



Terms of Reference

Title: Consultant to conduct Country Assessment of the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) situation in Palestine

Duration: **4 months** (3 months for finalizing the country assessment and one month to participate in presenting the assessment in national workshops)

Location: **Palestine**

Start Date: **ASAP**

Background:

The "Country Assessment of the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) situation in Palestine" intervention will contribute to strengthening the capacity of the national health and social protection actors to analyze, assess and monitor SRHR and gender equality including advocacy for multi-sectoral response to Gender Based Violence (GBV). The overall programme funding is provided through the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). This intervention is being undertaken by MIFTAH in partnership with The Independent Commission of Human Rights (ICHR), Civil Society Organizations, UN agencies (UN Women, OHCHR, WHO and UNFPA), and the Palestinian Authority (PA). The PA's recent ratification of International Treaties and Conventions including the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), encompasses significant obligations to realize reproductive rights, achieve gender equality, including through addressing GBV. The PA is liable to align national laws, legislations, strategies and policies to fulfil its obligations. To advance to that end, the programme will contribute to promoting advanced gender equality empowerment, and reproductive rights, including for the most vulnerable and marginalized women, adolescents and youth.

The programme specific objective is to strengthen capacity of national health and social protection actors to promote SRHR, including protection against gender-based violence in vulnerable communities.

Scope of the Assignment:

The main objective of this assignment is to conduct a country assessment and report on SRHR violations in Palestine including recommendations on actions to be taken to advance the promotion and protection of SRHR in compliance with international obligations.

A country assessment is defined by UNFPA as "a systematic review of information and data compiled through secondary sources to identify and understand the country's main human rights problems related to sexual and reproductive health and well-being and the efforts (or lack of thereof) undertaken by the State as the main duty-bearer, and other non-state actors, to address these problems. A country



assessment provides a firm basis on which to establish a framework for promotion and monitoring of human rights implementation. The country assessment can be used on its own to identify challenges and areas in need of improvement or be a first step in the development of a national inquiry. It explores the extent to which rights are realized and obligations are met. As such, it follows the key principles of human rights (i.e. non-discrimination and equality, participation, accountability)".

Expected Outputs:

A comprehensive assessment in English and an Arabic executive summary assessing the SRHR situation in the country, national compliance with international human rights instrument, including recommendations aligned with existing initiatives on actions to be taken to advance the promotion and the protection of SRHR as well as an advocacy plan to implement recommendation. The assessment should provide specific outputs that would help developing strategic plans on the health and reproductive rights. The draft report will be submitted for the Advisory Committee¹ for review and approval.

Under the supervision of MIFTAH and UNFPA and in close consultation with the Advisory Committee, the consultant is expected to:

1. Review the UN obligations on SRHR for women and men, adolescents, persons with disabilities, and other population groups living in situation of marginalization and exclusion;
2. Collect data and information regarding the situation of SRHR in Palestine and identify the gaps, and challenges about the groups that are severely exposed to health and reproductive rights violations;
3. Provide analysis, and recommendations on actions that can be adapted to promote and protect SRHR in Palestine;
4. Ensure compliance with relevant indicators and international experiences related to reproductive health situation;
5. Meet on regular basis with the Advisory Committee and update the members on the progresses;
6. The country assessment must be aligned with UNFPA's 'Guide in Support of National Human Rights Institutions: Country Assessments and National inquiries on Human Rights in the Context of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Well-being';
7. Discuss and agree on the methodological framework with MIFTAH and the Advisory Committee and ensue their approval for it;
8. Share first draft with the Advisory Committee and discuss further amendments;
9. Finalize and share the assessment in English language with MIFTAH, UNFPA and the members of the Advisory Committee;

¹ The Advisory Committee is a Programme Committee established by MIFTAH and includes representatives of relevant partners; it will act as strategic and advisory role for the implementation of the programme and its outputs.



10. Finalize and share the Executive Summary in Arabic with MIFTAH, UNFPA and the members of the Advisory Committee;
11. Present the assessment in the planned National Conference, organized by MIFTAH to launch the findings.
12. After the assessment, the consultant should present the findings of the assessment at national workshops

Management Arrangement:

As the main counterpart for this assignment, MIFTAH is responsible to coordinate the work of the consultant. Once selected, the consultant is expected to provide methodology, and a detailed work plan. Both will be discussed and finalized with the consultant, UNFPA and MIFTAH and shared among the Advisory Committee members.

Time Frame:

Four months starting from signing the contract (expected 3 months for finalizing the country assessment and 1 month to participate in presenting the assessment in national workshops, and capacity building trainings of relevant stakeholders).

Final Product:

Towards the end of the assignment, the consultant is expected to deliver:

1. Final assessment report in English;
2. Executive summary in Arabic;
3. Present the report in national workshops; Power Point Presentation

Education:

- Advanced degree in development studies, and/or human rights, and/or social sciences.
- Academic background in Health and Reproductive Health will be considered as an asset.
- The consultant is expected to partner with a legal expert who will be requested to make the link between the assessment, national laws, and PA ratified international agreements and conventions.

The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of **Global Dialogue and Democracy** MIFTAH

المبادرة الفلسطينية لتعميق الحوار العالمي والديمقراطية



Experience and Key Competencies:

- Minimum 5 years in the area of reproductive health, gender-based violence and human rights supported with proven records;
- Established experience in social and gender analysis;
- Strong knowledge of the Palestinian political and social context;
- Excellent research, drafting, analytical supported with proven records;
- Fluency in English and Arabic is required.

Interested candidates are requested to submit the following documents in **a sealed envelope** to MIFTAH's office, Al-Rimawi Building, 3rd Floor, Al-Masayef area, no later than **Wednesday 3rd of June 2015.**

- A. A cover letter explaining why he/she is qualified for this assignment.
- B. Technical offer including a tentative methodology on conducting research/assessment
- C. Financial proposal including daily fees.
- D. Copy of the CV of the consultant and the legal expert.
- E. Copy of a sample research.

For more information, please contact Ms. Hanan Said, Project Coordinator at 02-2989490