

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR EXTERNAL CONSULTANT
-
WOMEN LEADING THE COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO DISASTER/EMERGENCIES
“Humanitarian Operational Platform for EU Aid Volunteers-HOPE”

**ENTITY: FUNDACIÓN ALIANZA POR LOS DERECHOS, LA IGUALDAD Y LA SOLIDARIDAD INTERNACIONAL
(ALIANZA)**

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1. INTRODUCTION

Fundación Alianza por los Derechos, la Igualdad y la Solidaridad Internacional (Alianza) is a non-confessional, progressive and independent non-governmental development organization (NGDO) founded in 1986. Alianza has a presence in more than 20 countries in Latin America, the Middle East and Africa.

Alianza is the recipient of a grant from the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) on the project “Humanitarian Operational Platform for EU Aid Volunteers-HOPE”. The HOPE consortium is built around protection issues and is comprised of three sending organizations, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Estonian Refugee Council and Alianza por la Solidaridad (APS) as well as 11 host organizations UNHCR, DRC, APLS and Sawa in 16 different countries in Europe, Africa and America. The rationale for the HOPE consortium members to take part in this project is the wish to contribute to strengthening the European Union’s capacity to deliver a timely, effective and accountable needs-based humanitarian aid and to foster voluntarism in the EU. The three sending organizations in the HOPE consortium all have solid experience in mobilizing, training and deploying experts and volunteers to field operations and engaging in the EUAV project is a natural step for the three organizations to expand their activities.

To contribute to this proposal, Alianza is building up on its extensive field experience and a previous consultancy to prepare an emergency response plan for the communities of Jabalia and Nusseirat in the Gaza Strip.

This assignment aims at enhancing emergency community response by:

- Documenting information about the existing local capacities and resources, as well as systematizing best practices about organized women-led emergency response in previous emergencies and creating awareness about it.
- Strengthening local actors’ capacities (CBOs and local CSOs) in preparing Gender Rapid Need Assessments.
- Strengthening local actors’ capacities (CBOs and local CSOs) in First Aid and Psychological First Aid.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE INTERVENTION

2. 1. Fundación Alianza por los Derechos, la Igualdad y la Solidaridad Internacional.

Alianza has been present in the Middle East and in oPt since 1993. Since 1998, Alianza has had 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 and gender equality in the Middle East, with the main line of action being the promotion of sexual and reproductive rights and fight against gender based violence.

Alianza maintains stable local partners with whom it works in a sustained manner and deepening not only 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 has extensive experience and expertise on women’s rights activities and there is a high degree of knowledge about the environment and relation with the population, civil society organizations, other humanitarian actors and local public entities. The proposal has been built as a product of that and is framed in the approaches, objectives and lines of action envisaged in the strategy proposed by local partners.

2.2. The project.

The HOPE consortium is built around protection issues and is comprised of three sending organizations, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Estonian Refugee Council and Alianza por la Solidaridad (APS) as well as 11 host organizations UNHCR, DRC, APLS and Sawa in 16 different countries in Europe, Africa and America. The HOPE consortium associates are six leading European universities and the Dutch Council for Refugees. A governance structure and procedures for coordination within the consortium have been developed and extensive communication and dissemination activities and events are taking place throughout the project period. The project has a duration of 27 months and it kicked off in autumn 2018, being now in its last stages of implementation. The core part of the project being the deployment of volunteers to the Hosting Organisations (The project has deployed over 45 volunteers with profiles of protection, information management, accountability and support functions), this project also has a capacity building component, aimed at strengthening the skills and knowledge of the Hosting Organizations.

There are five specific objectives in the HOPE consortium project proposal. First and foremost the project seeks to strengthen the EU's capacity through the deployment of EU Aid Volunteers (SO1 and SO2) in 16 countries: Tunisia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ukraine, Lebanon, Georgia, Kosovo, Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Montenegro, Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina and Palestine. This main objective will be underpinned by strengthening good practices and lessons learned about volunteer deployments through technical assistance (SO3), as well as capacity-building activities to strengthen the implementation of projects based on the Initial Needs Assessment (SO4): All of this will be facilitated through the establishment of a transnational platform (SO5). As a result, it is expected that participating organizations among other things contribute to improve local volunteering, to raise awareness among the European population and upgrade the protection strategies from host organizations.

This consultancy will be carried out in the framework of the Activity 4- S.O.4: "Capacity building on local community capacities for protection and emergencies with gender approach" which aim is to reinforce capacities of protection and emergencies knowledge of women organizations.

2.3. Context and Justification.

The major drivers of humanitarian vulnerability in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) remain unchanged. Gaza context is framed by the protracted blockade, imposed by Israeli security forces, the recurrent hostilities in less than ten years and the intensification of the internal divide between Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and de facto Hamas authorities. All these factors have devastated public infrastructure, disrupted the delivery of basic services and undermined already vulnerable living conditions and coping mechanism, eroding the resilience of vulnerable households to cope with the prolonged nature of the humanitarian crisis.

Gazan people are currently denied or restricted in their access to essential services such as water and health care. Power outages of 18 to 20 hours a day continue, most of the population has access to piped water for only three to five hours every five days and only the most critical health, water and sanitation facilities are functioning. The health system, on the verge of collapse following years of blockade and de-development, is now overburdened with massive casualties from the ongoing "Great March of Return" demonstrations. In addition, over 12.000¹ people are internal displaced people without house since 2014 (most of them registered refugee form UNRWA) and out of them, 82% are dependent of humanitarian assistance and the economic development fail while the unemployment rate is the highest in the world.

¹ "The monthly Humanitarian Bulletin". OCHA, April 2019.

Conflict and the protracted humanitarian crisis have also resulted in high level of psychological distress, particularly among children and women. While emergency situation affects all the population, leaves Palestinian women in an extreme vulnerable situation being exposed to a double discrimination by Israeli occupation and a patriarchal society that exacerbated GBV in all its forms. According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in the Gaza Strip, more than 148,000² women are exposed to GBV and PCBS (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics) estimates in a 51.1% the exposure of violence to women in Gaza (2012). While women are demanded to take care of the family, they also become the breadwinners of the houses in many cases. Young women and girls, face heightened vulnerabilities, given limited sociopolitical and economic opportunities and being frequently used as a bargaining chip in early marriage to cope the economic difficulties of the family.

Despite the erosion of the resilience of vulnerable households to cope with the prolonged nature of the humanitarian crisis and the collapse of family structures and access to response services. Local citizens become key actors in the prevention and response of emergency situations. During the last war in 2014, the communities demonstrated that have developed personal preparedness and coping mechanisms to mitigate the consequences in crisis. For example, as shelter where overcrowded and the resources were insufficient, families open their houses to other affected people and women organized turns to prepare the meals and cover the needs of the community. To avoid sexual assaults and gender violence, the women also organized groups to patrol during the night and along the shelters.

Alianza, and its partners recognize the special vulnerability of women and girls in humanitarian situations and have made a series of commitments throughout this project to mitigate the vulnerabilities faced by these groups, identifying the need to strength the response of multi-sectorial services (sexual and reproductive health, psico-social and legal assistance) and to prepare an Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan with the communities ensuring gender responsive interventions.

3. DESCRIPTION TERMS OF REFERENCE.

3.1. Purpose of consultancy.

The consultant is required to build up this work on the previous work Alianza conducted to design a Community Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (CEPRP) with the aim of improving the capacity of the communities of Nusseirat (Wadi Al Salga, Johr Al Deek , Al Heker, Al Zahraa) and Jabalia (Ezbet Abedrabo, Jabalia Al Balad, Al Salam Square, Jabalia Camp Block 2) to respond more efficiently and effectively during and after an emergency situation minimizing the humanitarian consequences. This consultancy is expected to enhance the emergency community response by:

- Documenting information about the existing local capacities and resources, as well as systematizing best practices about organized women-led emergency response in previous emergencies and creating awareness about it.
- Strengthening local actors' capacities (CBOs and local CSOs) in conducting Gender Rapid Need Assessments
- Strengthening local actors' capacities (CBOs and local CSOs) in First Aid and Psychological First Aid.

Once the data collection has been completed and approved by Alianza, the consultant will present to Alianza a dissemination plan including at least the organization of one webinar presenting the results of the work and pre-approved awareness materials ready to be printed and distributed among the community.

² "The Humanitarian Impact of Gaza's Electricity and Fuel Crisis on GBV and Services". UNFPA, May 2017.

Emergency situations impact women, girls, boys and men differently. Every emergency response plan must contribute to gender equality by effectively identifying and responding to the needs, capacities and priorities of women, girls, boys and men, including actions that meaningfully engages women and girls in humanitarian decision to lead to a more effective humanitarian response. Women often play a caregiving role within their communities, and they can offer unique insights based on their experience, challenges and opportunities becoming key agents in the prevention and response of emergency situations. The consultant is responsible for ensuring that GBV prevention and response is understood among the community and prioritized across the activities, including vulnerable groups such as widows, women heads of households and women with disabilities.

3.2 Stakeholders involved.

- CBOs at Al Nusseirat:
 - Rural Women's Development Society
 - Al Tawoon Center
 - Injure Child Association
 - Shams Elhourya Association
 - Shbab Al Aqsa Association
 - Nebras Association for Society Development
- CBOs at Al Jabalia:
 - Nedaa Palestine Association.
 - Al Anqaa Association for society development.
 - Bena Association for development and empowerment.
 - Khotwa Association.
 - Al Marsa Association.
- Civil brigades of the communities.
- Community Leaders.
- Public and private health services and Community services providers
- Local, international NGOs and UN agencies.

4. METHODOLOGY AND WORKPLAN

4.1. Methodology.

The Consultant will ensure a qualitative, quantitative, and participatory methodology and appropriated data collection tools that ensure community based and gender analysis approach.

1. Research and literature review will be undertaken to identify key issues in the design of the CEPRP and gain a detailed understanding of the context. Documenting information about the existing local capacities and resources, as well as systematizing best practices about organized women-led emergency response in previous emergencies and creating awareness about it
2. Field work will be carried out to meet the information needs using the tools previously designed.
 - a. Conduct 4 focus group in each area* with target groups (women, men, boys and girls) and CBOs to identify the copying mechanism in emergencies, capacities, needs and priorities of the communities. 10 people / focus group.
 - * Nusseirat: Wadi Al Salga - Johr Al Deek - Al Heker - Al Zahraa
 - Jabalia: Ezbet Abedrabo - Jabalia Al Balad - Al Salam Square - Jabalia Camp Block 2
 - b. Conduct at least 5 interviews with stakeholders (members of protection and sub GBV cluster, UN agencies, AIDA and OCHA).

- c. Conduct 10 interviews with women living in the communities of intervention. The people interview will be defined during the consultancy.
- d. 50 Questionnaires (open and close ended) will be created and distributed among the actors involved to contribute to gather information.
3. A dissemination webinar will be organized to disseminate the main conclusions and results of the study, after the approval of final report by Alianza.
4. Three capacity building programs to be designed and delivered to key actors in the community: First Aid; Psychological First Aid and Gender Rapid Need Assessments. Contents, methodology and materials, to be approved by Alianza prior to the sessions.

4.2. Work Plan

The consultancy will compromise the following phases:

1. Design and desk review: The consultant will examine all the documentation and gain understanding of the context including the map of resources, access to services and identify key informants. During this period the agenda of field work will be also be agreed.
2. Fieldwork: field work will be carried out in the different areas of implementation of the project. Once the field work has been completed, it will include the return of contributions made by field participants and stakeholders in order to share the analysis, conclusions and recommendations to define de CEPRP and facilitate the appropriation of the target groups.
3. Preparation of the report: A final draft will be drawn up to be reviewed and discussed by all parties one week before the consultancy period ends until a definitive report is produced. Once the final report has been produced, the consultant will report directly to the project coordinator and it will be shared with the main actors involved.

4.3. Timeframe

The Consultancy is expected to start on the 20th December 2020 for a period of 10 weeks. The duration of the consultancy can slightly be adjusted upon request and prior approval from the two parties. An indicative timeframe is proposed below:

Activities	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Document review	X									
Development of methodological proposal and data collection tools		X								
Field work. Quantitative and qualitative data.			X	X						
Analysis and preliminary results				X						
Systematizing best practices about organized women-led emergency response in previous emergencies				X						
Feedback of Alianza and partners,					X					
Dissemination webinar and awareness materials					X	X				
Prepare materials and toolbox for capacity building programs.						X				
Strengthening local actors' capacities (CBOs and local CSOs) in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting Gender Rapid Need Assessments • First Aid • Psychological First Aid. 							X	X		
Preparation of draft report and feedback from Alianza									X	
Final CEPRP										X

4.3. Deliverables.

The final product will be delivered by 28th of February 2021 and will include the following documents in English and Arabic.

- Report including the documentation and systematization of best practices in the women-led local response, analyzing existing local resources and capacities.
- Awareness materials to disseminate in the community including some of the more important conclusions of the research.
- Toolbox for the capacity building on:
 - First Aid (manual and training)
 - Psychological First Aid (manual and training)
 - Gender Rapid Need Assessment.

5. REQUIREMENTS OF THE CONSULTANT AND ECONOMIC OFFER

5.1. Qualifications and competencies

Alianza seeks candidates of the highest integrity and professionalism who share our humanitarian principles. Selection of consultant is made on a competitive basis, is expected to prove:

- Bachelor's degree preferably in Social Sciences, in research, gender or humanitarian action.
- 5 years of experience in research, development and humanitarian action interventions.
- Experience and knowledge of gender issues in humanitarian action, gender-based violence in humanitarian crisis and emergencies is essential.
- Proven previous experience in providing First Aid and Psychological First Aid trainings.
- A good knowledge of socio-political policies and the situation in the Middle East, as well as the specific conditions affecting women and girls in the Gaza Strip.
- Proven experience as an assessment team leader and in conducting workshops on assessment findings.
- Knowledge of methodologies employed for qualitative and quantitative data collection.
- Ability to produce well-written reports that demonstrate excellent analytical and communication skills.
- Ability to work with the organization and with other stakeholders to ensure the delivery of a high-quality product in a timely manner.
- Excellent command of English

5.2. Economic offer

The budget must be presented in a table format with an indication of the following: fees, travel expenses and any other expenses with breakdown of the price per units. All the translations, must be included in the consultancy budget.

The consultancy total amount can't exceed the total of 10.000€.

The consultant must submit to Alianza its financial and technical offer no later than 13th December 2020.

The proposals (technical and financial) must be sent by email to sgarcia@aporsolidaridad.org and hriziq@aporsolidaridad.org with the **subject**: Consultancy emergencies_Hope