in Akkar and Bekaa to support programming for the provision of water supply and desludging services to vulnerable communities.**

More precisely the study would look at:

1. Market chain & characteristics of the market stakeholders

- a. Who are the main stakeholders of each of the two markets and what are their profiles?
- b. Does the demand varies overtime/depending on season and is the market able to response to it?
- c. What are the major changes that affected each of the market since 2011?
- d. What are the bottlenecks of this market? More specifically in terms of initial source of water for the water sector and end discharge for the desludging sector?
- e. What are existing regulation and restrictions? What is the taxation system if any?
- f. What is the level of informality in the sector? Are supplies registered?

2. Prices & Revenues

- a. What are the price patterns in this market for end users (both Syrian and Lebanese) or intermediates (e.g. NGOs)? How are those prices estimated and/or agreed upon from the supply side?
- b. Is there a price differential per population or per type of buyer (e.g. individuals vs. NGOs)?
- c. What types of arrangements exist between suppliers and buyers? (e.g. framework agreements with NGOs, community arrangement for refugees and/or host community etc.)
- d. Do those arrangements constitute opportunities or threats for communities?
- e. What are the annual revenues of the suppliers? (per type and/or size)

3 Methodology & Deliverables

The expert -firm or individual consultant(s)- is expected to undertake an extensive secondary data review and engage with the relevant stakeholders by conducting key informant interviews (or alternative method) including local authorities and market stakeholders (suppliers, intermediaries, end users). Considering that some stakeholders are similar for the two markets (e.g. NGOs and local authorities) this should shorten the list of people to interview.

Expected deliverables are:

- An inception report (maximum 5 pages) at the end of the first week of work to confirm the methodology and work plan
- A narrative report (maximum of 40 pages) answering to the above mentioned questions and detailing key recommendations for engagement (per type of stakeholders). Annexes are encouraged and should at least include the list of stakeholders met.
- Slides of presentation to the Steering Committee with the
 - The suggested method and work plan for the first meeting
 - Key initial findings & recommendations for the second meeting

A Steering Committee composed of SI staff and 2 to 3 key experts will be established to support the research team, discuss the methodology as well as initial findings to ensure the inclusion of operational and short term recommendations in the final report.

4 Duration & Dates

Desired start date: 30th of September 2018

Duration: 40 days – could be spread over 20 days with 2 consultants

The consultant is expected to spend at least half of the time in the field. The duration of the consultancy is expected to be split as follow (tentatively): 4 days secondary data review – 2 days inception report – 2 days methodology/questionnaire preparation - 20 days field – 10 days report writing & review (after feedback) – 2 days steering committee preparation and feedback (inception report presentation & initial findings presentation).

5 Profile

Both firms and individual consultants (single consultant or group) are welcome to apply.

Professional experience (one person or team)

- Senior Economist or water specialist profile preferred
- Documented experience in market study in Middle income countries (Lebanon preferably)
- Documented experience in the water sector in Lebanon
- Experience working with INGOs and/or local NGOs, UN, local authorities, host and refugee communities

Required skills

- Experience in quantitative & qualitative methods
- Good analytical skills
- Good writing skills
- Ability to explain & represent complex information

Languages

- Fluency in English (oral & written)
- Fluency in Arabic (for field interviews)