

Terms of Reference for Consultancy

“Architect for Sensory Room Development”.

About Taawon

Taawon (Welfare Association) is an independent non-profit organisation established in 1983. Taawon strives to make a distinguished contribution toward furthering the progress of the Palestinians, preserving their heritage and identity, supporting their living culture, and building civil society in the different working areas it serves: the West Bank (including Jerusalem), the Gaza Strip, the 1948 Areas, and the Palestinian communities in Lebanon.

Taawon works closely with local, grassroots organisations to address the specific needs of the Palestinian refugees living in difficult circumstances throughout the country. We support the implementation of a range of initiatives under three specific programs: Education, Community Development (including health and relief), and Culture. We work in close partnership with more than 40 local partners and touch the lives of more than 100,000 Palestinian refugees annually.

About the Consultancy

1- Background:

Under the “**Improved Quality Services and Enhanced Inclusion Opportunities for Palestinian People and Children with Disabilities**” project funded by UNDP, Taawon is committed to improving rehabilitation services for Children with Disabilities (CwDs) in Palestinian camps. This initiative aims to create five sensory rooms within partner organizations' centers to promote sensory integration, emotional regulation, and developmental support.

Sensory integration is vital for helping children process sensory information, which enhances their daily functioning and emotional well-being. Sensory rooms provide safe spaces for exploration, allowing children to develop essential skills.

To support this initiative, Taawon is seeking a **qualified Architect with expertise in designing inclusive spaces**. The Architect will be responsible for creating sensory rooms that cater to the unique needs of children with disabilities (CwDs). This role is crucial in fostering environments that promote positive sensory experiences and enhance rehabilitation services within the community. Through thoughtful design, the Architect will help develop spaces that support emotional regulation and developmental growth for CwDs.

2- Main Objective:

The primary objective of this consultancy is to assess the specific needed modifications and determine the most suitable configurations for sensory rooms at each organization. This involves designing functional sensory spaces that meet safety and therapeutic requirements, developing comprehensive implementation plans that address all aspects of construction, equipment selection, and budget considerations, and collaborating closely with the Occupational Therapist to ensure that the designs align with therapeutic objectives. This collaborative approach will ensure that the sensory rooms are

both functional and conducive to achieving positive therapeutic outcomes for Children with Disabilities (CwDs).

3- Scope of Work:

The Architect will undertake the following tasks:

- Conduct quick assessments to identify the needed modifications for each room at each organization.
- Create comprehensive designs for five sensory rooms, considering safety, materials, lighting, ventilation, and space utilization.
- Prepare a detailed implementation plan that includes timelines, costs, and required materials for each sensory room.
- Identify and recommend high-quality, age-appropriate tools and resources tailored for sensory integration.
- Ensure that all designs comply with relevant local regulations, safety standards, and accessibility requirements.
- Provide information on potential suppliers and manufacturers that offer suitable equipment and materials.
- Conduct field visits to each organization, both independently and in collaboration with the Occupational Therapist (OT), to assess the sites and finalize designs.
- Monitor the implementation process, ensuring adherence to the design specifications and quality standards.
- Propose adjustments and cost-effective solutions as necessary during the implementation phase.
- Work closely with the Occupational Therapist to ensure the designs meet therapeutic needs and align with the intended objectives of the sensory rooms.
- Provide a summary report at the end of the project, outlining the implementation process, challenges faced, and any possible recommendations for future projects.

4- Required Expertise:

Ideal candidates should possess the following qualifications and expertise:

- An advanced degree in Architecture from a recognized institution.
- Minimum of 5 years of experience in architecture, specifically in the design and implementation of projects within the rehabilitation sector. This includes a proven track record of redesigning and equipping existing rehabilitation centers to create functional and therapeutic environments.

- Previous experience in designing inclusive and therapeutic spaces, preferably for children or individuals with disabilities, is desirable.
- A strong portfolio demonstrating relevant past projects, particularly those focused on sensory spaces or rehabilitation centers, is an asset.
- Familiarity with sensory integration principles and their application in architectural design.
- Strong communication and collaboration skills to work effectively with a multidisciplinary team, including fluency in Arabic.
- Strong computer skills entail proficiency in essential software applications, internet navigation, and communication tools.
- Understanding of the local context and cultural sensitivities within Palestinian communities to inform therapeutic practices.

5- Deliverables:

The Architect will deliver the following:

- Comprehensive architectural designs for each sensory room, including layout, color schemes, sensory elements, materials, estimated costs and a timeline for the project implementation.
- Summary report on the implementation process and outcomes.

6- Timeline:

The consultancy is expected to last from 25 July to 30 September 2024, with defined milestones for assessments, collaboration, and reporting.

7- Evaluation Criteria:

Candidates will be assessed based on the relevance of their expertise, their knowledge and comprehension of sensory spaces.

8- Submission Guidelines:

Interested candidates are invited to submit their CVs on recruitment@taawon.org detailing their qualifications and relevant experience, including any previous work in developing sensory rooms. A cover letter summarizing their interest in this opportunity is also required.

Upon selection, Taawon will reach out to the chosen candidate, and a contract will be offered and signed based on the agreed terms.