

Terms of Reference for BMZIII Project Midterm Evaluation

Esenyurt, İstanbul

1. Background

Save the Children (SC) Türkiye Country Office, INOGAR and Esenyurt Municipality within partnership, has been implementing a project entitled “Improving the Socioeconomic Resilience of Refugees and Most Vulnerable Host Community”. The project started in 01.11.2021 and will be completed in 31.12.2024. The main goal of the project is to enhance the access of the vulnerable from Syrians under Temporary Protection (SuTP), refugees and host communities youth to integrated protection, mental health and psychosocial services (MHPSS) and livelihoods opportunities.

The main target group of this project are youth between the age of 15-35 from SuTP, refugees and host community communities living in the district of Esenyurt in Istanbul. The project aims at improving social cohesion among young people through innovative approaches such as Youth Solidarity Clubs (YSCs) and Youth Resilience Programme (YRP) to promote inclusion and solidarity between young SuTP, refugees and young members of the host community; and aims at improving access to livelihoods via soft skills training, entrepreneurship training, vocational training referral, provision of in-kind entrepreneurship support and establishment of social cooperatives run by young people that provide livelihood opportunities and social cohesion. INOGAR and SC plan to directly reach a total of 1,486 people (743 women, 743 men) with the project measures (approximately 5,200 people indirectly), 65% of whom are SuTP and refugees and 35% of whom are Turkish youth and young adults.

As of the 1st of September 2023, the project reached the following:

Result 1:

Since Sep 2022, a total of 533 of female and male youth was reached through awareness raising and information dissemination sessions, information counselling and/or referrals.

And a total of 19 female and male youth received PSS and psychological interventions through structured programs since Apr 2023.

Results 2:

The total number of female and male youth who completed S2S program is 161 since Sep 2022, and from June 2023 till the end of August, a total of 28 participants completed S2S additional market relevant training.

The BET program started in October and 2022, and the total reached of female and male since then is 106.

Result 3:

A total of 55 female and male youth participated in social entrepreneurship and cooperative management trainings since Jan 2023.

This project aims to strengthen the socioeconomic inclusion of marginalized, at risk refugee and host community youth through increased knowledge and capacity of partner organizations to deliver protection and psychosocial support services to vulnerable young women and men; increased market-relevant knowledge and skills of vulnerable young women and men have which enhance their livelihoods opportunities; empowerment of vulnerable young women and men through the establishment of youth-led cooperatives and entrepreneurship support. Livelihood support is aimed at providing sustainable employment for project beneficiaries, including self-employment. Securing sustainable employment and

successful self-employment will generate income for the household to meet basic needs and prevent possible negative coping strategies.

2. Objective of the Evaluation

The desired evaluation is a Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE), to provide insights about the effectiveness of the project and to evaluate its performance against the desired results manifested in the project's result framework. The evaluation will assess the project's overall performance at mid-term, identify the key strengths and weaknesses; thus, provide contributions to organizational learning and informed decision-making; and ensure the project's accountability for results and endorse SC's and the partner's obligation on Accountability to the Affected Populations (AAP).

Where thus the main project indicators are:

Overall objective (impact): Enhanced resilience and social inclusion amongst vulnerable refugee and host community youth in Istanbul

The project aims to achieve this overall objective through three key results:

Result 1: Partner has increased knowledge and capacity to deliver protection and psychosocial support services to vulnerable young women and men.

Result 2: Vulnerable young women and men have increased market-relevant knowledge and skills which enhance their livelihoods opportunities.

Result 3: Vulnerable young women and men are empowered through the establishment of two youth-led cooperatives.

2.1. Key Evaluation Questions

The evaluation design is expected to address the below OECD/DAC (the OECD Development Assistance Committee) criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact, and research questions at a minimum:

2.1.1. Relevance

- i. To what extent has the project reached the most marginalized, at-risk refugee and host community youth, vulnerable women and men?
 - i. What was the stakeholders' role in the alignment of the beneficiary populations and selection criteria?
- ii. To what extent has the project taken people's different needs into account according to age, gender, disability, and population groups (primarily Syrians under Temporary Protection (SuTP), refugees and host community)?
 - i. How was the project or program adapted to meet those different needs?
- iii. To what extent were joint meetings, supervision workshops and capacity building trainings, were relevant to the partner's staff need in strengthening their knowledge and capacity to deliver protection and psychosocial support services to vulnerable young women and men?

2.1.2. Effectiveness

- i. Did Save the Children and the partner implement the project as planned, if not, what were the underlying reasons/factors?
 - i. Has the project adapted to external factors (pandemic, economic and political changes etc.) and the needs of communities? Assess to what extent have the adaptations (i.e., online activities) fulfilled project's and beneficiaries' needs.
 - ii. Has the beneficiary population been consulted regarding the project design or implementation process of the project.
- ii. Has the beneficiary population and target groups selected and/or revised effectively to meet the needs of the communities?
 - i. Were there other demographic groups that could/should have been included?

2.1.3. Outcome:

- i. Assess the change/real difference the intervention made in the lives of the beneficiaries:
 - i. Do beneficiaries of MHPSS services report improved psychosocial wellbeing and emotional recovery?
 - ii. Do beneficiaries of livelihoods services report improved access to the labour market or earning a higher income?
 - iii. Do young people and/or women engaged in cooperatives report sustainable income?
 - iv. Do beneficiaries report an improvement in access to sustainable livelihoods?
 - v. Do beneficiaries report improved access and increased ability to afford basic needs for their households and the needs of children specifically?
 - vi. Do beneficiaries report improved social cohesion?
- ii. To what extent have the project objectives been achieved, what were the factors contributing to achievement and non-achievement.

2.1.4. Sustainability

- i. Will the changes caused by the project continue throughout the rest of the project duration, and beyond the life cycle of the project?
- ii. Was the project design and partnership appropriate and managed effectively?
 - i. Has the project or programme improved the stakeholders'/SC's knowledge and programming to deliver results at scale?
 - ii. Has the project improved the awareness of stakeholders on protection principles, rights, and risks faced by the affected populations?
- iii. How can the partners take over to ensure the sustainability of the youth centre beyond the end of the project?

2.2. Scope of Services

The evaluation will cover the targeted refugee and host population. The evaluation should be as inclusive as possible in reaching and engaging relevant stakeholders (local authorities, stakeholders, etc.) while inclusion of children and youth from the project's target age and bringing out their voices is a must. For data collection, face to face interactions should be done mostly from the community center and the interview teams should be at the center throughout the whole process. In cases where it is necessary to be in the field, secure server and assets etc. should be provided for enumerators by the firm or SC.

3. Evaluation Design & Methodology

The evaluation will be conducted externally by an independent firm, the hired researcher/team member is expected to assume the role of team leader. While SC will be facilitating access to the field, the contracted firm is expected to rely on their network if large scale field work is proposed.

The evaluating firm is expected to draw the frame of the methodology for the evaluation, expand or restrict (with justification) the key evaluation questions. The firm should keep the below considerations in mind when submitting their design:

- All project materials will be provided for desk review. The initial methodology set can be revised following the desk research upon consultation with SC.
- All tools used for data including FGDs are designed to be age sensitive, to ensure all targeted ages are covered, and there could be different version of the tools based on age.
- Mixed quantitative and qualitative methodologies are desired, including field visits and site observations; desk reviews of project documents; focus group discussions (FGDs); Key Informants Interviews (KIIs) with relevant stakeholders, community leaders, and project staff; phone-call interviews with the beneficiaries and other community members.
- Qualitative sampling shall depend on the principal of saturation, hence fixed amount of FGDs and KIIs will not be favoured, instead the evaluation firms are expected to submit a minimum and an evidence driven maximum number of FGDs/KIIs that may be conducted.
 - If control groups are going to be included in the design, the risk assessment needs to be approved by SC, particularly concerning child and youth participation.
- Separate FGDs will be conducted for boys and girls, women and men. Given that the project focuses on protection, no exceptions will be allowed for FGD participation. The age breakdown should be in line with the project's focus/selection criteria. The firm is expected to submit all procedures with the tools at the end of the inception phase, however FGDs should be further disaggregated by the below criteria at a minimum:
 - Population group where different nationalities should not be put together unless it is desired for research purposes, justification is provided, and no conflict is foreseen in light of the content
 - Age difference among the FGD participants should not exceed 5 years of age
 - The evaluating firm should ensure that child safeguarding (CSG) risks are mitigated, where a staff member is present outside the room, or coordinate with the SC/partner teams to have focal points for children who wish to leave or need psychological first aid (PFA).
- Youth (15 years old and over) friendly methodologies designed according to the age and cognitive development levels of children should be used with children. Interviews or surveys can be conducted with children only after the informed assent of the child and informed consent of the child's legal guardian. The evaluation methodology has to account for SC's ethical considerations, particularly concerning child participation.
- KIIs can be conducted with stakeholders, staff, community leaders, and hard to reach population groups.
- Children's wellbeing is paramount. It should be noted that as it is a protection project, data collection is open to unexpected disclosure or report of sensitive information. Accordingly, the firm's staff needs to be prepared to identify and refer in case of disclosure during the evaluation,

conduct internal referral where relevant, and abide by confidentiality principles. Mandatory Child Safeguarding, Identification & Referral trainings will be provided by SC prior to data collection.

- If the evaluating staff are not fluent in Syrian Arabic, high quality interpretation should be arranged by the firm. Additional project staff or resources will not be dedicated to the evaluating team.
- Designated SC staff will be conducting on-site monitoring during the evaluation, joining data collection at observation capacity.
- The research teams should be gender sensitive during the qualitative data collection, where the team should consist of women facilitating/note taking/translating in women's groups, and vice versa.

3.1. Presentation of the Results

The evaluation firm should provide an inception report following the review of the secondary sources provided by SC before the field work, which articulates the evaluation design, and include the proposed methodology, sampling strategy, tools, team structure, and work plan. The field work will be being following the presentation of the inception report to the relevant Save the Children staff.

All complaints, any identified incidents or concerns of child safeguarding (CGS), Code of Conduct, fraud shall be reported as identified in line with SC policies.

The evaluation firm is expected to submit all means of verification (i.e., interview outlines/notes, consent forms, FGD notes) together with the final report. The report must have a clear and comprehensive recommendations section for both SC and partner organization.

The evaluation firm shall not have exclusive copyright of the report or storing privilege concerning the collected data.

4. Duration of the Evaluation

The evaluation is expected to start by the 1st of November, and the field work should be completed by the end of November. The evaluation is estimated to be completed in 30 workdays. The final report, including the integration of the feedback received from SC, must be submitted latest by the 20th of Dec 2023.

5. Hired Firm's Staffing Profile

- University degree in a relevant field (i.e., social sciences, statistics, social work, psychology)
- Proven track record in conducting quality evaluations (preferably in protection sector)
- Thorough knowledge of the implementation context/site
- Valid work permits to work in Türkiye
- The research team should consist of staff fluent in Syrian Arabic and Turkish.

6. Organization, Roles and Responsibilities

SC staff will act as the advisory group during the evaluation process, and provide technical assistance (provision of the necessary documents and information, review of the evaluation design, methodology, tools). Practical assistance will not be provided (i.e., in-country travel, translation/interpretation, accommodation).

SC's facilitation of the communication between the hired firm and partner organization and beneficiaries, will be at a minimum/introductory level. The firm is expected to utilise their network in order to reach

local authorities and/or other stakeholders, appointments will not be arranged on demand. SC will try to ease reach if possible, however the request should be established at the beginning of the evaluation and voiced on a timely manner.

6.1. Plan for Dissemination and Learning

The firm is expected validate the findings through validation meetings/sessions, and present to SC Türkiye and partner organization teams at the end of the evaluation process. All additional activities concerning dissemination and learning will be undertaken by Save the Children.

7. Application Requirements

- Technical proposal (max. 7 pages) including the scope of work, tentative methodology and procedures elaborating on data collection strategy and data protection measures in place, key evaluation questions and an evaluation matrix, risk assessment, and workplan.
- Financial proposal including a detailed budget breakdown of all estimated costs (i.e., accommodation, plane tickets, translation). For profit organizations should state this budget line separately
- If present, organisation's policies (i.e., Data Protection, Safeguarding/Childsafeguarding, PSEA, CoC)
- CV's and work permits (if applicable), and criminal records of the staff who will take part in the evaluation. If sub-contractors are going to be used, this should be stated in the supplier's bid in detail.