

## Terms of Reference

### National Consultancy: Assessment of the GBV Programming in Balochistan, and Introduction of Transformative Gender Approaches under the UNHCR Sub-Office Quetta Area of Responsibility

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#### Introduction

UNHCR, on the basis of its Statute of 1950 and the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and subsequent resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, is mandated to provide international protection, assistance and solutions to refugees and other categories of persons we serve and work with, and to prevent and reduce statelessness.<sup>1</sup>

UNHCR has operated in Pakistan for around 40 years and the country hosts more than 1.4 million registered Afghan refugees.<sup>2</sup> Although Pakistan has not ratified any of the international instruments related to refugees, the government of Pakistan allows UNHCR to operate in the country, based on the signed 1993 Cooperation Agreement.<sup>3</sup>

Gender-based Violence (GBV) prevention, risk mitigation and response is one of eight outcome areas in the UNHCR Strategic Directions 2022 – 2026.<sup>4</sup> Addressing the root causes of GBV, strengthening prevention interventions, mitigating GBV risks and providing timely and life-saving services to GBV survivors, require an investment in efforts by a range of stakeholders in the humanitarian sector.

#### Operational Context Overview

Balochistan province is situated in the South-Western part of Pakistan, with Quetta as its capital city. Balochistan hosts a total of **316,943** (46% female and 54% male) registered Afghan refugees with Proof of Registration (PoR) cards. Of this total: **168,120 (53%)** reside in Quetta urban; **92,657 (29%)** in rural settlements and **56,166 (18%)** in the refugee villages.<sup>5</sup> PoR cards enable registered Afghan refugees to legally remain in Pakistan.<sup>6</sup>

Through decades, Afghan women and girls have been severely impacted by severe patriarchal and gender restrictive norms. Their basic freedoms have become even more curtailed since the Taliban took control of the country's leadership in 2021. The Taliban has imposed restrictions on the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/countries/pakistan>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/pk/protection>

<sup>4</sup> <https://reporting.unhcr.org/unhcr-strategic-directions-2022-2026>

<sup>5</sup> UNHCR Sub-Office Quetta Registration Report

<sup>6</sup> <https://help.unhcr.org/pakistan/proof-of-registration-card-por/>

movement of women and girls in the country, consequently impacting on their access to basic rights, such as education and medical care.<sup>7</sup>

In Balochistan, UNHCR Sub-Office Quetta implements the GBV programme (prevention, risk mitigation and response) through two local partner NGOs- Drugs and Narcotics Educational Services for Humanity (DANESH) in 10 locations in Quetta Urban, and Water Environment & Sanitation Society (WESS) in 10 locations in the Refugee Villages (RVs). The main locations that the project covers in Quetta Urban are Bashir Chowk, Ghous Abad, Hazara Town, Kuchlak, Mughal Abad, Nawa Killi, Pashtoon Bagh, Sabzal Raod, Killi Paind Khan and Qadri Abad. The locations in the RVs are Chaghi, Posti, Lejay Karez, Surkhab, Saranan, Zarh Karaiz, Katwai, Ghazagi Minara, Malgagai and Mohammad Kheil.

Individual GBV incident reports as well as focus group discussions with women and girls, evidently show that Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), early and forced child marriages as well as denial of resources of opportunities for women and girls, are among the main forms of GBV violations in Balochistan. Fear of stigmatization and ostracization from their families and communities have consistently affected the disclosure of GBV incidents from female members of the Afghan society. The ones brave enough to report GBV and request for requisite assistance, are hardly ever willing to make police reports or request legal assistance. Nonetheless, Psycho-Social Support (PSS) is one of the key services requested by GBV survivors in Balochistan. Both WESS and DANESH have in-house Psychosocial Counsellors that provide PSS services to GBV survivors.

Men and boys are often involved in GBV awareness-raising activities in both Quetta urban and the RV locations. Challenges in the male behavioural change are however compounded by both religious and socio-cultural reasons, where most males do not challenge their perception of maleness, femaleness and improper treatment of women and girls in their families and communities. On the contrary, their strict imposition of negative cultural sanctions against their females, is “defended” as their way of protecting them from “other men”.

## Scope of Work and Deliverables

The consultancy will entail an assessment of the existing GBV programme and solid recommendations of holistic gender transformative actions vis-à-vis the knowledge of the operational context. Specifically, the following activities are envisaged:

- i. Conduct a thorough desk review of available secondary data including for UNHCR and its Partners’ available assessments.
- ii. In-depth assessment of UNHCR Sub-Office Quetta’s existing GBV programming (prevention, risk mitigation and response), including GBV during emergencies (e.g. floods).
- iii. An evaluation of the factors affecting disclosure of GBV incidents and access of services.
- iv. A thorough assessment of traditional conflict resolution mechanisms to address GBV (especially in instances of IPV), vis-à-vis the stipulated international GBV standards (specifically, non-promotion of mediation as a way of resolving GBV issues).
- v. Through a gender analysis framework, develop relevant and implementable gender transformative approaches and actions in the area of responsibility. To this end, develop a simple but practical manual for use by UNHCR and its partners to guide men, women, boys and girls in the Afghan communities in tackling the root causes of GBV, providing tools to

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<sup>7</sup> Guidance Note on Afghanistan, Update I. UNHCR 2023

families in the deterrence of GBV as well as extending support to GBV survivors. The electronic manual guide will be delivered to the staff via a 1 or 2-day training session.

- vi. Thorough de-brief of the project with UNHCR Quetta's Senior Management and other relevant staff.

The draft report will be reviewed by UNHCR Sub Office Multi-Functional Team, which can request any subsequent feedback, corrections, or changes to the final report. The report must be submitted in electronic version.

## **Geographical Location of the Assignment**

The consultancy will be field based conducted in Balochistan province in Quetta. Specifically, the areas to be covered in Quetta urban will cover the following communities- the Uzbek, Tajik, Pashtoon and Hazara. Around 90% of the population in the RVs are from the Pashtoon community. The consultancy will cover the following RV locations- Pishin, Loralai, Chaghi, Malgagai and Muhammad Kheil.

A detailed explanation of the locations will be provided by UNHCR and its partners, WESS and DANESH, prior to the commencement of the consultancy.

## **Working Arrangements**

### **Institutional Arrangement**

The consultancy company will have very close liaison with the Associate GBV Officer as well as other senior Protection Managers in UNHCR Sub-Office Quetta.

The consultant will have the freedom to decide on the format of the final report, however it is expected that the consultant will present an annotated outline which includes a proposal on the format.

The consultant is also expected to liaise with UNHCR and other relevant UN agencies such as UNFPA, UN Women, UNICEF and IOM, UNHCR's GBV Partners- WESS and DANESH, refugee communities (men, women, boys and girls), Social Welfare Department (SWD), Women Development Department (WDD), the police (especially Women Smart Police Stations), the refugee communities and other relevant stakeholders.

Since this concerns a home-based consultancy, UNHCR will not make any support resources (travel and accommodation) available to the consultant.

## **Duration of the Consultancy**

This consultancy is expected to take 2 months, with a possible start date in November 2023.

The objective is for this study to be launched by end January 2024. The findings will be incorporated in UNHCR's GBV Partners' project descriptions for the implementation of the GBV programme for Balochistan, in 2024-2025.

## **Selection Criteria**

The consultant evaluation criteria for services will be adhered in the selection of potential consulting firm for the business, however generally the following selection criteria will be used to evaluate consultants:

- i. Consultant firm profile and experience in similar assignments
- ii. Professional compositions of the firm
- iii. Financial viability
- iv. Consultant firm logistical and materials capacity
- v. Priorities will be given to candidates available the soonest
- vi. Proposed methodology and additional outcomes
- vii. Detailed work breakdown and time of completion

### **Confidentiality Statement:**

All data and information received from agencies and any other stakeholder for the purpose of this assignment is to be treated with utmost confidentiality and should only be used in the execution of the Terms of Reference.

Contents of written materials obtained and used in this assignment may not be disclosed to any third parties without advance written authorization of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

### **Instructions for Submission**

Consultant Technical and Financial Proposals meeting the TOR requirements are to be submitted not later than 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The Technical Proposal should spell out your understanding of the scope of work and should demonstrate the ability to work with refugee communities, as well as a proactive and rigorous approach to GBV and gender transformative approaches, crafted to the local context.

Financial Proposal to include detailed cost breakdown (consultancy fees and other costs, noting the Consultants will pay for own accommodation and transport-related fees).

UNHCR and its partners will support any coordination related to focus group discussions and other meetings with the refugee communities.