

PROJECT EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT 'PATHWAYS TO YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND SELF-RELIANCE IN LEBANON'

Consultancy timeframe

30-40 working days between mid-August to mid-October 2024

Introduction

DIGNITY- Danish Institute Against Torture is seeking a consultant to conduct an evaluation from mid-August to mid-October 2024 of the implementation and outcomes of the project '*Pathways to Youth Empowerment and Self-Reliance in Lebanon*' funded by the Novo Nordisk Foundation and implemented by DIGNITY – The Danish Institute Against Torture, RESTART Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Torture and Violence, and FISTA - First Step Together Association. The Consultant must have solid experience in process- and outcome evaluations, as well as monitoring and evaluation (M&E) within the Field of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) interventions in low-and-middle income countries.

About the project

Trauma and other severe mental health conditions are prevalent among refugees and host community youth in Lebanon. Such mental health problems impair youth's ability to learn and establish social relationships. In Lebanon, as in other crisis settings, unaddressed mental health problems contribute significantly to educational drop-out and poor learning outcomes among youth. For others, it obstructs even accessing education.

While mental health needs are growing in Lebanon, the existing mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS) responses and services are limited, especially for trauma-affected youth. There is a specific gap in knowledge and awareness in the education sector, among teachers and other school workers, on how to recognize, help and refer youth suffering from trauma-related mental health challenges.

If not addressed, a generation of youth in Lebanon suffering from mental health problems will not be able to benefit equally from education and livelihood programmes. They will be left behind and poorly equipped to become self-reliant in future.

Therefore, DIGNITY, Restart Center, and First Step Together Association (FISTA) with funding from the Novo Nordisk Foundation (NNF), has implemented a 24-month project with the objective of developing a trauma-informed MHPSS model for enhancing educational outcomes for refugee and host population youth aged 12 to 18 affected by trauma in Lebanon. The project has coupled a smaller-scale MHPSS intervention benefiting 800 Lebanese and Syrian youth with a comprehensive research component, and engagement of stakeholders. As such, the aim has been to deliver immediate impact on education outcomes of

Enquiries and questions regarding the consultancy can be made before 24 June 2024 to:

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Deadline for applying:
21/7/2024

beneficiary youth, as well as developing an intervention concept that can be scaled in Lebanon and adapted to other humanitarian contexts. Ultimately, the project has sought to contribute to the empowerment of youth and the fostering of self-reliance.

Project objective

Trauma-affected refugee and host population youth in Lebanon have better access to education and enjoy better educational outcomes via improved mental health and psycho-social well-being.

Outcomes

1. Lebanese education actors demonstrate commitment to adopt and promote a trauma-informed and gender sensitive approach to MHPSS in education programs for youth.
2. A trauma informed MHPSS model for improving youth educational outcomes is contextualized, implemented, and evaluated.
3. Improve the conceptual understanding of how trauma, adversity and other factors influence youth participation in school and identification of promising practices for addressing barriers.

Outputs

- 1.1 8 private and semi-private schools in Lebanon commit to co-develop and integrate a trauma informed MHPSS model into their education programs.
- 1.2 A project advisory group consisting of beneficiary youth as well as national and international stakeholders, relevant to the education sector in Lebanon is established in support of implementation and communication.
- 2.1 A trauma informed model adapted to the context and to be sensitive to culture, gender, and disability inclusion.
- 2.2 The trauma informed model is implemented in 8 schools and their catchment areas.
- 2.3 Process and outcome of trauma-informed model is rigorously evaluated, and findings shared with stakeholders.
- 3.1 High-quality, relevant research is completed, and findings disseminated.

About the project partners

DIGNITY is an independent nongovernmental human rights and development organization. Founded in 1982, DIGNITY is one of the world's first anti-torture NGOs and specialized treatment centres for torture survivors. For 40 years, DIGNITY has been a leading civil society force in the global fight against torture. We have active partnerships with more than 30 local and international NGOs and research institutions around the world. DIGNITY operates in +20 countries in Africa, Middle East, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America, where we work in close partnerships with human rights defenders, civil society organizations and, where possible, government authorities.

Restart is a Lebanese NGO with more than 25 years' experience in providing specialized mental health and special education services. As UNHCR's largest

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implementing partner on MHPSS, Restart is the most prominent mental health CSO in Lebanon. To date, Restart has assisted more than 30,000 individuals, particularly SGBV and torture survivors, refugees and trauma survivors, children with special needs, vulnerable women, children and youth affected and/or involved in armed conflicts, persons with mental disorders and other vulnerable groups. Around 45% of Restart's beneficiaries are children and youth, including youth affected and/or involved in armed conflicts, secondary victims of torture, children/youth with special needs and mental and neurological disorders. Restart has established working relations with the Ministry of Health and is a key member of the health and child protection Technical Working Groups under UNHCR's coordination.

FISTA is a Lebanese NGO specialized in providing education, vocational and professional rehabilitation to persons with disabilities. FISTA's multidisciplinary team consists of 48 mental health and educational specialists, which annually supports around 400 Lebanese and Syrian youth with disabilities of various kinds. As implementing partner to UNICEF, FISTA is closely associated to education and child protection coordination forums in Lebanon.

The consultancy

The evaluation will fill important knowledge gaps on factors contributing to successful participation in school in crisis settings, as well as the role of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in improving educational outcomes for trauma- and adversity-affected youth. The evaluation consultancy is thus a key part of the project and will serve to consolidate monitoring and process evaluation results generated throughout the two-year implementation period. Key learning points from the evaluation will be widely disseminated to stakeholders in Lebanon, together with findings from an ongoing research study. The consultant will closely collaborate with the senior researcher from DIGNITY to ensure that the evaluation compliments, informs and is informed by the research study.

Objectives of consultancy

The evaluation will contribute to filling important knowledge gaps on factors contributing to successful participation in school in crisis settings, as well as the role of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in improving educational outcomes for trauma- and adversity affected youth. The overall objective of the consultancy is thus to evaluate the implementation and outcomes of the project 'Pathways to Youth Empowerment and Self-Reliance in Lebanon' (2022-2024) related to effects of the MHPSS services provided on youth mental health and educational outcomes.

As such, the consultant will be expected to evaluate:

- the role of MHPSS in improving educational outcomes among trauma-affected youth.
- knowledge, behavior, and attitudes of teachers and social workers targeted in the project.
- strengths and weaknesses in the implementation of the project.

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The evaluation will contribute to identifying:

- factors contributing to the successful participation of youth in schools in crisis settings.
- Recommendations for the use and further development of a trauma-informed model in schools.

Scope of work

The contract will closely follow the objectives stated above. The consultant is required, in close coordination with DIGNITY and partners to:

- Attend a kick-off meeting with DIGNITY to further discuss and agree on detailed scope of work, methodology, and approach, and to gain an overview of existing data.
- Present to the DIGNITY team the proposed evaluation methodology, conceptual framework, evaluation questions, timeline, and key focus areas.
- Collect and analyse secondary data, analyses, reports, and other materials from project partners,
- Collect and analyse primary data to the extent necessary and feasible. This might include interviews with relevant local and national stakeholders in Lebanon.
- Produce draft evaluation report and submit to DIGNITY for review,
- Present preliminary findings to DIGNITY and collect feedback,
- A final evaluation report including all annexes.

The evaluation report must include the following:

- Introduction/background
- Context analysis
- Evaluation methodology
- Analysis of data
- Detailed results of the analysis
- Conclusions and key learnings from the project and process
- Clear recommendations for the implementation and further development of a trauma-informed model in schools in Lebanon
- Relevant annexes

The assignment will include close coordination with relevant staff from DIGNITY's International Programme Department. As such, the consultant will report to the DIGNITY project team, and will attend bi-weekly status meetings to update on progress and discuss any challenges. Relevant documents and information will be shared with the consultant as part of an introduction session. The consultant is expected to be either based in Lebanon or to travel to Lebanon to conduct the evaluation.

Timeframe

The consultancy assignment is expected to take 30-40 working days and be carried out between mid-August and mid-October 2024.

It will consist of the following phases and elements to be shared and discussed with DIGNITY on an ongoing basis:

Mid-August - September

- Methodology of the study in consultation with DIGNITY
- Desk review
- Collection of additional data as necessary and relevant
- Analysis of data
- Elaboration of a draft evaluation report
- Draft report presentation and discussion with DIGNITY and partners

By 15 October

- Final full evaluation report incl. all deliverables

Bidding process

Key deliverables

In your bid, please specify how you will address the consultancy assignment, including the following:

- A summary of how the task is understood
- A summary of proposed approaches and methods
- Work plan
- Budget
- CV highlighting relevant experiences

Award criteria

The choice of supplier will be made on the basis of quality of the bid, relevance of competencies and experience, and price competitiveness.

Best price-quality ratio

The contracting authority evaluates the tenders received on the basis of the following weighting:

1. Quality: 50%
2. Competencies and experience: 30%
3. Price: 20%.

Requirements

The consultant is expected to have:

- Proven experience in monitoring and evaluation within field of mental health and psychosocial support. M&E experience withing the education sector is a strong asset.
- Relevant contextual experience in Lebanon and the MENA region
- A demonstrated background in monitoring and evaluation
- A master's degree
- Strong data analysis skills
- Fluency in English and Arabic is essential (French an asset)

Deadline

The deadline for submitting a bid is 21 July 2024 at 12:00 CET.

Interested consultants must submit their bid by email to:

- **Tina Søndergård Madsen**
E-mail address: tism@dignity.dk
and
- **Hala Al-Jaghbeer**
E-mail address: haja@dignity.dk

Shortlisted applicants for the assignment will be invited to an interview before final selection is made.

Budget

The budget for the consultancy is maximum DKK 125.000 with an estimate of 30-40 working days. There is no separate reimbursement for travel-related expenses or other expenses.

Queries about the Tender Material

The tenderer is encouraged to seek any ambiguities and uncertainties clarified by asking questions about the tender material.

Enquiries and questions regarding the consultancy can be made before 24 June 2024. All enquiries and questions regarding the consultancy must be made in writing with the subject text 'Questions – Tender Project Evaluation Lebanon' to Tina Søndergård Madsen (tism@dignity.dk). All enquiries received on or before 24 June 2024 will be answered within three working days.