# Terms of Reference

**Subject: Request for a Follow up Assessment on the Gendered Realities in Displacement - Syrian Refugees (Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon)**

***STATEMENT OF NEED***

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) plans to carry out a follow up assessment to the 2018 Unpacking Gendered Realities in Displacement - Syrian Refugees (Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon) as described in this Request for Proposal and its related annexes. UN Women now invites sealed proposals from qualified proposers for providing the requirements as defined in these documents.

***Submission Date of the Assessment: 15 Feb 2022***

* ***Introduction***

UN Women’s Regional Office for the Arab States[[1]](#footnote-1)

The UN Women Regional Office for the Arab States (ROAS) was established in Cairo, Egypt, in 2012. ROAS covers 17 countries across the Arab States region, including countries with low, medium and high income and several countries currently experiencing serious crisis impacting on overall human development.

ROAS exercises the triple mandate of UN Women to support Member States to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls: the development of norms and standards; regional programmes to support Member States and civil society actors to implement such norms and standards; and inter-agency coordination to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment by all UN actors in the region.

ROAS’s work in the region is guided by its four-year Strategic Note (2018 - 2021), which is aligned with the global UN Women Strategic Plan, and by key international frameworks for the promotion of gender equality and women’s empowerment, including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

ROAS supports UN Women country offices in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, the State of Palestine, Tunisia and Yemen. ROAS also provides technical assistance to Kuwait, Bahrain and Syria as a non-resident agency and works closely with the UN Women liaison office in the UAE.

UN Women‘s Humanitarian Agenda[[2]](#footnote-2):

UN Women is committed to ensuring equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of humanitarian action, and that humanitarian action seeks to promote gender equality and more just societies. To this end, UN Women works in crises prevention, preparedness and response to reduce vulnerabilities, address risks, promote resilience and leverage women’s leadership.

UN Women offices in Jordan, Lebanon, Libya and Iraq, Yemen and Palestine are supporting women affected by crisis, and partners engaging in humanitarian programming. Across these contexts, this work is done through an integrated humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) framework that targets both those affected by crisis and seeks to build national systems and structures. A two-pronged strategy is utilized to achieve the following results:

* + - 1. To make long-term humanitarian and development assistance more responsive to women’s and girls’ needs and increase their role and leadership.
      2. To meet women’s basic needs through increased access to recovery and livelihood opportunities, paired with comprehensive protection services and support to the justice sector to promote accountability for violence against women.

Across the region, this portfolio of work is generously funded by the Governments of Australia, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Finland, the Netherlands and Sweden as well as the European Union.

* ***Background information on the project***

The Syrian crisis is now in its tenth year, with devastating impacts on the Syrian people. Urgent support remains essential for Syrian refugees, who are still living in devastating and challenging situations, now compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. The economic downturn prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic has pushed hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees in the Middle East into an ever more desperate situation and has increased their vulnerabilities and humanitarian needs, including access to health and protection services, safe employment and livelihood opportunities. Evidence highlights that women and girls are even more vulnerable[[3]](#footnote-3). There is thus an urgent need to maintain and deepen the support provided to Syrian refugees in the Middle East, as well as host communities to avoid further social and political instability and advance human security. This project addresses this crisis and its potential ramifications by building on the successes, partnerships and opportunities of the since 2014 Government of Japan funded *Women’s Leadership, Empowerment, Access and Protection in Crisis Response (LEAP)* project in Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, with an additional focus on advancing regional accountabilities by working with regional inter-governmental bodies, the League of Arab States and the Arab Women Organization.

The conflict in Syria has killed hundreds of thousands of people and caused the largest refugee displacement crisis since the Second World War, with 5.6 million people fleeing to neighbouring countries including Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt, 70 per cent of whom are women and children.[[4]](#footnote-4) The 670,000 registered Syrian refugees in Jordan – out of a total of 1.3 million Syrian refugees[[5]](#footnote-5) – is equivalent to some 9 per cent of the population. Iraq hosts more than 251,000 Syrian refugees[[6]](#footnote-6), as well as 1.8 million internally displaced Iraqis, which account for 10 per cent of Iraq’s population. In Egypt, there are some 325,000 refugees and asylum-seekers Syrians represented 51% of the registered population, with the rest predominately originating from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, and Yemen[[7]](#footnote-7). Across the region, most refugees live in host communities. Host governments have absorbed displaced populations at an extraordinary rate, placing significant pressures on hosting communities, national infrastructure, and social services.

Thanks to the generous support of the Government of Japan since 2014, UN Women has been working with and supporting national counterparts in hosting Syrian refugees across the Arab States region. This current proposal (2021-2022) builds on these experiences, falling under the umbrella of UN Women’s flagship programme, *Women’s Leadership, Empowerment, Access, and Protection in Crisis Response (LEAP)*. As with previous UN Women LEAP programmes supported by the Government of Japan, the 2021-2022 programme continues its work at the country level (Egypt, Iraq, and Jordan) to provide essential services to those affected by conflict. With the outbreak of COVID-19 in the region in early 2020, the LEAP programme has modified its approach in all three countries to ensure the measures committed to are both supporting the reduction of the prevalence of the virus among the target populations, as well as supporting risk mitigation measures so to minimise the impact COVID-19 on the refugee and asylum populations supported by the programme. In response to the pandemic, UN Women has rapidly engaged and continues to undertake swift efforts to deepen gender responsive COVID-19 response and recovery at regional and national levels, advance social and institutional awareness of gender differentiated impact and action required for the COVID-19, provide women and girls with essential protection services and economic opportunities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the start of the pandemic, UN Women was able to reach a total of 1,684 women in Iraq, Jordan and Egypt to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on targeted beneficiaries.

The project focuses on the empowerment of vulnerable and at-risk women, refugees, IDPs (in the context of Iraq) and host community nationals, through broadening their asset base and the choices available to them. This will be done under the following outcomes:

* Outcome 1: Policies, plans and aid assistance developed and mobilized in response to the Syria crisis have defined targets, financing and implementation arrangements that are gender-responsive and promote accountability for performance on women’s rights and gender equality.
* Outcome 2: Women (refugee, displaced and host country nationals) contribute to, and benefit from, economic empowerment in ways that build their resilience and make it possible for them to attain more equitable relationships, free from violence.

Regionally, UN Women continues to work with the Arab Women Organization (AWO), the League of Arab States (LAS) and other partners others to promote accountability for the implementation of global, regional, and national commitments on women, peace, and security (WPS), ending gender-based violence (GBV), gender equality and humanitarian action. More specifically, UN Women aims carry out a follow up assessment to the *2018 Unpacking Gendered Realities in Displacement - Syrian Refugees (Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon*).

* ***Objectives of the assignment***

The Syria refugee crisis remains the largest humanitarian and development crises in the world. Across the five main Syrian-refugee hosting countries including under the 3RP – Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt – over 10 million people need some form of humanitarian and resilience support going into 2021. This includes some 5.5 million Syrian refugees and 4.8 million impacted host community members. This is the highest number of people in need of some form of assistance in nearly a decade.

The conflict in Syria continues to produce the gravest displacement crisis in the world today, generating dramatic levels of suffering, and shattering the lives of many Syrian people - along with their hopes and dreams. The impact of the conflict has rolled back hard-won development gains and compromised prospects for stability, peace, and prosperity for future generations in the country and across the region. Despite unparalleled generosity demonstrated by host countries and donors at large, the resources of many Syrian refugee families are long exhausted.

Women and girls are disproportionately and differentially impacted by humanitarian crises, including in the Syrian context. While men and boys have been and are survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), women and girls remain at higher risk of GBV, particularly domestic violence, sexual violence and exploitation, child marriage and human trafficking.

Rises in levels of unemployment, income and multidimensional poverty, and food insecurity are among the greatest factors driving individual need in the short-term. The high youth population across the region places stressors on the limited capacities of education and livelihoods sectors. Additional demographic pressures are a result of worsening social cohesion due to competition over limited resources, services, and opportunities. At a time where the social fabric is under pressure, violence against women and SGBV risks continue to be reported across the region. Moreover, the broader health impacts driven by COVID-19 will also entail long term consequences for the most vulnerable people.

Economic forecasts for 3RP countries have been progressively revised downwards since early 2020. Most 3RP countries have confronted economic recessions, and rising levels of unemployment and poverty, likely hitting women worse, exacerbated in some countries by high inflationary pressures and important fiscal challenges.[[8]](#footnote-8) The COVID-19 pandemic and other compounding crises in some countries have resulted in a loss of 8 to 15 percentage points in real GDP growth in 3RP countries in 2020 compared to the previous year.[[9]](#footnote-9) As a result of reduced revenues and increased government expenditure to mitigate the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak and support economic recovery, fiscal deficits and debt levels are also expected to widen significantly, reaching critical levels in some countries. The economic outlook for 2021 is currently bleak and subject to uncertainty as the secondary impacts of the pandemic and other interlocking crises continue to unfold.

The particular challenges and vulnerabilities facing women have been exacerbated. Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak,regional needs assessments[[10]](#footnote-10) indicated that in some countries, Syrian refugee women have difficulties meeting their basic needs and those of their families due to challenges around their legal status, their skills, social norms and language barriers. Lack of access to basic services such as education, shelter, health care, psychosocial support and mental health services, employment opportunities, mobile technology and life enhancing services/opportunities affect the wellbeing and development of women and girls.[[11]](#footnote-11) Such challenges and shocks result in negative gender-specific coping mechanisms such as child marriage, child labor, girls dropping out of school to help with housework, women overloaded with house and work-related chores, men controlling decisions over loans taken by women as well as sexual exploitation and abuse. Generally, women in female-headed households report using more negative coping mechanisms than male-headed households. Furthermore, female-headed household tend to fare worse than most refugee households on issues related to livelihoods, income, food security, and risks related to violence[[12]](#footnote-12). Their socio-economic vulnerabilities are worse—they are subject to higher levels of food insecurity than male-headed households[[13]](#footnote-13) and often deploy more severe coping strategies in the face of shocks. Children in female-headed households are twice as likely to work as opposed to children with a male-headed household[[14]](#footnote-14).

To support continued evidence collecting on the gendered impact of the Syria crisis and the equal delivery of humanitarian aid, UN Women is undertaking a following up regional research on the impact of the crisis on women in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt.

This follow-up regional research is to examine the impact of the crisis on women and girls - and their ability to access humanitarian aid, as it relates to geographical location (rural, urban), age (children, youth, adults, elderly), and nationality. The focus and priority of the research will be on the refugee population in host countries, with analysis included - through secondary data - on the host population.

* ***Scope of work, consistent with the budget.***

UN Women is requesting proposals to undertake a follow up regional research published in 2018 [[15]](#footnote-15) on the impact of the crisis on women and girls - and their ability to access humanitarian aid, as it relates to geographical location (rural, urban), age (children, youth, adults, elderly), and nationality. The focus and priority of the research will be on the refugee population in host countries, with analysis included - through secondary data - on the host population.

This should be undertaken with the aim of contributing to evidence-based programming, advocacy and coordination cross countries impacted by the Syria crisis. Geographically, the review should focus on Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon. The first step will be a comprehensive review of secondary data, with data and knowledge gaps high light ed. From this the contractor and UN Women will identify a select number of service areas and 3 countries in which to collect statistically significant data (bearing in mind that the sample per country will be between 600 to 1,000 women).

Applicants should clearly articulate how they will undertake the review in their proposals, including the methodology to be employed and the criteria for selecting the social service area(s) of focus, and which countries will be selected for data collection {bearing in mind COVID-19 travel restrictions, security constraints, existing staff presence, etc).

The fund is for 9 months.

* ***Guidance for proposals and deliverables:***

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| **Section** | **Description/Guidance** |
| **Executive Summary Project Duration and Geographical Focus** | An overview of the work and its aims.  The deliverable is a research report on the status of female Syrian refugees across Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, and Egypt. For this research (primary and secondary) should cover Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq.  The duration of the work is 9 months |
| **Context and Justification** | This should outline how you intend to undertake the work - with as much detail as possible. |
| **Organizational Profile** | Please describe your organization history, registration details and relevant experiences working on qualitative and quantitative research. Please detail previous expertise on gender equality and women's rights issues and previous experience conducting research on the Syria refugee crisis. |
| **Logical Framework** | This should include outputs, activities, indicators, means of verification and targets/baselines (sex disaggregated where applicable) for each indicator. |
| **Work plan** | Please indicate responsibilities and timeframes for each of your activities. Include how research will be done - the scope of the secondary data review and the proposed scope and sample of the primary data collection. |
| **Partnerships** | Please list any organizations you are planning to partner with to carry out your proposal. |
| **Management Plan Monitoring and Evaluation** | Please outline the personnel that will be implementing this project. This section should detail the plan for the monitoring of the project. This should also include information on reporting to UN Women - frequency and type of reports submitted (e.g., progress or final). |
| **Budget** | The budget proposal should include details of budget allocation, i.e., the amount required to achieve each output. |
| **Communication Plan** | A communication plan on the dissemination of the research findings should be included. The plan should include details of the audience, purpose, messages, communication channels and resources. The final plan will be in line with UN Women's contractor rules and regulations and approved by UN Women. |

* *Deliverables summary Sheet*

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| **Deliverables** | Key deliverables over a 9-month period:   1. Work plan 2. Methodology note and literature review 3. Summary of preliminary findings 4. Final report on regional research on the impact of the crisis on women and girls   Payment will be based on a schedule of deliverables and will be conditional upon the satisfactory acceptance of deliverables by UN Women. |
| **Activities / Tasks** | Activities include, but are not limited to, the following:   * Create a work plan, based on a robust methodology, including a clear needs-based selection criteria. * Conduct a literature review. * Conduct qualitative and quantitative research (primary data collection) * Input and analyses data. * Compile preliminary results. * Draft report and submit to UN Women for discussion/review. * Draft final report. |
| **Personnel/ Qualifications** | At a minimum it is expected that the following personnel will be needed to undertake this work: |
|  | Project Manager: Providing project oversight, quality assurance Statistician/Researcher |
| **Roles and responsibilities of the parties** | The contract or will be responsible for delivering the above results. UN Women will join the contractor for key events and will work with the contractor to ensure that necessary visibility is provided to UN Women and its donors. |
| **Timeframe and Location** | Projects should be 9 months in duration and focus on Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, and Egypt. |
|  | Payment will be based on the following schedule of deliverables, with payment conditional upon the satisfactory acceptance of deliverables by UN Women. |
|  | To receive payment for a deliverable the contractor will be required to submit an invoice with proof of the deliverable(s). |

Key deliverables over a 9-month period:

1. Work plan.
2. Methodology note and literature review.
3. Summary of preliminary findings.
4. Final, branded report on regional research on the impact of the crisis on women and girls (1 regional policy brief and 3 country studies).

Payment will be based on a schedule of deliverables and will be conditional upon the satisfactory acceptance of deliverables by UN Women.

* ***Period of performance and the review/approval time required.***

• Outline General Organizational Capability which is likely to affect performance (i.e. size of the organization, strength of project management support (e.g. project management controls), global networking, financial stability).

• Include a description of past and present experience and relationships that have a direct relationship to the performance of the TOR. Include relevant collaborative efforts the organization may have participated in.

• Explain any partnerships with local or other organizations relevant to the performance of the TOR.

Special attention should be given to providing a clear picture of roles, responsibilities, reporting lines and accountability. Letters of commitment from partners and an indication of whether some or all have worked together previously.

**DELIVERABLE SCHEDULE**

Projects should be 9 months in duration and focus on Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt.

Payment will be based on the following schedule of deliverables, with payment conditional upon the satisfactory acceptance of deliverables by UN Women. To receive payment for a deliverable the contractor will be required to submit an invoice with proof of the deliverable(s).

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| **Deliverable** | **Payment Amount** | **Timeframe** |
| Deliverable 1: inception report | 30% | 01 August 2021 |
| Deliverable 2: Work plan, methodology and literature review | 20% | 30 August 2021 |
| Deliverable 3: Primarily findings | 20 % | 25 December 2021 |
| Deliverable 4: Summary of preliminary findings; Raw data; Final report on the impact of the crisis on women and girls | 30% | 15 February 2022 |

1. https://arabstates.unwomen.org/en/about-us/regional-office [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://arabstates.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/scope-of-our-work---humanitarian-action [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Erika Fraser (2020) Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Violence against Women and Girls: <http://www.sddirect.org.uk/media/1881/vawg-helpdesk-284-covid-19-and-vawg.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. 3RP Regional Strategic Overview. <http://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/RSO.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria/location/36> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. 3RP Regional Strategic Overview. <http://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/RSO.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. UNHCR Global Focus, 2019, <https://reporting.unhcr.org/node/2540?y=2019#year> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. IMF, Regional Economic Outlook Update: Middle East and Central Asia, October 19th 2020. (https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/REO/MECA/Issues/2020/10/14/regional-economic-outlook-menap-cca) [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. IMF, Regional Economic Outlook Update: Middle East and Central Asia, October 19th 2020. (https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/REO/MECA/Issues/2020/10/14/regional-economic-outlook-menap-cca) [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. UN Women, 2018, Unpacking Gendered Realities in Displacement - Syrian Refugees (Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq); UN, March 2019: <http://arabstates.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2018/12/unpacking-gendered-realities-in-displacement> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. https://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20arab%20states/attachments/2018/16-days/syriacrisisimpact-lebanon-final2.pdf?la=en&vs=3545 [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. LCRP 2017-2020- https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/67780.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP (2018), Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon 2018. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. <https://arabstates.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2018/12/unpacking-gendered-realities-in-displacement> [↑](#footnote-ref-15)