



## **TERMS OF REFERENCE RESEARCH:**

**PROTECTING WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND  
PREVENTING GBV THROUGH CASH BASED  
INTERVENTIONS IN GAZA– oPt.**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Terms of Reference for a consultancy to carry out a research to identify lessons learned and recommendations for improving the effectiveness of cash-based interventions in mitigating GBV risks and in building women and girls' resilience in the Gaza Strip (oPt). Specifically, the research seeks to examine if and how cash assistance exacerbates protection issues, and how existing tools and systems can be further strengthened.

This research aims at strengthening Alianza's nexus approach and it is funded by the following two projects:

- "EU Aid Volunteers increasing protection capacities of local communities and organisations in humanitarian contexts" Project EACEA/ 2018-2363/001-001 (EACEA).

The project is led by Alianza por la Solidaridad together with We World GVC, Action Aid Hellas and Danish Refugee Council. The project aims to boost the humanitarian aid sector's capacity to provide needs based humanitarian aid in disaster prone and disaster affected areas. Four EU organisations from Italy, Greece, Denmark and Spain will work together with 16 organisations from Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Middle East and North African countries, and Asia in different activities, all participating in humanitarian actions.

This project has as its legal basis on the Regulation (EU) No 375/2014 that has established the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps ('the EU Aid Volunteers initiative') for joint contributions from European volunteers to support and complement humanitarian aid in third countries.

- Programme "Reduce gender inequality in Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT)" Code: 18-CO1-1179 (AECID). This programme is being implemented over a period of four years, together with 3 implementing partners. The specific objective is to improve the external environment and personal situation of GBV survivors or women at risk of suffering GBV to exercise their economic rights and their right to lead a life free of violence. To achieve this objective, the interventions focus on three expected results:

- ✓ Strengthening protection services for survivors of GBV (from a perspective of prevention and response service provision for multi-sectoral services taking into account international standards established by the IASC.
- ✓ Contributing towards the exercise of the Economic Rights of Women, through complementary strategies of technical training and personal empowerment, facilitating the employability of women and/or the establishment of new economic initiatives, in addition to the promotion of a favourable atmosphere through advocacy campaigns and work holders of responsibilities and obligations and
- ✓ Supporting women's organisations and CBOs through the exercise of active citizenship and their leading role as agents of change in a patriarchal society, and in the participation of coordination and advocacy spaces from the Palestinian women's movement itself in the struggle for their rights and gender equality. The intention is to ensure that the women's movement has an impact on the modification of the legal framework which allows discrimination against women, from local areas to a national level.

## **2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **2.1. Alianza por la Solidaridad (ApS)**

Alianza por la Solidaridad (ApS) is a Spanish NGO existing since more than 30 years with presence in more than 20 countries in Latin America, the Middle East and Africa. Alianza has been present in the Middle East since 1993 and in oPt. Since 1998, and has a permanent office in Jerusalem. Since 2009 it has developed a process of sectorial and geographical targeting for its interventions, which meant the prioritization of women's rights within three main lines of action:

- Prevention and response for Gender Based Violence, individual and community approach.
- Women's economic empowerment.
- Women's participation and active citizenship.

ApS maintains stable local partners with whom it works in a sustained manner and deepening not the relations and regular contacts through the office in the field, but a fluid communication and analysis of the changes caused by the humanitarian situation in Palestine. Alianza works closely with its partners and support their work in a manner that represent Alianza and the partners values. Alianza has extensive experience and expertise on women´s rights and there is a high degree of knowledge about the environment and only relation with the population, civil society organizations, other humanitarian actors and local public entities. Alianza por la Solidaridad is member of Action Aid since 2018.

Action Aid and Alianza share the idea that when people become aware that their future is in their hands and when they organize to challenge power structures and contribute to the betterment and changing of institutions, changes can succeed. These changes should take place on a global scale in order to generate maximum impact, and they should be rooted in the political values of solidarity and internationalism. In addition, for Action Aid and Alianza, Social justice, gender equality, and climate justice succeed through individual and collective actions that actively change inequitable and unjust power relationships, either hidden, visible, or invisible, from the home to local, national, and international spaces. The empowerment of people that live in poverty and marginalization, and of women and youth is a crucial part of creating these changes. Collective efforts and fights are stronger when they are bound together through solidarity, campaigns, and common causes between communities, organizations, and social movements and other allies to influence local and global institutions and public policy.

## **2.2. ApS Women´s rights Program in the oPt.**

Alianza works against gender violence with an integrated approach to address the full cycle of violence from the personal, family, socioeconomic dimension to the public dimension on political and legislative levels. We address the issue of gender based violence from the perspective of Sexual and Reproductive Rights because our experience demonstrated that they are intimately related. We have consolidated our work in Latin America and in the Middle East, as much in contexts of political stability as in long-lasting conflicts<sup>1</sup>.

To address the full cycle of violence, and applying a holistic approach in the different interventions, ApS generates information, data and knowledge on the issues related to its streams of work. According to Alianza's vision, the development of each individual and of a society as a whole is only possible if there is EQUALITY between women and men. Achieving freedom for women to enjoy their rights is a QUESTION OF DEMOCRACY AND JUSTICE. In the line of Women's economic rights, ApS believes that the full exercise of women's economic rights is key to achieve equality between women and men, reduce poverty and ensure a fair, equitable and sustainable development. Alianza promotes women's economic rights in Jordan and the oPt, through initiatives that strengthen the role of women in an inclusive and sustainable economic development through entrepreneurship and employability programs based on technical training and personal empowerment. In addition to that, ApS promotes entrepreneurship through the promotion of economic initiatives led by women in sectors that challenge traditional gender roles. In the line of Employability, our programs are designed to improve access to employment of women survivors of GBV or at risk of suffering through placements and internships in companies and at home. Also, ApS invests in the Capacity building of civil society to promote and lead policy initiatives and advocacy actions to an inclusive economy in Jordan and the oPt that ensure women's participation the full exercise of their fundamental rights.

ApS is aware of the great potential of integrating CASH in its humanitarian interventions and it is dedicated to do it in the most effective manner from a solid and coordinated strategy, and contribute to the enhancement of CASH positive impact to increase women's protection and resilience through collective analysis and reflection with other key stakeholders.

### **3. DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1. Background and Justification**

##### **The context in the occupied Palestinian Territory**

The situation of the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) it is marked by a protracted humanitarian crisis due to an Israeli blockade and overlapping crisis. A total of 53% of Palestinians in Gaza are living below poverty line, while in the West Bank is 14%. These pressures have been linked to increased incidence of gender-based violence (GBV), school drop-outs and early marriage, while shelters and other service providers struggle to

meet the needs with increasingly limited resources. While all Palestinians are vulnerable on account of the occupation and emerging crises, some appear to be perpetually more vulnerable, and systematically at a greater disadvantage. According to the 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview<sup>1</sup> these groups are: people living below poverty line; refugees; children under five in Gaza; female-headed households; small-scale farmers, herders and fisherfolk in Gaza; pregnant and lactating women in Gaza; Bedouin and herders in Area C; women with disabilities; women survivors of GBV and internally-displaced women. The deterioration of the living conditions and its impact on gender and family dynamics, has exacerbated GBV in all its forms. According to the 2019 PCBS survey<sup>2</sup> 29% of Palestinian women experienced some form of violence by their husband, in Gaza this number increased at 49%. Numbers provided by the GBV Sub-Cluster (SC) in 2019 reveal yet another layer of SGBV and the majority of cases referred were of psychological (39%) and physical abuse (34%), with cases of forced marriage (6%) and sexual assault (5%). The findings also reveal that the perpetrators of SGBV are usually a partner or a family member. GBV has been reported as a key protection concern in the OPT in HNO (2018), which encompasses the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. In oPt as worldwide COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable groups identified above. Marginalized women in the oPt, including those below poverty line, have become more vulnerable to the impact of multiple, compounded emergencies in part due to their limited access to resources.

### **Cash Based Interventions (CBI)**

In the last decade, Cash Based Interventions (CBI) at the humanitarian sector have been heavily promoted and used as a tool for increasing resilience of the most vulnerable population by all humanitarian actors. In fact, Cash and Voucher assistance (CVA) has potential (integrated with other services) to respond to protection concerns, especially those linked to economic hardship and GBV risks and can contribute to the resilience of vulnerable women. Yet, this is a resource that is not enough integrated in the multisectoral services.

Efforts have been made in the last years to improve the humanitarian assistance and to mainstream gender and protection approaches to the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-needs-overview-2021>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/site/512/default.aspx?lang=en&ItemID=3679>

interventions. On this regard, numerous tools and guidelines have been developed to assist humanitarian actors to improve their interventions from that perspective<sup>3</sup>

Cash assistance with women survivors of GBV and at risk seems to be in many cases an effective tool to support their empowerment and to increase their ability to being part of the decision-making process at their households. A recent assessment of the UN Women Cash program<sup>4</sup> has demonstrated the positive impact on the resilience of vulnerable groups of women in Gaza, including GBV survivors. 91.2 per cent of beneficiaries reported a decrease in domestic violence and 70 per cent an increase in household decision-making power: “The women beneficiaries clearly appreciated the cash for work opportunities, the elevated social status they gained, the level of autonomy and the additional freedom to make their own decisions regarding household expenditure. A broad finding from this assessment is that providing cash for work opportunities provides vulnerable women, including women survivors of violence, women with disabilities, and elderly women, the dignity to choose what best suits the individual needs of their households”.

However, other studies have also shown some challenges and risks. Targeting women as cash transfer recipients may be seen as undermining men’s power and place women at risk of violence, if there is no adequate communication to the husband. Similarly, providing cash assistance to single/divorced/widowed women has been sometimes perceived as a way of increase divorces and separation<sup>5</sup>.

About the impact on exacerbating or mitigating GBV it seems the effects are not very clear due to the usually short-term character of the CBIs: “GBV problems are usually structural in nature and responses to these problems require long-term and strategic interventions. A CfW intervention for a four-month duration cannot be realistic (adequate) for addressing GBV concerns. Increase in the incidence of domestic violence has been recorded in Gaza over the past few years which is largely attributed to the impact of the conflict and the internal Palestinian political divide, high

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<sup>3</sup> A Good example is the “IASC Gender in Humanitarian Action Handbook” [Link](#)

<sup>4</sup> UN WOMEN “An Assessment of the Cash for Work Component of the UN Women Project Protection, Response and Preparedness to Address Needs of displaced and vulnerable women in Gaza”. 2019. [Link](#)

<sup>5</sup> International Rescue committee “Integrating Cash Transfers into GBV programs in Jordan: Benefits, risks and challenge” [Link](#)

poverty and unemployment rates and the overall restrictions on movement of people and goods as enforced by the blockade.”<sup>6</sup>

According to recommendations from previous studies<sup>7</sup>, the evidence base for cash transfers in emergencies, and specifically how they impact women and girls, is still nascent. More rigorous research testing different cash design elements is needed. Adequate investment into such research, alongside programming, is needed in acute emergencies to fully understand the potential impact of cash transfers on the lives of women and girls. Research is needed, for instance, on topics such as: The impact of changes to programme design (gender of recipient, size of cash transfer amount, and duration, to make cash transfers more beneficial to women and to increase their safety) and how the marital status of women (head of household, divorced, widowed, married) modifies the impact of the cash transfer and how programming can be adjusted to minimise risk and maximise return depending on status, among others.

### **3.2. Research objective**

The objective of this study is to identify lessons learned and recommendations for improving the effectiveness of cash-based interventions in mitigating GBV risks and in building women and girls' resilience in the Gaza Strip, (oPt). Specifically, the research seeks to examine if and how cash assistance exacerbates protection issues, and how existing tools and systems can be further strengthened.

And the specific objectives of the research are:

1. To analyze to what extent the CBIs that are being implemented in Gaza and its tools, systems and stages have incorporated an appropriate gender approach.
2. To evidence if and how cash assistance has exacerbated protection risks in any way and, if on the contrary, CBIs are resulting in an effective tool for protecting women at risk.
3. To collect qualitative data about the impact of cash provision on selected women beneficiaries with respect to their access to income

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<sup>6</sup> UN WOMEN “An Assessment of the Cash for Work Component of the UN Women Project Protection, Response and Preparedness to Address Needs of displaced and vulnerable women in Gaza”. 2019. [Link](#)

<sup>7</sup> What Works to prevent violence “Cash Transfers in Raqqa, Syria” 2019. [Link](#)

opportunities and services beyond cash interventions, their relationship with their family and household dynamics, whether cash increased or decreased inter-household tensions, and whether the CfW intervention affected women's decision-making power

4. To compare what modalities/types of CBIs which are more appropriate in the case of women survivors of GBV and at risk to support their resilience.
5. To obtain recommendations for ApS and other NGOs and agencies for better design and implementation of CBIs interventions that achieve higher-level results and contribute to protect women at risk and GBV survivors.

And the expected results are:

- a. Analysis from a gender and human rights-based approaches the CBIs in the different sectors (wash, shelter, protection, Food Security) that are being implemented in the oPt and its tools, systems and stages.
- b. Assess up to what extent the CBIs integrate GBV prevention and mitigation measures and positive and negative effects on gender equality and the power relations inside the households.
- c. To compare what modalities/types of CBIs which are more appropriate in building women's resilience.
- d. Recommendations for ApS and other NGOs and agencies for better design and implementation of CBIs interventions that achieve higher-level results and contribute to protect women at risk and GBV survivors.

### **3.3. Research Questions**

The questions that this research is aiming to address are:

1. Are the existing tools and methodologies used in CBIs contributing to increase autonomy and mitigate or exacerbate the resilience of women participating in the programmes?
2. Are there enough measures to respond to specific needs of women at risk and GBV survivors? are there sufficient and efficient mechanisms to integrate GBV prevention and mitigation in the CBIs actions?
3. What type of CBIs are being more effective and pertinent for the targeted right holders (type, size, duration, etc)?
4. What are the key aspects to consider while designing and implementing CBIs programmes in order to provide impact not only at short but at medium term?

5. How can existing tools and systems be improved to determine whether the provision of cash can/cannot mitigate the identified risks and increase safety?
6. What other considerations and information should be collected to ensure effective targeting for cash and/or improve upon the current targeting methods?
7. What capacities must be strengthened by the teams engaged in the CBIs?

### **3.4. Methodology and outreach**

This research should be made using a variety of tools to obtain both quantitative and qualitative data and information. We would like to highlight the importance of incorporating a cut-crossing feminist methodology and human-rights based approach. The methodology must consider the current health status of the countries and the COVID related measures to avoid.

The target will be 8 -10 CBIs programmes implemented by selected local and international NGOs as well as UN agencies in the Gaza Strip during 2019 and 2020, covering programs from different sectors and modalities. The selection will be made by ApS. From those programmes, the research will focus on:

- Women who have participated in those programmes
- Staff working on the selected programmes.

We also would like to include an intersectional approach in the women target in terms of the following criteria: age, income, rural/urban areas, women with disabilities, educational background and refugee status.

The research must also include interviews with relevant stakeholders at these segments:

- Ministry of Social Development (MoSD)
- UN Women and UNFPA offices in Palestine
- Protection Cluster coordinators and key members
- CASH Working Group coordinator and key members
- GBV Subcluster Coordinator and key members

### **3.5. Ethics and Risks**

This research contains especially sensitive aspects that should be considered during all phases of the research as well as in the design of the methodologies. Therefore, the research team is asked to incorporate in their proposal those methods or processes that are going to be carried out to protect the security of the people who participate in the study during and after its development and their right to anonymity, confidentiality, treatment of their data and image, etc.

### **3.6. Purpose and use**

The findings of the report will be used as guidelines for feeding the strategy of Alianza por la Solidaridad in protecting women in a situation of vulnerability and increasing their resilience. Besides, the findings will be share with the members of the humanitarian cluster, subclusters and related working groups to help them for better design and implementation of CBIs interventions that achieve higher-level results and to design common capacity building programs to improve the NGOs intervention in this regard.

## **4. REQUIREMENTS OF THE CONSULTANT AND ECONOMIC&TECHNICAL OFFER**

### **4.1. Qualifications and competences**

Alianza por La Solidaridad seeks to work with professionals who share our vision and have high integrity and proven professionalism:

- Excellent Knowledge and proved experience in humanitarian, protection, gender and GBV, CBI
- Documented experience in conducting social research in related areas.
- Ability to data collection and analysis.
- Experience in the use of participatory and feminist methodologies for research.
- Excellent command of English and Arabic.

The proposals will be assessed following this set of criteria:

CRITERIA		VALUE
<b>1. BUDGET</b>	Detailed Budget breakdown	<b>20%</b>
	Coherence between the financial offer and the proposed methodology	
<b>2. TECHNICAL PROPOSAL</b>	Quality and relevance of the methodological technical proposal	<b>40%</b>
	Feminist ,HR based approach, protection mainstreaming	
	Relevance of research sub-questions	
	Detailed description of the work plan and research steps. Adaptation to the Covid context	
<b>3. EXPERIENCE</b>	Knowledge and experience in gender, protection and humanitarian and GBV	<b>40%</b>
	Documented experience in conducting social research in related areas.	
	Feminist and humanitarian profiles. Experience in CBIs	

## 4.2. Research deliverables

At the end of the study, the researcher(s) will deliver:

- Executive summary in English and Arabic.
- Final document in Arabic and English including, at least, the following content:
  1. Theoretical and analytical framework
  2. Findings and evidence around each of the research questions
  3. Three case-study.
  4. Recommendations
  5. Annexes and references

## 4.3. How to submit proposals

Interested researchers and teams must submit a dossier containing, at least the following information:

- Technical proposal, including:
  1. methodologies and tools to be used for each of the questions including how the field work phase and data collection will be conducted
  2. preliminary sources of information.
- Proposal for a work plan with phases and a schedule.
- CVs and proof of the experience of the researchers or the members of the research team indicating their role and responsibilities for conducting this research (in the case of more than one consultant).
- Economic offer broken down (in euros): the amount available for this contract is 10.900 euros (including all taxes). The amount proposed by the research team must include all the expenses that will be incurred for the delivery of the products (taxes, travel, accommodation, etc). Also, it must be clearly detailed and being aligned with the technical proposal

Bids should be sent to the following addresses:  
[sagrariomonedas@gmail.com](mailto:sagrariomonedas@gmail.com) AND [eanadon@aporsolidaridad.org](mailto:eanadon@aporsolidaridad.org)

Deadline for submitting proposals is **21<sup>st</sup> of February** (end of the day).  
Please write on the subject of the e-mail: Study Cash oPt.