Terms of Reference to Develop an Analysis of Syrian conflict and refugee crisis and its impact on Lebanon and Lebanese host communities

1. Background to the assignment

Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) is an ecumenical diaconal based nongovernmental, nonpartisan organization working for global justice, with no intention of influencing people’s religious affiliation. NCA is a member of Action Churches Together (ACT) Alliance, one of the world’s largest humanitarian alliances. NCA works in over 30 countries with emergency assistance in disasters works for long-term development in local communities working closely with local partners. NCA is HAP certified, adheres to international standards and policies on humanitarian work.

NCA is providing assistance to Syrian refugees in Lebanon and host communities. This includes direct inputs to refugees as well as renovation of water and sanitation infrastructure of schools and clinics and hygiene promotion program in schools.

In the light of the size of influx of refugees from Syria to Lebanon, the very difficult humanitarian context inside Syria and the volume of humanitarian assistance provided, NCA finds it important to conduct a conflict analysis of the situation in Syria and Lebanon also identifying how the flow of refugees as well as the resource transfer of the humanitarian work impacts the conflict(s) in this context. This will help NCA to aim for conflict sensitivity in our humanitarian program in a more informed way.

2. Scope of the work

Against this background, NCA is looking for a consultant to carry out an analysis of Syrian conflict and refugee crisis, the humanitarian interventions and the related transfer of resources, and its impact on the Lebanon and the Lebanese host communities – especially those being targeted by NCA programmes.

Along with being a conflict-sensitive programming tool, the conflict analysis could also serve as a necessary entry point for working on the conflict, facilitating targeted dialogues and other forms of peacebuilding interventions.

3. Methodology

The basis for the conflict analysis will be secondary sources – this is a home-based consultancy and no field work is required:

- A desk review of existing media reports, studies and documents analysing the Syrian conflict and conflicts affecting Syrian refugees, and the impact of these conflicts on Lebanon and
host communities in Lebanon. Analyses and studies of the Syrian conflict are not in short supply, mainly at the national level. Findings from these studies will be collated and reviewed to inform the proposed conflict analysis, which will occur at the sub-national level, focusing on NCA current target areas. Although a list of suggested studies has been compiled by NCA and will be provided, the consultant will be responsible for identifying and reviewing a variety of sources, by research institutions or development actors.

- Integration of findings from focus group discussions and household surveys specifically designed to feed into this process. NCA will be responsible for designing and conducting such studies and preparing brief summary notes; the consultant is expected to read through those summaries and take them as input to the conflict analysis development process.

While the analysis with consider conflict dynamics at the national level, it will also focus on certain areas within Lebanon, corresponding with NCA project locations in Bekaa Governorate, the North Governorate and the South Governorate.

NCA may complement the findings from this study with other inputs, including through a validation process involving relevant communities and resource persons.

There is a wide range of conflict analysis frameworks available and the consultant shall be free to suggest a framework to NCA. Most conflict analysis methodologies consider three elements: structures (factors driving the conflict), actors and dynamics (trends, triggers). NCA has developed its own conflict analysis framework (May 2012), in partnership with CDA Reflecting on Peace Practice Project and the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict.

The framework should allow the conflict analysis to fulfill the following standards:

- The conflict analysis identify and analyse key driving factors of conflict and tensions in Lebanon, with a specific focus on Syrian refugees and Lebanese host communities.
- Important factors for conflict and peace are identified; peace and conflict dynamics are analysed.
- Perspectives of women are integrated in the analysis.
- The conflict analysis identifies key actors to the conflict (those who can directly and indirectly impact violence and peace in the context) as well as other stakeholders, their needs, positions and interests, key or strategic stakeholders have been distinguished from the others.
- Conflict-related systems, so how different factors inter-relate, are explored and understood.
- The analysis should also identify the importance of religion and religious based actors and identify the conflict lines where religion and religious communities/actors are playing a role.
- The analysis is nuanced and transparent.
- Contradictory evidence is acknowledged and addressed.
- The impact of the Syria conflict and refugee crisis in Lebanon and Lebanese host communities –especially the ones where NCA operates- is described.
- The analysis leads to a statement/identification of peacebuilding needs, including priorities that inform programme/project design, in particular related to civil society contributions.
- The analysis highlights key findings, dividers and connectors, relevant for conflict sensitive programming for humanitarian intervention as well as for peacebuilding accompanied by recommendation on how to manage these dividers and connectors.

Some specific research questions include:
• What is the general picture of conflicts in Lebanon today? What are the conflict issues?
• What are the underlying causes of conflict? How have these changed?
• How do local and national level dynamics interact in the production of conflicts with inter-group dimensions?
• Is inter-group conflict(s) on the increase? If so, why?
• What are the connections between Syrian refugees – host communities conflicts and other types of conflicts – e.g. supporters versus opponents of the Syrian regime? How do these conflicts reinforce each other?
• What are the gender dimensions in these conflicts? How are men and women part of, affected by, and resisting the conflicts in different ways?
• How does youth perceived, is affected or contribute to these conflicts? What is the potential for youth to contribute to peaceful conflict transformation?
• What are the common conflict management mechanisms (formal and informal, especially at the local level)? What are the connectors between communities?
• What is the importance of religion and religious communities in the conflict context?
• What is the positioning of key religious actors? What is the role of other actors, including the government?
• Who is doing what to address the underlying causes and triggers of conflict? What the contributions (both explicit and potential) that men and women bring – or can bring - to non-violent conflict transformation? What are the positive factors for peace, conflict resolution and transformation? What are the inter-group ties that could be mobilized in this regard?

The primary focus for analyzing dynamics should be the last 3 years, but relevant historic lines should be drawn.

4. Deliverables

• Max. 20 pages written conflict analysis study as well as a separate max. 3 pages of identification of priorities and recommendations to NCA (based on the conflict analysis). The report will include a comprehensive bibliography of written sources consulted.
• Mapping of humanitarian and peacebuilding actors, with emphasis on those NCA could coordinate and partner with.

5. Duration and working days

The deliverables outlined under section 4 shall be completed within October 16th – November 5th, 2014. Max. 10 days of work.

6. Required Qualifications

• Advanced university degree in Peace and Conflict, International Policy, Public Policy or related subject required;
• Proven skills in designing and drafting conflict analysis reports;
• Local knowledge of the Middle East region required; knowledge of Lebanese and/or Syrian context highly desirable.
• Understanding of Rights-Based Approach, conflict sensitivity and do no harm approaches.
• Excellent written English skills required. Knowledge of Arabic desirable.

7. Consultant’s Proposal
Expressions of interest (cover letter with financial proposal and CV) in this consultancy should be submitted to arne.saeveras@nca.no with copy to javier.fabra-mata@nca.no with the subject line NCA Consultancy - Conflict Analysis in Lebanon. Deadline for submissions: October 10th 2014.