

Request for Applications – External Consultant

Baseline Study for the program of Protective environment to prevent and respond to violence against children in GS

PCDCR is currently seeking: External Consultant

Duty Station: Gaza Strip

Duration: Short term

Application deadline:

PCDCR Point of Contact:

Terms of Reference

I. BACKGROUND

The Palestinian Center for Democracy and Conflict Resolution (PCDCR) is a non-profit organization established in 1998, providing technical assistance and capacity building support to local communities and NGOs in the field of child protection and psychosocial services. PCDCR has extensive experience in raising community awareness, providing counselling conflict resolution services, and building institutional and community capacities.

PCDCR in partnership with Save the Children implements a 5-year program that aims to improve capacity of states to respect and fulfil children's rights to survival, learning and protection as part of their overall obligations to uphold children's rights for the most marginalized children through enhancing child participation, inclusion, increased budget allocation to children and child rights monitoring and reporting.

Particularly, the programs aims to strengthen the MoSA-led child protection system to prevent and respond to violence (physical, sexual and corporal punishment/humiliating behaviors) against children by empowering CSOs, caregivers and children to support elimination of violence. The program envisages that the MoSA-led child protection system extends services to marginalized communities and is equitable and comprehensively addresses protection needs against violence for marginalized children and communities, especially targeting CwD.

For this, the program supports civil society partners in assessing the marginalized regions, identifying needs and priorities of marginalized communities, and then providing interventions that address the protection needs of these communities.

II. OBJECTIVE of the Study

The main purpose of this study is to assess the current child protection status and issues (the rights of children including protection from violence (whether they are children with disabilities, protection for access to and in schools, addressing culturally condoned practices of violence and physical and humiliating practices against children) in targeted communities. Using a KAP survey the study is expected to measure/ identify baseline values for program performance indicators. Results of this study might lead to some changes on the design of planned interventions and targets.

Specifically, the study will further identify and analyze the following:

- Vulnerability factors impacting protection of children and children with disabilities and the particular characteristics of “vulnerable communities”
- Children's and communities' pressing protection needs and priorities
- Main Child Protection risks and concerns, including types of violence and child rights violations with special focus to children with disabilities.
- Causes of child protection risks and concerns at levels: community, school and family.
- Child protection mechanisms and strategies
- Availability of standard referral mechanisms between community (civil society actors) and child protection duty bearers.
- Mapping of any existing child protection services or structures; its linkages with national system and the average number of children accessing these services annually.
- Level of awareness among parents and teachers on positive discipline skills, positive rearing practices and knowledge needed to eliminate Violence against Children, in addition to behaviors and attitudes that favor protection of children from violence.
- Mapping of any existing child groups (with an active participation of CwDs) that have capacity to properly monitor, document and report on child rights violations as well as capacity to advocate for the respect and fulfilment of their rights.

III. SCOPE of the Baseline Study

The baseline study shall comprise, but not necessarily be limited to:

- Develop tools for data collection including guidelines for the data collection and analysis process.
- Determine the sample groups according to the partner geographical scope - the study will be carried in 25 communities across the Gaza Strip governorates, as identified by PCDCR.
- Lead the baseline study process, in particular the qualitative focus group discussions, interviews with parents, community members, concerned authorities and Civil Society Organizations.
- Triangulation of data (qualitative and quantitative data sources) to ensure preciseness of the findings
- Child focused. Both the data collection and the report should have a clear child focus.
- Coordination: The baseline study must be designed taking into consideration the data already available from the local and international community and coordination bodies.

IV. METHOD of WORK

An external consultant will be requested to carry out the baseline study within targeted communities. PCDCR will select the best candidate for such tasks and support the consultant throughout the study process, facilitating meetings with relevant stakeholders and other tasks.

The consultant will be responsible to:

- Develop baseline study project.
The developed project should describe how the consultant intends to carry out the baseline study highlighting:
 - Methodology of data collection and data analysis
 - Stakeholders
 - Time frame
 - Support needed from PCDCR, Save the Children and stakeholders

- Develop the (qualitative and quantitative) study tools ensuring child participation/ involvement
- Conduct field data collection
- Draft the baseline study report which will be shared with PCDCR and SCI for revision –could be several times before approval

V. TARGET GROUPS

- Children: from 25 target communities of the Gaza Strip
- Parents/caregivers/teachers and community members living in the communities
- Stakeholders: CBOs and local and international NGOs working in the field of child protection

VI. DURATION of the assignment

Following the selection, the Consultant (s) shall provide PCDCR with their plan and budget by January 23th, 2017. The final draft of baseline study should be ready by February 28th, 2017.

VII. SUPERVISION and REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

The Consultant (s) will report to Mr. ashraf abo anzaz Project officer , PCDCR.

VIII. REMUNERATION

The consultant (s) shall provide PCDCR with a detailed budget. Payment will be made upon receiving the baseline study report and its approval by PCDCR.

IX. DELIVERABLES

- 1) A detailed plan of the baseline study process, which should include timely information on methodology, data collection, duration, study tool and final report;
- 2) The methodology and tools for baseline study;
- 3) Mapping of existing child protection and psychosocial support service providers;
- 4) The baseline study (including executive summary, methodology, limitations, findings, conclusions and recommendations and annexes including a list of consulted key informants). A draft report should be handed in 4 weeks after signing the contract. Within less than 1 week after receiving the draft report, the consultant will receive comments on the draft report as per review by the PCDCR project management. On the basis of these comments, the report will be finalized within 3 days.

X. TEAM COMPOSITION

- Consultant
- PCDCR project staff

XI. TIMEFRAME (estimated)

- Development of the baseline study project: 3 days
- Development of the baseline study tools: 7 days
- Field data collection: 10 days
- Data analysis: 5 days
- Report writing: 3 days

XII. QUALIFICATIONS

- Knowledge and experience in a relevant field (child protection, psychosocial support, etc.);
- Assessment team has relevant academic qualifications and field experience;
- Demonstrated experience of assessing, evaluating or managing child protection and psychosocial support programs;
- Extensive experience in the design and implementation of baseline studies and assessments;
- Expertise in designing and analyzing surveys, interviews and focus group discussion targeted towards different groups of children, community members, CBOs and others;
- Familiarity with the political and socio-economic situation in the OPT in general and the Gaza Strip in particular;
- Understanding of issues and sensitivities required when working with vulnerable groups;
- Experience with participatory research methodologies, preferably with children;
- Ability to analyse, synthesize and to write clear reports;
- High level planning, organizational and time management skills, including flexibility, attention to detail and the ability to work under pressure to meet changing deadlines; and
- Excellent report-writing skills.

XIII. LOCATION of the WORK

The activities will be conducted in 25 communities across the Gaza strip.

XIV. CONFIDENTIALITY

The consultant will maintain the highest possible professional and person standards. In particular, he/ she will ensure the honesty and integrity of the baseline study process and respect the security and dignity of the stakeholders with whom he/she interacts. Information and documentation gathered in the course of this assignment may not be used for any other purpose without the prior permission of PCDCR.

XV. CODE of CONDUCT

As a condition of entering into a consultancy agreement, the consultant must sign PCDCR Child Safeguarding Policy and abide by the terms and conditions thereof.

XVI. APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested applicants are asked to submit their CVs or institutional history and a sample of similar reports as well as a proposal outlining how they would conduct the baseline study report and a detailed budget by January 23th, 2017. The information needs to be submitted to PCDCR, Gaza office in a SEALED ENVELOPE at the address below: **Gaza-Rimal, Charles de Gaulle St.**