



ACTED

Agence d'aide à la coopération technique et au développement.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Pilot Study: Barriers Amongst Female IDPs living in camp settings to Practice Safe Menstrual Hygiene Management

Department: WASH, ACTED Iraq.

Deadline for applications: 10 May 2020

ASSIGNMENT

Conduct a pilot study using formative research methods to better understand the barriers and/or challenges experienced by women in an IDP camp in Ninewa to practice safe menstrual hygiene management.

BACKGROUND

In 2019, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees estimated that an unprecedented 70.8 Million people around the world were forced to flee their homes. The fact that nearly half of the displaced population are comprised of girls and women ¹, combined with the social, economic and cultural barriers, there is an ever-increasing case to make to ensure humanitarian interventions cater for gender-specific needs.

Due to the deeply rooted social norms and beliefs, the challenges menstruating girls and women face is often systematic, and more complex than simply the availability of infrastructure ². However, forceful displacement results in a multiplying effect on pressures that disproportionately impact women and girls, increasing the risk of gender-based violence and discrimination.

It is widely documented that that women and girls across low-income and conflict affected contexts face several challenges in managing their menstruation in a safe, hygienic and dignified manner ³. Such challenges can include physical access to latrine facilities with adequate privacy and disposal systems in addition to lack of access to sufficient menstrual hygiene materials ⁴. Emergencies that result in sudden displacement, and changes in the socio-economic situations of affected populations may influence the preferences for menstrual hygiene materials⁵, and as such calls for an integrated and participative, bottom-up, approach where the women and adolescent girls are involved in the design, implementation and monitoring of related project activities.

¹ United Nations High Commission for Refugees, 2020. Statistical yearbooks: <https://www.unhcr.org/figures-at-a-glance.html>.

² World Bank Group, 2018. Menstrual Hygiene Management Enables Women and Girls to Reach Their Full Potential: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2018/05/25/menstrual-hygiene-management>.

³ Sommer, 2012. Menstrual hygiene management in humanitarian emergencies: Gaps and recommendations. https://sswm.info/sites/default/files/reference_attachments/SOMMER%202012%20Menstrual%20hygiene%20management%20in%20humanitarian%20emergencies.pdf.

⁴ Sommer et al., 2017. Understanding the MHM challenges facing displaced girls and women : findings from qualitative assessments in Myanmar and Lebanon. <https://conflictandhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13031-017-0121-1>.

⁵ Ibid.



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In Iraq, over 1 Million families remain internally displaced with an estimated 307,000 people in need residing in camps ⁶. Although women and adolescent girls make up more than 50% of the humanitarian case load, there are large gaps in how interventions, and WASH activities in particular, are mainstreaming gender equality and protection. This can include amongst other lack of private latrines, inadequate waste management and lack of effective awareness raising. Failure to cover these gaps increases the risks of sexual and gender-based violence which in turn lead to negative coping mechanisms that ultimately result in further marginalisation.

OBJECTIVE

The main objective of this consultancy is to understand the barriers preventing women and girls to practice safe and dignified menstrual hygiene management practices, and how WASH actors in Iraq can adapt programming in order to respond to the needs.

Specific Objectives:

- Through KII with different Cluster representatives and other NGOs, define the current sector-wide approach to respond to Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) in camps in Iraq
- Conduct a KAP survey to understand the existing knowledge in terms of menstrual hygiene management, the perceived barriers and perspectives, and coping mechanisms (awareness of services such as counselling, advice or materials) in resource scarce environments such as and IDP camps.
- Evaluate efficiency and effectiveness of previous MHM activities (Information Education and Communication, and in-kind distributions in the camp

Secondary Objectives:

- Provide recommendations on how to adapt WASH infrastructure, hygiene promotion IEC materials and methodologies in order to better respond to the needs of women and girls in the camp
- Define solutions to improve activities/responses related to MHM in WASH and Camp Management, including identifying pathways to integrate with Protection, Shelter and Education sectors
- Develop systematic assessment tools and training materials that can easily be replicated in other camp settings

Additional consideration:

- As part of the proposal and activity breakdown structure, consultants are encouraged to include mitigation measures that will be taken in order to complete the data collection by liaising remotely with field teams.
- Further discussion can take place with successful candidates on how the field teams can support with data collection.

⁶ Humanitarian Response Plan, 2020. <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/iraq/humanitarian-response-plan>.



DELIVERABLES

Deliverables	Duration (days)
Submit revised research proposal with activity breakdown structure. Include at least contextual background, research methodology, limitations and implementation plan.	5
Share questionnaire for 1. semi-structured interviews with Cluster representatives, 2. KAP survey to be used in camp and 3. FGDs questionnaire for in-camp data collection	20
Conduct data collection through KIIs, surveys and analyse	15
Submit report for comments	5
Submit final report	5
Presentation of findings	5

PROFILE

Required qualifications and technical competencies

- Minimum of 5 years experience in a research institution or consultancy environment
- Able to work independently with limited guidance, taking the lead on setting the research into motion
- Education: Masters degree in Global Health, Medicine, Public health, Anthropology, Gender Studies or similar Social Science subjects
- Previous experience working in health care (nurse or gynaecologist) is desirable
- Proficient with MS Office, Kobo or similar data collection software
- Must have experienced working in conflict affected and multi-cultural contexts and have prior knowledge of humanitarian operations in the Middle East
- Living in the region and a familiarity of potential key informants would be considered an asset
- Excellent written and verbal communication, with specific experience in communication of sensitive topics and engagement with women and girls from different social, cultural and economic backgrounds with the necessary discretion.
- Fluency in English, Arabic is highly desired (where this is not the case, clear demonstration must be made in the proposal on how this limitation can be overcome)

Qualified candidates are requested to submit a cover letter, CV and cost breakdown in USD. Due to the current situation and movement restrictions, candidates are requested to submit an additional breakdown to conduct this activity remotely.