



PEER-TO-PEER COOPERATION WITH IRAQI GOVERNORATE – MISSAN

PROGRAMME 'SUPPORTING RECOVERY AND STABILITY IN IRAQ THROUGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT' FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AND IMPLEMENTED BY UNDP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

for

EXTERNAL CONSULTANCY

Rural Development / LEADER expert consultant

Consultant funded under: PROGRAMME 'SUPPORTING RECOVERY AND STABILITY IN IRAQ THROUGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT' FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AND IMPLEMENTED BY UNDP

Project: Peer-to-Peer Cooperation with Iraqi Governorate – MISSAN and Albanian Association of Municipalities, Governorate for Agriculture Innovation

Location: Tirana/Albania
Missan/Iraq



1. Background

Iraq has recognized the importance of agriculture and the need to prioritize its role in the overall economic and social development of the country (National action plans, Sustainable development goals etc.). The policy framework guiding the prioritization of needs aims at creating a proper environment to support efficient and sustainable increases in food and agriculture production, improvement of food security and reduction rural poverty. Policies relying mainly on oil production had a deteriorating impact on the growth of other economic sectors, including agriculture. As a matter of fact, agriculture contributes a substantial share of Iraq's economy (5 percent of total GDP), is the largest source of employment in the country (approximately 20 percent) and is dominated by the private sector. Yet, the contribution of agriculture to GDP has been declining in the last decade from 5.2 % in 2009 to 1.4% in 2019. This data is the result of many factors that affected the agricultural sector: war, protests, institutional and economic setbacks. The security situation and rural poverty have contributed to this decline with an outflow of people from the countryside to the urban areas seeking employment and economic opportunities.

In light of the above, under the Programme 'Supporting Recovery and Stability in Iraq through Local Development' Funded by the European Union and Implemented by UNDP, the Association of Albanian Municipalities is carrying out the project titled *Peer-to-Peer Cooperation with Iraqi Governorate – Missan and Albanian Association of Municipalities, "Governorate for Agriculture Innovation"*.

Under this project, the Albanian Association of Municipalities is looking to contract a consultancy organisation to conduct the training on LEADER approach of the Coordination and Planning Committee at the Governorate of Missan that will act as a Local Action Group (LAG). The project will support bottom up, participatory development approaches, bringing together a broad crosssection of local actors to determine development priorities and support socio-economic initiatives.

Prior to conducting the training, the consultant will prepare jointly with an Iraqi local expert the Rules of Procedure for the functioning of the Coordination and Planning Committee at the Governorate of Missan in compliance with existing local regulations.

The project, through the consultant, will support the LAG in reviewing and providing input on the Gap Plugging report that is being prepared for the agriculture sector for the Governorate of Missan.

2. Objective

The consultant will be responsible for providing information on the LEADER and community led local development (CLLD) approach to project stakeholders, assisting Albanian Association of Municipalities in providing trainings to Committee members on their roles and responsibilities. This support will be provided over separate consultancy online meetings with a total of 30 working days for more than one expert from the organization. The consultant will work together with the AAM team in designing the training plan and will be responsible for the delivery of trainings and capacity building sessions to the LAG members.



The following tasks and responsibilities are expected to be accomplished over the consultancy. Please note that this list not exhaustive and AAM would welcome inputs and ideas from the consultant on other areas of expertise that can be included in the TOR:

Task 1:

Drafting rules and procedures that will regulate the operation of Development Co-ordination and Planning Council (DCPC) in the frame of the project. The rules of procedures will be drafted by two local experts, Albanian and Iraqi with experience in local government and agriculture. They have to be approved by the Governorate.

Task 2:

Facilitate workshops and trainings to the LAG on the key aspects of the LEADER approach and CLLD and the structure and management of the LAG. The training (a Training of Trainers) will be delivered in 5 days for all the members of the Development Co-ordination and Planning Council (DCPC). With the LEADER approach on Marshlands' communities, we will introduce the new ways to enhance the natural and cultural heritage, reinforce and diversification economic environment and job creation, and improve the organizational abilities of local communities. The training will be done by three local experts. Albanian experts will be delivering the training online, whereas the members of DCPC and the Iraqi expert will be gathered physically in Misson. One of the sessions of the LEADER training will be dedicated to crisis management with the focus on the COVID-19 pandemic. The session will provide DCPC members on what planning and actions should be undertaken to overcome COVID 19 challenges.

Task 3:

The Gap Plugging (Action Plan) will be prepared through a separate activity of the project and will be finalized by the Development Co-ordination and Planning Council (DCPC) as to enable the community contribution to identify actual steps towards decentralization in agriculture.

4. EXPECTED OUTPUTS

1. Rules and procedures that will regulate the operation of Development Co-ordination and Planning Council (DCPC);



2. High quality presentations and training materials (including videos that can be translated by AAM) for all capacity building exercises;
3. Submission of short reports and recommendations to AAM following each consultancy visit.

5. CONSULTANCY TIMEFRAME

The consultancy timeframe is negotiable based upon the needs of the project and the consultant's availability. The following is an outline of the anticipated consultancy period for the three Tasks.

Task 1: 10 working days to be held in end February 2022

Task 2: 17 working days to be held March – April 2022

Task 3: working days included in Task 2

3 working days will be allocated for home-based report writing.

5. QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

- ✓ Organization or team of experts working in relevant discipline
- ✓ Demonstrable knowledge and experience of working on LEADER programming and CLLD
- ✓ Experience of conducting training programmes on LEADER and CLLD
- ✓ Strong presentation and communication skills
- ✓ English language fluency
- ✓ Report writing skills
- ✓ Albanian nationals

6. GENERAL CONDITIONS

Required start date: End February 2022

Duration of work: 40 working days (home based)

Location of work: Tirana/Albania and Missan/Iraq (remote)



Fees: The total amount for consultancy fees to be negotiated based on the proposition and experience of the consultant.

Payment: 100% of the fees to be paid on completion and approval of each task and following the submission of the consultancy report

Report: The consultancy reports be submitted in an electronic version in the English language.

Translation: AAM will provide spoken and written translation from Arabic-English and English-Arabicas required by the consultant.

Other: Any materials required to carry out the assigned consultancy (laptop, mobile phone etc.), must be provided by the consultant. The zoom platform will be provided by AAM.

6. APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested applicants should send their **CV** and a **1-2 page technical proposal on proposed content for the three tasks**.

- The letter should also include the **proposed gross daily rate for remuneration (in USD)**
- Applications to be sent to the AAM email address: aidacacaj@aam.org.al with the subject **“LEADER consultancy”** no later than **18th February 2022**.