

Terms of Reference

Strengthening Integrated MHPSS Capacities in MENA

Final Assessment, October 2025

1. PROJECT SUMMARY

Type of study	Endline Assessment
Name of the initiative	Al Bawsala: Collective action, resilience and wellbeing for young women and men and children in MENA
Project Start and End dates	January 2022-December 2025
Locations:	Countries in the Middle East and North Africa affected by conflict and/or displacement: Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Yemen and Palestine
Thematic areas	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support – MHPSS
Donor	DANIDA
Overall objective of the project	<p>The Regional DANIDA HUM initiative, part of Save the Children's Al Bawsalah programme, aims to enhance regional capacities for integrated Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) programming across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).</p> <p>A midterm review conducted 30 months into the 4-year program provided a snapshot of portfolio growth, sector integration, continuum strengthening, and localization progress across six countries (Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Turkiye, Syria, Yemen).</p> <p>Save the Children is seeking a Consultant/Consultancy team to evaluate the overall performance, impact, and sustainability of the Regional DANIDA HUM initiative at its completion. It will validate midterm findings, measure results against objectives, and inform future programming and strategic directions.</p>

Introduction

This document provides Terms of Reference for a consultancy to conduct a final assessment of Save the Children's Regional DANIDA HUM initiative for MENA, part of the Al Bawsala's regional programme.

The final assessment will evaluate the overall performance, impact, and sustainability of the Regional DANIDA HUM initiative at its completion. It will validate midterm findings, measure results against objectives, and inform future programming and strategic directions.

2. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The Regional DANIDA HUM initiative, part of Save the Children's Al Bawsalah programme, aims to **enhance regional capacities for integrated Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) programming across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)**. Within this framework, the Regional Office has provided technical assistance and capacity building initiative to Save the Children's Country Offices and partners, with the objectives to uplift and diversify country programme's MHPSS portfolios; strengthen the continuum of MHPSS interventions; deepen MHPSS integration across sectors; and enhance technical capacity and quality of care, in line with global standards.

The programme was implemented from January 2022 to December 2025.

3. SCOPE OF THE ASSESSMENT

3.1 Purpose, Objectives and Scope

The assessment will cover seven country programs: Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Turkiye, Syria, and Yemen, reflecting the entire lifespan of the initiative (2022–2025). It will review baseline and mid-term reviews, including the two portfolio mapping exercises conducted in 2021 and 2024 respectively; program documentation and key program deliverables; stakeholder perspectives; in addition, the assessment will analyse a sample of child and caregiver-level outcome data collected by Country Offices, to provide insights into the ultimate impact of the regional initiative on children and families.

Objectives

- Assess the extent of expansion of the MHPSS portfolio, and its integration across sectors since baseline and midterm.
- Measure and assess initiative outcome indicators
- Analyze progress and challenges in localization of MHPSS programming in the targeted countries.
- Review and analyze child-level and parent-level outcome data collected by Country Offices to understand direct beneficiary impacts, with specific reference to the roll out of scalable psychological interventions.
- Identify the added value of the regional programme approach, as a complement to country-level interventions, focusing on aspects such as cost-effectiveness, range of support, and multiplier effects for countries that benefit from shared trainings and resources.

3.2 Expected results

- **An endline assessment report** reflecting the objectives above.
- **Actionable Recommendations** on sustaining and scaling integrated MHPSS efforts in MENA, and implications for broader [global](#) MHPSS programming across Save the Children's movement.
- **Updated portfolio mapping documentation** reflecting the breadth of the MHPSS portfolio at endline in six Country programmes.
- **Captivating, easy-to-understand visuals** that effectively communicate the results and impact of the initiative.

3.3 Geographic Scope

The assessment will be conducted in seven MENA countries (Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Turkiye, Yemen).

3.4 Intended Audience and Use of the Assessment

Primary audiences of the assessment are **Save the Children International, including the relevant Country Offices and their partners; Save the Children Denmark; and the donor, DANIDA.**

4. ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

4.1 Assessment Design and Data Collection

The final assessment will employ qualitative data collection methodologies, including a desk review and key informant interviews with relevant thematic advisors, and potentially implementing partners, in targeted countries.

In addition, the assessment will review and analyse quantitative, child and caregiver-level outcome data collected by Country Offices, to provide insights into the ultimate impact of the regional initiative.

Anticipated assessment activities include:

- Kick-off workshop/s with Country Offices.
- Desk review of baseline, midterm, and project reports, including [baseline and midline](#) portfolio mappings and monitoring data.
- Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and portfolio mapping meetings with thematic advisors, technical experts, CO teams, and relevant stakeholders including partners. We anticipate that a minimum of 20 KII and meetings will have to be conducted to complete the assessment.
- Analysis of child- and parent-level outcome data from MEAL and MHPSS programmes at CO and partner levels.
- Comparative analysis of portfolio expansion, sector integration, and intervention continuum over time.
- Validation workshops with country offices and regional teams.

4.2 Data Collection

Data collection will be conducted with the support of Save the Children. The Consultant/s should plan to conduct data collection activities themselves. The Consultant/s will be 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 assessment activities.

4.3 Ethical Considerations

The assessment will NOT involve data collection with children or caregivers. Data collection will be conducted with key informants, and it must be guided by the following ethical considerations:

- Safeguarding – *demonstrating the highest standards of behaviour towards participants in the assessment.*
- Sensitive – *to 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 as relevant, and any other information that may put them or others at risk.*
- Public access - *to the results when there are not special considerations against this.*
- Broad participation - *the relevant parties should be involved where possible.*
- 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 gender-appropriate.
- Assessment activities will provide a safe, creative space where all participants feel that their thoughts and ideas are important.
- Informed consent must be used.

5. EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

The assessment deliverables and tentative timeline (subject to the commencement date of the assessment) are outlined below. The Consultant and SC assessment leads will agree on final milestones and deadlines at the inception phase.

Key deliverables expected for this study include:

- Inception report
- Final data collection tools (in English and Arabic)
- Final study report (in English)
- Updated portfolio mapping
- PowerPoint presentation of key assessment findings and recommendations in a creative and visually appealing format
- A brief of the assessment (2-page summary of the full report); creative and visually appealing formats are required

Milestones and tentative timeline – please note: the timeline below is subject to confirmation consultants applying under these ToRs must be able to adjust timeline and milestone delivery flexibly within the period November 2025-March 2026.

Milestones	Days	Tentative deadline	Key deliverable
Consultancy starts		November, 3	
Desk review and Inception meetings with SC assessment leads	2		
Draft Inception Report , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Objectives, scope and key questions informing the assessment ▪ Description of the methodology, including design, participants, and assessment matrix against the key assessment objectives ▪ Caveats and limitations of the assessment ▪ Ethical considerations including details on consent ▪ Draft data collection tools - Guides for KIIs and portfolio mapping meetings ▪ Data collection plan ▪ Data analysis and reporting plan ▪ Revised work plan if necessary 	2	November, 15	Draft Inception Report and Data Collection Tools
Final Inception Report and Data Collection tools, integrating feedback from Save the Children	0.5	November, 20	Final Inception Report and Data Collection Tools
Coordination workshop with Country Offices	0.5	November, 30	
Data collection completed	6	December, 15	
Data Analysis and updated Portfolio mapping completed	6	December, 30	
Draft Report including the following elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Executive summary ▪ Background description of the Program and context relevant to the Assessment ▪ Scope and focus of the study ▪ Overview of the methodology and data collection methods, including an assessment matrix ▪ Findings aligned to each of the key objectives of the assessment ▪ Specific caveats or methodological limitations of the evaluation ▪ Conclusions outlining implications of the findings or learnings; models ▪ Recommendations ▪ Annexes (Results framework , ToR for the Review, Inception Report, , List of people involved) 	3	December, 30	Draft Assessment Report
Final Report incorporating feedback from Save the Children	1	January -25	Final Assessment Report

Knowledge translation materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PowerPoint presentation of Study findings ▪ Assessment Brief 	1	January -25	PowerPoint Presentation Research Brief
Total n. of days	22		

All reports are to use the Save the Children [Final Study Report template](#).

All documents are to be produced in MS Word format and provided electronically by email to the SC assessment leads. Copies of all PowerPoint presentations used to facilitate briefings for the project should also be provided to Save the Children in editable digital format.

6. REPORTING AND GOVERNANCE

The Consultant/s will report against the assessment plan to the assessment leads, the MENAEE Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Advisor, and the DANIDA Research and Evidence Specialist. The following regular reporting and quality review processes will also be used:

- A bi-weekly (or more frequent, if/as required) remote meeting with Save the Children's assessment leads, to discuss progress, any emerging issues to be resolved and planned activities until the next update.

7. SELECTION CRITERIA

Save the Children welcomes applications from individual Consultants or assessment teams; multidisciplinary expertise (MHPSS and MEAL) would be valued, noting however that the total number of days indicated in these ToRs cannot be exceeded.

Interested Consultants/teams are required to submit an Expression of Interest which should demonstrate adherence to the following requirements:

- *Advanced university degree in a relevant area (Psychology, Mental Health, or closely related field)*
- *Demonstrable technical expertise in the thematic areas covered in this study*
- *Extensive demonstrable experience in the humanitarian programme cycle*
- *Proven experience in designing and/or overseeing qualitative research and/or evaluation in the thematic areas covered in this study*
- *Experience and understanding of Middle East contexts; ability to demonstrate coordination with in-country experts is a distinct advantage*
- *Impeccable command of the English language; Arabic fluency is an advantage*
- *Strong written and verbal skills in communicating technical and/or complex findings to non-specialist audiences (especially report writing and presentation skills)*
- *Proven ability to work independently and deliver results*
- *A track record of open, collaborative working with clients*
- *Access to and experience in working with Qualitative Data Analysis software (ex. Nvivo) desirable*

Submissions will be evaluated in consideration of the selection Criteria as stated below:

Criteria	Weight	Max. Point
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TECHNICAL: Relevant technical expertise and competence to undertake this task;	50%	50
FINANCIAL OFFER	40%	40
SUSTAINABILITY : Experience and understanding of MENA contexts; Demonstrating regional/local recruitment)	10%	10

8. HOW TO APPLY

Interested candidates are invited to submit a technical and financial proposal by October 18th 2025. The proposal shall include:

- *Expression of interest/cover letter. This should include:*
 - o *Details of relevant competence to undertake this consultancy*
 - o *Past experience in relation to the objectives and scope of this consultancy*
 - o *Description of the approach you would use to undertake this consultancy including timeline and estimated number of days required for task completion.*
- *Full curriculum vitae for key assessment team members*
- *Summary of previous experience in undertaking tasks of this type*
- *Sample of previous similar assignments (2 samples of previous work)*
- *Details of two reference clients/supervisors for which you have provided services/fulfilled tasks similar to our requirements. References will only be taken up for shortlisted bidders*
- *Financial proposal (indicating number of days for each milestones; rate per day in USD, inclusive of any and all related expenses necessary to undertake the assignment; noting that for this home-based consultancy, Save the Children will not provide equipment or materials, and no separate budget is provided to cover travel or accommodation costs).*

Please note: the timeline outlined above is subject to confirmation consultants applying under these ToRs must be able to adjust timeline and milestone delivery flexibly within the period November 2025-March 2026

FULL APPLICATION PACK AS STATED ABOVE SHOULD BE SUBMITTED THROUGH APPLICANT OFFICIAL EMAIL ADDRESS TO: esarpu.bid@savethechildren.org BY 11 PM GMT 18TH OCTOBER 2025

For questions and clarification please reach out to esaro.procurement@savethechildren.org with Euniejoy.Nyawira@savethechildren.org and Marta.Petagna@savethechildren.org in copy

ToR prepared by:	Marta Petagna, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Advisor , MENAEE Shatha el Fayez, Research and Evidence Specialist
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Date of sign off:	29 September 2025