

# **Consultancy for Mid-Term Review**

## **Women's Access to Justice in Middle East and North Africa Programme**

### **1. Background:**

In partnership with leading civil society organisations and with funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Oxfam GB is implementing a three-year programme aiming to enhance women's access to justice in the Middle East and North Africa region (May 2011 - April 2014). The programme encompasses individual projects in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon, and Yemen, together with a regional component focusing on civil society networking and policy and advocacy with regional institutions. Poor women living in the MENA region lack legal knowledge and awareness on their legal rights.

Oxfam GB proposed a model of change based on building social movements for positive changes at individual, community, institutional and policy levels. Programmatic approaches are focused on (1) direct work with women on the ground to develop innovative legal service provision models (2) community based work to gain support among different sectors of the society (religious scholars, Islamic NGOs, legislators, families and communities) through dialogue and awareness raising and (3) awareness raising and engagement with legal and judiciary institutions to influence attitudes, practices and policies (4) advocacy, learning, and linking at national and regional levels to influence the reform agenda in favour for women's access to justice. In line with Oxfam GB's corporate "one programme" approach, apart from direct action and capacity building the national level advocacy will take place in all targeted countries together with direct implementation of community level work.

The Overall objective of the programme is: To contribute to just outcomes/verdicts for poor women which lead to reduced vulnerability and suffering in the Middle East and North Africa. Specifically, the project purpose is: Improvement in quality of legal services for poor and vulnerable women in the Middle East and North Africa.

The following outcomes are expected to be achieved by the end of the three-year programme:

**Outcome 1:** More women in target countries able to access legal services

**Outcome 2:** Community leaders advocate for women's access to justice in public

**Outcome 3:** Lawyers syndicates and bar associations increase provision of free legal services for vulnerable women

**Outcome 4:** Improved attitudes and practices of police and judicial officials towards women's access to justice in each target country

**Outcome 5:** CSOs influence policy reforms on women's access to justice in the Middle East and North Africa

## **2. Objectives and scope of the Mid-Term Review (MTR)**

The objective of the MTR is to enable Oxfam and implementing partners to assess the progress in delivery of programme outputs and achievement of outcomes and, based on this assessment, to take decisions on the future orientation of the programme.

The review should assess the (1) programme design, (2) programme implementation with progress and impact, and (3) lessons learnt from the first half of the programme life-cycle and recommendations for the future. To this aim, the MTR shall attempt to determine, as systematically and objectively as possible, the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of the programme to date. It will assess the achievements of the programme against its outcomes, including an examination of the relevance of the outcomes themselves and the programme design and theory of change. This will include particular focus on the role of paralegals and lawyers within our change model. It will also identify significant factors that are facilitating or impeding the delivery of outcomes. Whilst a review of the past is in itself very important, the evaluation is expected to lead to recommendations and lessons learned for the future.

## **3. Methodology:**

The selected consultant(s) will work with Oxfam team to refine and agree on the final methodology, but it is expected that the latter will include the below components:

- Desk review (of programme design documents i.e. proposal, log-frame, theory of change, baseline study, as well as reports and produced documents/publications);
- Field visits to Lebanon, Jordan, and North Iraq (Kurdistan);
- Discussions with partners and key internal stakeholders;
- Discussions with key external stakeholders.

Oxfam is committed to building the capacity of our staff and partners. Our relationships with consultants strive to be about the "transfer" of new approaches and skills to our staff and partners in addition to the delivery of a specific product. As a result, throughout this mid-term evaluation, we would like to discuss with the potential consult their ideas for supporting transfer of some introductory evaluation skills or techniques to at least one of our key programme staff, and to use participatory methodologies where possible.

## **4. Evaluation Process and Timeline:**

The consultancy is expected to take place between 15 October 2012 and end on 15 December 2012 as per the below schedule.

Please note that reviews will be made on a rolling basis and appointment may be done before deadline.

Time-frame will be flexible based on availability and proposed methodology.

Action	By when	Who
Submission of applications to Oxfam	14 October 2012	Oxfam
Review of applications; short-listing; appointment	19 October 2012;	Oxfam
Conducting MTR	Between 22 October and 22 November 2012	Consultant
Submission of first draft of MTR report	30 November 2012	Consultant
Comments and feedback on draft	7 December 2012	Oxfam and Partners
Submission of final report	14 December 2012	Consultant

### **5. Outputs:**

Expected outputs include:

- An agreed evaluation plan and methodology;
- A presentation of initial evaluation findings/first draft for face to face discussion with Oxfam and partners;
- Final evaluation report, not more than 25 pages, of publishable quality, with a stand-alone executive summary of no more than 4 pages;
- 2 or 3 case study reports (length to be agreed in conversation with evaluator(s)).

In addition, the final report should contain the following annexes, in addition to any other relevant material:

- Terms of Reference
- List of events attended
- List of persons interviewed
- Summary of field visits
- List of documents reviewed

### **6. Budget:**

The budget for this task is approximately 15,000 USD including all type of expenses (travel, per-diem, transportation, calls, etc.).

### **7. Skills and Competence:**

Oxfam is looking for a consultant or two with strong record in conducting evaluations for Gender Equality programmes.

Specific skills and competencies we seek include:

- Graduate degree in international development, social sciences or other related discipline. A Master's degree is preferred;
- Minimum of five years practical experience in monitoring and evaluation for development programs;
- Proven experience of gender issues within M&E;
- Familiarity with issues related to gender equality and legal protection;

- Knowledge of gender, women's rights and theory of change;
- Excellent writing and verbal communication skills in English. Arabic skills are an asset;
- Knowledge of issues related to legal protection and Personal Status and Family laws across the region is an asset.

### **8. Applications:**

Applicants with the experience and skills described above are invited to submit the below:

1. CV including contactable three references;
2. A one-page cover letter introducing the applicant experience and how the skills and competencies described above are met, with concrete examples. Please also use this cover letter to indicate applicant's availability;
3. An outline of no more than 2 pages of the proposed process and key considerations;
4. A one-page budget covering all major anticipated costs;
5. One example of a previous similar task.

Applications should be submitted to [sbarakat@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:sbarakat@oxfam.org.uk)