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Consultant for an external evaluation

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Consultant for an external evaluation of the project: *“Integrated Protection in Area C: Enhancing the Resilience of Communities to Violations of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law”* (project code: PAL-UA-192.; internal code: 63-15) funded by the Belgian Development cooperation-DGD

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Oxfam was originally founded in Oxford in 1942 as the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief. Oxfam has been growing ever since, and today is an international confederation counting 17 organizations working together with partners and local communities in more than 90 countries.

Oxfam has been working in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) and Israel since the 1950s, and a country office was established in Jerusalem in the 1980s. Oxfam mainly works in the most vulnerable communities, such as Gaza, East Jerusalem, and Area C, which represents the 61% of the West Bank and where the Israeli government maintains full military and civil control. In the past Oxfam also worked with impoverished communities in Israel.

In this framework, Oxfam is looking for a consultant to conduct an external evaluation of the project *“Integrated Protection in Area C: Enhancing the Resilience of Communities to Violations of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law”*. This project aims at strengthening the resilience and increasing the protection of Palestinian communities in Area C against violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. Specific objective of the project is to prevent and mitigate the impact of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, in particular against the risk of forcible transfer, through an increased resilience of target communities in Area C. For further details about the project, please refer to the document here attached ([Annex I](#)).

A final external evaluation on the above-mentioned project is required by the Donor. It will be carried out in order to assess if the results achieved met the project objectives. The proposed evaluation shall last indicatively 3 (three) weeks and end maximum on 31/01/2017.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE EVALUATION

The **general objective** of the evaluation is:

Assess whether the project *“Integrated Protection in Area C: Enhancing the Resilience of Communities to Violations of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law”* has been able to deliver and make the impact it was intended to for the beneficiaries and whether the targets/outputs envisaged at the beginning of the assignment have been realized;



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The **specific objectives** is to provide Oxfam and project partners with sufficient information:

- To make an informed assessment on the past performance of the project (its efficiency, effectiveness and impact) particularly with regards to the establishment/strengthening of the community-based livelihood protection systems, the beneficiaries' increased awareness of their rights and their ability to access Israeli administrative procedures to prevent and respond to forced displacement, confiscations and violence from security forces and settlers;
- To document lessons learned and to provide practical recommendations for follow-up action.

3. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The **evaluation assignment will be guided by the following evaluation criteria**, therefore five (5) key questions need to be taken into account while evaluating the project:

- a. **Sustainability:** to which extent the project benefits can be considered sustainable in the following elements: restoring the agro-production capacities, empowering small-scale herder and farmer communities and strengthening local protection mechanisms and responses in order to link relief, rehabilitation and development.
- b. **Impact:** what significant changes have occurred in the beneficiaries' lives;
- c. **Effectiveness:** the reasons behind the achievement (or not) of objectives;
- d. **Efficiency:** the degree to which the financial resources of the project have been used economically and efficiently;
- e. **Relevance:** the extent to which the intervention is suited to the priorities and policies of the people and communities it is intended to benefit; moreover, the evaluation should consider the Oxfam *Economic Justice* and *Saving Lives* Change Goal in oPT, with Gender Justice as mainstream, in order to contribute to the development of future programmes.

4. APPROACHES AND METHODOLOGIES

The consultant will conduct field assessments through key informants' interviews and primary data collection, mainly through focus group discussions. The consultant will also collect, review and analyse relevant secondary data (project documentation, relevant policies, etc.). The consultant will thus evaluate the impact of the project on the targeted communities, elaborate a technical evaluation on the activities implemented in the framework of the project, and assess whether the project has reached its initial objectives in a sustainable way and to which extent beneficiaries' resilience and protection have been increased.

The selected consultant will submit a detailed methodology in his/her inception report prior to the beginning of field data collection.

5. EVALUATION RESPONSABILITIES AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

For analysing the impact of the project activities in comparison with the indicators contained in the LogFrame, the Consultant shall undertake the following activities:

- To analyse project reports;
- To analyse the data collected through the agreed methodology;
- To collect the information about the project review. These are indicators to be measured:



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- a) % of direct beneficiaries who reported an increased sense of security/protection against threats of land confiscation, demolitions or displacement
 - b) % of direct beneficiaries who reached by the action have received relevant protection assistance
 - c) % increase in the number of targeted community members who are aware of their rights and the means to access Israeli military justice system in cases of settler and security forces violence
- To interview project staff (Oxfam and partners) and other relevant stakeholders.

Oxfam staff, along with the support of the Oxfam Deputy Associate Country Director, will take charge of assisting and supporting the consultant throughout the whole period of the evaluation in order to facilitate the mission.

6. EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

- **Inception report** with a detailed methodology within 4 days after the signature of the contract;
- Guidelines for conducting key informants' interviews and focus group discussion (FGD);
- A draft report to be shared with Oxfam within 7 days after the end of the mission.
- The final **evaluation report** containing lessons learnt and recommendations to be submitted to Oxfam within 7 days after the submission of feedback and comments on the first draft by Oxfam staff.

A first restitution workshop will be organized at the end of the mission in the Country in OPTI. Then, a final restitution workshop will be organized at the end of the consultancy via Skype. The report shall be composed by 30-40 pages and written and submitted in English.

7. TIMEFRAME AND LOGISTICS

The consultancy shall be carried out indicatively in 3 (three) weeks of which 2 weeks maximum will be spent in the Country in January 2017. The deadline of submission of the final version is the 31/01/17. All taxes, allowances and incidentals, supplies necessary for delivering the evaluation, travel expenses and all logistic costs must be included into the budget proposed.

8. PROFILE OF THE CONSULTANT

- Degree in legal and/or humanitarian studies or in other relevant fields;
- Extensive professional experience in the humanitarian sector, human rights and protection;
- Extensive professional experience in conducting evaluations, especially of humanitarian interventions;
- Expertise in project cycle management and extensive knowledge of MEAL and data collection methods;
- Previous experience with INGOs procedures, approaches and operations;
- Acknowledged similar consultancies with recognized organizations;
- Demonstrated analytical and writing skills;
- Excellent knowledge of English (Arabic and Italian would be a plus);
- Computer skills (advanced user in Excel or similar software; STATA is an asset);



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- Desirable: previous experience and knowledge of the area.

9. APPLICATION PROCESS

The individual consultants as well as institution/firms are invited to apply by submitting an application package including the following:

- Cover letter with applicant's current contact information;
- Resume of the consultant (including detailed work experience, education/degrees, reference of similar research and studies);
- Proposal of a **technical offer** with the evaluation methodology (comprising a detailed description of how the evaluator will organize the work with beneficiaries);
- A **financial offer** (all taxes, allowances and incidentals, supplies necessary for delivering the evaluation, travel expenses and all logistic costs must be included).

Applications should be submitted by 16 PM UTC+1 of 23rd of December 2016 to Oxfam to the following address:

- Silvia.ciacci@oxfam.it

with the subject line "Consultancy Project 63-15".

Shortlisted consultant(s) will be requested to come to an interview at Oxfam Headquarters in Beit Hanina, Jerusalem or, whereas this is not possible, the interview could potentially be organised on Skype.