

# Terms of Reference for the Final Evaluation of Al Bawsalah Project

2021- 2025



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# 1.PROJECT SUMMARY

<b>Type of evaluation</b>	Final project evaluation
<b>Name of the project</b>	Al Bawsalah
<b>Project Start and End dates</b>	2021 - 2025
<b>Project duration</b>	Four Years
<b>Project locations:</b>	Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Yemen, Jordan, Regional
<b>Thematic areas</b>	Child Rights
<b>Donor</b>	DANIDA
<b>Overall objective of the project</b>	Young women and men, girls and boys, children in MENA are more resilient and empowered agents of change in their communities

## 2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The MENA region continues to face political instability, protracted conflicts, economic fragility, and a shrinking civic space. These dynamics have led to widespread displacement, high unemployment, growing psychosocial distress, and entrenched youth marginalization. Violent repression and arbitrary restrictions further constrain civic participation, especially for displaced and refugee youth. These challenges are compounded by global stressors such as the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change.

Despite these barriers, young people across the region persist in advocating for their rights and holding duty-bearers accountable. However, they often remain isolated, under-resourced, and excluded from policymaking spaces due to entrenched youth-adult power hierarchies. Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services remain inadequate, underscoring the need for youth-led and context-sensitive solutions that enhance youth wellbeing and civic agency.

This endline evaluation focuses on a regional program implemented by Al Bawsalah, which seeks to strengthen youth-led civil society in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Yemen, and Egypt. The program provides youth with an enabling environment to build individual and collective capacity, promote inclusive governance, and advance evidence-based advocacy on issues such as violence and climate change.

This 4-year long program (2021-2025) funded by DANIDA recognizes young people's potential and is committed to support them by building their capacities to address the systematic barriers to their meaningful participation. The overall Objective of the programme is that *Young women and men, girls and boys, children in MENA are more resilient and empowered agents of change in their communities.*

The programme is managed through a regional team Save the Children in SCI and Youth Officers are assigned to each country, The programme is currently operating in Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan and Yemen, and at regional level, through partnership with youth – led and youth focused partners.

This programme undertook a reflection exercises in 2022 and 2023 that critically assessed the assumptions of the programme, its progress and implementation approaches. This reflection exercise resulted in updating the programme's Theory of Change (ToC) and its logframe. Save the Children is looking for an expert consultant to conduct the final evaluation of the programme that would build on the findings of the reflection exercise, assess the final results of the programme impact and outcomes, and to look critically at its approaches and intervention models through the implementation of the OECD DAC Criteria for evaluations.

## 3. SCOPE OF STUDY

### 3.1 Objectives and Scope

This evaluation is being conducted at the end of Al Bawsalah programme. It will build upon the previous reports of the project, including the regular monitoring reports and the programme reflection exercise that was mentioned in the above section. This evaluation will assess the final programme impact and outcomes and will look critically at its approaches and intervention models.

The final evaluation's objectives include the below,

- I. Measure the program's impact and outcomes.
- II. Examine the effectiveness of the program in strengthening youth-led organizations across MENA.
- III. Evaluate the added value and cost-effectiveness of the regional model versus country-specific programming.
- IV. Explore and evaluate the contribution and added value of youth officers embedded in country offices to program expansion and institutional buy-in.
- V. Document the long-term impact of sustained funding and support on Yemen-based partners.
- VI. Compare key findings with those from the [baseline assessment](#) to assess program evolution.
- VII. Document the impact of supporting, funding and capacitating newly established youth-led organizations.

## 3.2 Evaluation Framework

The final evaluation will apply the OECD-DAC criteria to assess the programme across the following objectives:

### Objective 1: Assess programme relevance and coherence

#### Relevance

- To what extent were the programme's objectives and approaches aligned with the needs of youth and civil society actors in the MENA context?

#### Coherence

- How well did the regional interventions complement local and national initiatives in each country?

### Objective 2: Measure programme effectiveness and efficiency

#### Effectiveness

- To what degree were intended results (outputs and outcomes) achieved, with particular focus on policy influence?
- What changes did youth officers catalyze within Country & Member Offices and programming?
- What were the most significant capacity gains among youth-led partners?

#### Efficiency

- How cost-effectively were resources used?
- How did regional-level programming compare to country-level programming?

### Objective 3: Examine impact and sustainability

#### Impact

- What have been the broader and long-term effects of the programme on youth-led civic engagement and wellbeing, including engagement with duty-bearers?
- Were there any unintended positive or negative impacts?
- To what extent did partners influence national policies, and how?

### Sustainability

- *How likely are programme results to be sustained post-funding, particularly in fragile contexts like Yemen?*
- *How sustainable are the outcomes among youth-led partners in Jordan and Yemen?*

### Objective 4: Explore the added value of the regional model

#### Coordination and Learning

- *How did the regional model add value beyond country-level interventions?*
- *In what ways did regional coordination enhance collective action and cross-country learning?*

#### Future Programming

- *What lessons can inform the design of future regional youth programmes?*

The consultant will be required to undertake consultation with the SC study Project Manager and the study Working Group at the commencement of the project in order to further refine the Study questions.

**Scope:** The evaluation will cover all implementation locations and will target Save the Children partners, youth groups, Youth Officers and the regional programme team.

## 4. STUDY METHODOLOGY

The final evaluation should be participatory and inclusive. The expert consultant is requested to share an inception report which should include a suggested methodology to achieve the objectives. Perspectives of young people and CSAs will be central to the whole evaluation, and the expert is expected to suggest methods that lead to reflection and learning. The final evaluation is expected to adapt a mixed methods approach. It is expected that the evaluation will be facilitated remotely without travel to the implementation locations.

The suggested methodology is as follows;

### Phase 1: Qualitative Data Collection

Participatory and reflective methods will be used to gather qualitative insights from stakeholders:

- **Secondary Review:** Programme MEAL reports, including baseline and mid-term evaluation reports as well as research pieces.
- **FGDs with Youth Officers:** Explore their influence on program uptake, youth mainstreaming, and national-level expansion.
- **FGDs with Partners/ CSAs and Youth:** Capture their reflections on capacity development, collaboration, and regional learning.
- **KIIs with Program Managers:** Assess coordination, strategic direction, and perceptions of impact.

### Phase 2: Quantitative Data Collection

An online survey will be deployed to all implementing partners to measure key program indicators:

- Each partner will nominate **1–2 staff** (involved in implementation) to respond.
- The survey will measure progress on indicators related to civic engagement, collective action, and advocacy.

### Triangulation and Validation

- Triangulation across **methods** (FGDs, KIIs, survey), **stakeholders** (youth, partners, staff), and **timepoints** (midterm vs. endline).
- Comparison with midterm findings will help track change over time and assess consistency.

### Sampling and Representation

- The evaluation will cover **all five countries**.
- **Purposeful sampling** will ensure diverse representation.
- **Special focus on Yemen** to assess the impact of 8 years of funding and support.

*Save the Children will not provide enumerators to assist with primary data collection.*

The consultant is required to adhere to the [Save the Children Child Safeguarding: Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse; Anti-Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying](#); and Data Protection and Privacy policies throughout all project activities.

## 4.1 Ethical Considerations

It is expected that this study will be:

- **Inclusive.** Ensure that youth from different ethnic, social and religious backgrounds have the chance to participate, as well as youth with disabilities and youth who may be excluded or discriminated against in their community.
- **Ethical:** The study must be guided by the following ethical considerations:
  - Safeguarding – demonstrating the highest standards of behaviour towards children and adults.
  - Sensitive – to child rights, gender, inclusion and cultural contexts.
  - Openness - of information given, to the highest possible degree to all involved parties.
  - Confidentiality and data protection - measures will be put in place to protect the identity of all participants and any other information that may put them or others at risk.<sup>1</sup>
  - Public access - to the results when there are not special considerations against this
  - Broad participation - the relevant parties should be involved where possible.

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<sup>1</sup> If any Consultancy Service Provider, Freelancer or Contingent worker will have direct contact with children and/or vulnerable adults and/or beneficiaries and/or have access to any sensitive data on safeguarding and/or children and/or beneficiaries, it is the responsibility of the person receiving the consulting service to contact the local HR team and child safeguarding focal point to ensure vetting checks and on-boarding are conducted in line with statutory requirements, local policies and best practices guidance.

- Reliability and independence - the study should be conducted so that findings and conclusions are correct and trustworthy.

It is expected that:

- Data collection methods will be age and gender appropriate.
- A risk assessment will be conducted that includes any risks related to children, young people's, or adult's participation.
- A referral mechanism will be in place in case any safeguarding or protection issues arise.
- Informed consent will be used where possible.

## 5. MANAGEMENT

In this section highlight the **timeline**, as well as the **management team** and the roles and responsibilities of members in the final evaluation.

What	Who is responsible	By when	Who is involved
Documentation review	Consultant	December 1	SCI Project team
Inception report	Consultant	December 3	
Review the inception report	SCI Project team	December 5	SCI Project team, Young people, SCDk
Development of tools for data collection	Consultant	December 9	SCI Project team
Data collection / reflection sessions	Consultant	December 10 – December 24	SCI Project team, Young people, NGO partners
First draft report of the final evaluation	Consultant	December 29	SCI Project team
Review of first draft report	Save the Children	January 3	SCI Project team
Final evaluation report	Consultant	January 9	SCI Project team
Validation of evaluation findings and recommendations	Save the Children	January 19	SCI Project team
Present the report to youth partners and consultant partners	SCI Project team	January 29	Project partners and young people
Project team meeting to develop a Response Plan with young people	Save the Children	February 8	SCI Project team



- *This timeline is subject to change*

## 6. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The consultant is expected to deliver the below:

1. An Inception report including a detailed methodology design for the entire duration, including a clear outline for the evaluation plan including:
  1. Outline of approach/methodology.
  2. Timeline of activities.
  3. Sampling requirements and framework.
  4. Methodology of collecting, triangulating, and summarizing qualitative data.
  5. Fieldwork plan: including logistics and schedule in addition to Fieldwork manual including data collectors' training guide.
2. Outcome Assessment Plan: including a targeted and specific set of reflection questions and a plan to measure them (tools, data sources) including the sampling methodology, and to design related data collection tools, and in line with reflection scope. As well as an outcomes assessment methodology that satisfactorily demonstrates how outcomes of Al Bawsala will be assessed.
3. Data collection tools, both quantitative (survey questionnaires) and qualitative (KII and FGD guides). These will be delivered in both Arabic and English
4. A max. 25-page final report in English with the following sections:
  1. Executive summary
  2. Methodology
  3. Findings
  4. Analysis
  5. Conclusions and recommendations
  6. Annexes
5. PowerPoint Presentation of findings to Save the Children's Program staff and key stakeholders.

## 7. QUALIFICATIONS

### ➤ Academic Qualifications

A higher degree in development studies, economics, social sciences evaluation or any highly relevant field

### ➤ Professional Qualifications

- *A participatory and qualitative research/evaluation expert with a minimum of ten years' experience on assessing outcomes for young people, in the MENA region;*
- *Ability to design and plan the evaluation approaches and methodologies, particularly using non-traditional, participatory and youth-centered approaches;*

- *Proven experience in research and reflective evaluation of civil society actors and platforms;*
- *Background in sociology or political science;*
- *Extensive knowledge in youth activism and structure-less platforms;*
- *Experience of results-based monitoring and evaluation;*
- *Arabic and English skills are essential for the primary data gathering while English is required for producing the report.*

## 8. GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION

Save the Children requests financial and technical proposals from qualified candidates.

### I. The Proposal

The interested party is expected to follow the framework proposed (below). However, they are also welcomed to propose additions or edits as long as they are aligned with the assignment goal and objectives. The interested party must submit a technical and financial proposal (including process, scope and timetable) maximum by November, 25.

### II. Contents of proposal

- Full curriculum vitae
- Summary of previous experience in undertaking tasks of this type
- Sample of previous similar assignments (2 reports of previous evaluations)
- A workplan & methodology for conducting the final evaluation
- A budget (indicating number of days, rate per day and expected related expenses to the assignment and clearly including the VAT)

### III. Review Process

Once all applications are assessed, the selected party will be informed in writing.

**N.B:** Consider the requirements of the donor around evaluations. If there are any specifics, include them in the TOR.

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TOR prepared by:

Sign off by:

Date of sign off:



