

Call for applications for project evaluators - Yemen (m/f/d)

Assignment title:	Project evaluators - Yemen
Assignment location:	Team of evaluators with mixed locations (remote and based in Yemen)
Assignment duration:	1 October to 31 December 2021
Deadline for application:	19 September 2021
Application submission to:	yemen@berghof-foundation.org

Evaluation of the project: Strengthening Inclusive Local Governance and Peacebuilding in Yemen

The Berghof Foundation is an independent, non-governmental and non-profit organisation that supports efforts to prevent political and social violence, and to achieve sustainable peace through conflict transformation.

Since 2017, the Berghof Foundation, Political Development Forum (PDF), and Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) have been implementing a pilot programme to support stabilisation in Yemen. The programme has been implemented in the governorates of Hadhramawt and Dhamar since 2017, as well as in Al Mahra since 2020, and also includes national and international components. It consists of two projects – one implemented by GIZ and one implemented by the Berghof Foundation and PDF – that have worked in close coordination to support stabilisation processes in Yemen. The project will end in summer 2022, and the overall project volume will have reached approximately 3 million EUR.

The project of the Berghof Foundation and PDF has the following objectives:

- 1) Mobilizing political support at the national and international level and within three selected governorates for strengthening local governance, local service provision, and the role of local governance structures in (post-conflict) stabilization
- 2) Initiating and supporting three local consultation / advisory structures that support the existing administrative set-up and bridge the divisions between local government offices, with the remnants of the local councils, and major local stakeholder groups
- 3) Supporting local actors and local governance systems in three selected governorates to respond to urgent political, mediation and conflict resolution needs (reconstruction and development needs are addressed within the GIZ project)

The overall objective of the project is to support stabilisation in three selected governorates in Yemen: Hadramout, Dhamar, and Al Mahra. In each of these governorates, the project supports an inclusive

consultative committee that complements the existing administrative set up and advises the governors on development and peacebuilding needs and priorities. In cooperation with GIZ, these committees also act as the steering committees for small project grants, implemented by district local authorities with support from GIZ. In addition, the project supports local peace initiatives in the three project governorates and facilitates discussions and the uptake of evidence at international and national levels to generate political support for a more effective and inclusive local governance in Yemen.

Berghof Foundation is now inviting proposals for an evaluation of the 4-year programme component implemented by Berghof Foundation and PDF.

Goals

The evaluation should achieve the following aims:

1. Evaluate the project according to the OECD DAC criteria for evaluation in conflict settings
2. Identify major impacts the project has had in supporting local service provision, strengthening local governance, setting up effective advisory structures, and supporting local actors in responding to urgent conflict resolution needs in Dhamar, Hadramawt and Al Mahra
3. Identify recommendations, lessons learned and best practices for a potential next phase, highlighting how positive contributions to local governance structures in Yemen could be maximized

Approach:

It is anticipated that successful proposals will build on a mixed methods approach, with a strong qualitative component, including field visits as far as the security and pandemic situation allows. Successful applicants will ensure that the evaluation itself is conducted in a conflict-sensitive way and according to Do-No-Harm principles. Proposals are strongly encouraged to consider multiple sources for each data point, to consider means to triangulate and verify data, and to take the context into account when outlining their approach.

While an initial outline of the research approach forms an important part of the bid, the final details of the research methodologies will be agreed with successful proposals at a later stage.

Proposals should envisage conducting key informant interviews with project staff in Germany and Yemen, and with project stakeholders in Dhamar, Hadramawt and Al Mahra. Proposals should plan to capture the views of at least 30 project stakeholders and beneficiaries through focus group discussions and key informant interviews.

Indicative Deliverables

In general terms, proposals should be prepared to deliver the following. Further details of required deliverables will be agreed with the successful bidders at a later stage. Consultants should plan to allow for feedback and changes to the deliverables at each step of the way.

- Inception report (written report), including:
 - a literature and document review,
 - an outline of the research methodology and tools
 - a detailed proposed outline for the final report
 - implementation timeline
 - data collection tools
- Preliminary findings (presentation)
- Detailed final report (written report)
- Final presentation (presentation)

Required qualifications:

Team

The consultant or team of consultants should, at a minimum, consist of a lead researcher and a field researcher or team of field researchers. Lead researchers should coordinate their bid with interested field researchers and submit a single application for the overall evaluation. The team should be gender-balanced and meet the following person specifications:

Lead researcher

- Essential:
 - sound empirical social research skills, in particular in the application of quantitative and qualitative methods of empirical social research
 - extensive experience evaluating or conducting projects in conflict contexts
 - extensive experience managing research, evaluations, and/or projects
 - fluent in English and Arabic¹
 - excellent understanding of evaluation methods and DAC framework
- Desirable:
 - very good understanding of the Yemeni context
 - very good understanding of stabilisation approaches, local governance, mediation, local peacebuilding and other relevant thematic areas

Field researcher or team of researchers

- Essential:
 - fluent in Arabic
 - Extensive experience conducting research and/or evaluations in Yemen
 - deep knowledge of the Yemeni context

¹ Fluency in Arabic may not be necessary where a proposal can demonstrate that effective communication with field researchers and translation of data sets and transcripts can be ensured within the budget constraints.

☰ Desirable:

- very good understanding of the context in Dhamar, Hadhramawt and al Mahra governorates
- able to conduct field visits in Dhamar, Hadhramawt and Al Mahra governorates and select districts, if the security and pandemic situation allows
- fluency in English

Timeframe and Budget for required service:

Budget

- ☰ The total proposed cost may not exceed EUR 20.000,00. Proposals above the indicated limits will not be considered.

Timeline

- ☰ A final timeline will be agreed with the successful proposal. As an indicative timeline, successful bidders should be prepared to deliver the inception report by mid-October, complete field research and present preliminary findings by mid-November, and deliver a first draft of the final report by the beginning of December. The final report needs to be delivered by 31st of December 2021.

Language:

The Application shall be presented in English only.

Assessment and Application Procedure:

Assessment

Only proposals meeting the essential criteria and within the budget limit will be considered. Proposals will be assessed on the basis of:

- the qualifications and suitability of the personnel put forward (30%),
- the quality of the evaluation approach and methodology proposed to respond to the details of the call and the indicative questions (please see Annex I) (40%),
- realistic budgeting and the cost of the proposal (30%).

Please feel free to contact Katharina Jautz at yemen@berghof-foundation.org with any questions.

Lead researchers should coordinate their bid with interested field researchers and submit a single application for the overall evaluation.

To apply for the consultancy, candidates should submit a joint project proposal of approximately 4-6 pages to yemen@berghof-foundation.org before midnight CEST on 19.09.2021. The proposal should outline:

- The profile of the organization, or individuals replying to this call for proposal including their CVs and a description of how the proposed researchers meet the person specifications
- An outline of the evaluation approach and methodology proposed to address the indicative questions outlined in Annex I, as well as a proposed timeline
- An indicative budget for the evaluation, including the number of days and daily rates of all involved researchers and all anticipated costs and expenses.

We look forward to receiving your application!

Annex

Indicative questions for the Terms of Reference

The following provides an indicative overview of the questions the evaluation may be asked to address. The final questions will be agreed with the successful proposal at a later stage. Suggestions by the selected evaluators on how to further focus and narrow down the evaluation criteria are encouraged and welcome.

Relevance and conflict sensitivity

- To what extent are the objectives of the project (still) valid, realistic, and relevant to the context? To what extent do they address important drivers of conflict? To what extent do local project stakeholders perceive the project to be relevant?
- Was the theory of change articulated by Berghof, and the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) stabilization approach realistic and appropriate to the context?
- Was the project based on a sound understanding of the context? Was the implementation conflict sensitive? Was it gender sensitive? Did the project adapt to changes in the context appropriately?
- How can project relevance be increased for a potential next phase?

Effectiveness

- To what extent were the programme and project objectives achieved / are they likely to be achieved during the remainder of the project?
- To what extent was the project effectively managed? To what extent did the organizational set-up of each partner contribute or detract from this?
- To what extent were activities implemented effectively, obstacles to implementation managed, and conflict sensitivity ensured across project activities? Was risk management appropriate and effective?
- What were the major factors influencing the achievement or non-achievement of the objectives? Were measures to ensure gender sensitivity effective in enabling women's meaningful participation?
- How should activities be adapted to more effectively contribute to the overall aims in a potential next phase?

Efficiency

- Were activities and achieved results cost-efficient? What was done to ensure cost-efficiency?
- Were objectives achieved on time?
- Was the project implemented in the most efficient way compared to alternatives?
- Was the project steering committee effective in managing the component projects and their synergies?

Impact

- What has happened as a result of the project? What are the direct and indirect, positive and negative, intended and unintended, immediate and long-term effects of the project activities in question? Does it exert an effect on key factors relevant to the peace process?
- How many people have been affected by these results? Please ensure a breakdown by gender, age, and socio-economic background to the extent possible.
- Was the combination of infrastructure and dialogue projects successful? Did these component projects create synergistic impacts beyond the impact of the component parts (or conversely, did they detract from each other)?
- What real difference has the project made at the central and governorate level and in the specific districts where small projects or mediation initiatives were implemented, taking into consideration the impact of other factors?
- How can the intended positive impact be maximized and unintended negative effects be minimized in the next phase?
- Did the programme contribute to the Yemeni peace process?

Continuity and Sustainability

- To what extent are the benefits of the project likely to continue after funding ceases?
- What are the major factors which influenced the extent to which project impacts are expected to continue after the end of the project?
- What measures were taken to ensure sustainability and how could these be improved?
- What can be done to increase sustainability in the next phase?
- Did the intervention encourage participants and communities to continue their own initiatives beyond the project framework?

Coherence and Coordination

- Are the project activities and outputs consistent with the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) stabilization strategy, the overall project goal, the intended impacts and effects, and suited to attaining the project objectives?
- How well did cooperation between the different participating organisations work and how can it be improved?

- What were the relationships to other actors working in the same field? Was project implementation coordinated with them?
- Did co-ordination and coherence result in improved effectiveness, efficiency or impacts? How much time was spent on coordination? Was this factored into the budget sufficiently? Were efficiency, effectiveness and impact positively or negatively affected by coordination?
- Which aspects of the project were developed in coordination, or made more coherent? (i.e.: joint analysis; co-development and design; elimination of duplication; useful division of labour; joint evaluations/ programmatic evaluations; sharing of lessons learned)



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