

Terms of Reference for Consultancy

“Occupational Therapist 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 occupational therapist with expertise in sensory integration and therapeutic environments.** The therapist will ensure the sensory rooms meet the unique needs of CwD, fostering inclusive environments that promote positive sensory experiences and improve rehabilitation services within the community.

2- Main Objective:

The primary objective of this consultancy is to assess the specific therapeutic needs of beneficiaries and determine the most suitable configurations for sensory rooms at each organization. This involves collaborating closely with the architect to ensure that the designs align with therapeutic objectives. The consultant will also identify and recommend the appropriate resources and equipment necessary for each sensory room, creating environments that effectively support the developmental and emotional needs of Children with Disabilities (CwDs). This collaborative approach will ensure that the sensory rooms are both functional and conducive to achieving positive therapeutic outcomes.

3- Scope of Work:

The specialist will undertake the following tasks:

- Conduct quick assessments to identify the sensory and therapeutic needs of beneficiaries for each organization.
- Recommend the most suitable type of sensory room based on the identified needs and available space.
- Prepare a detailed list of required equipment for each sensory room, including specifications and estimated costs.
- Identify reliable stores or websites for sourcing the recommended equipment.
- Work closely with the architect to discuss and agree on design modifications and criteria necessary for successful implementation.
- Participate in field visits with the architect to ensure that all therapeutic needs are integrated into the design and implementation process.
- Conduct follow-up visits during or after implementation (as needed) to ensure that the sensory rooms are functioning as intended.
- Provide a summary report outlining the assessments, equipment recommendations, and outcomes of the implementation process.

4- **Required Expertise:**

Ideal candidates should possess the following qualifications and expertise:

- Bachelor's degree in occupational therapy from a recognized institution.
- Minimum of 5 years of clinical experience working with children, particularly those with disabilities.
- Experience in developing sensory integration programs or working in therapeutic environments is essential.
- Strong ability to assess the sensory and developmental needs of children with disabilities, including familiarity with various assessment tools and techniques.
- In-depth understanding of sensory processing, emotional regulation, and developmental support strategies.
- Knowledge of appropriate therapeutic equipment and resources for sensory rooms, including soft play resources and sensory tools.
- Experience working collaboratively with architects or design teams to ensure therapeutic needs are met in facility design.
- Demonstrated experience working with children with disabilities.
- 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 specialist will deliver the following:

- A brief report detailing the sensory room needs and therapeutic objectives for each center, along with recommendations for the appropriate type of sensory room.
- A comprehensive list of equipment for each sensory room, including specifications and estimated costs.

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 and rehabilitation services.

8- Submission Guidelines:

Interested candidates are invited to submit their CVs on recruitment@taaw.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.