Consultancy - Terms of Reference

Evaluation on Social Protection in the Humanitarian Sector

Application deadline August 30, 2024

1. Background

In recent years, the lines between humanitarian action and social protection have increasingly blurred, particularly as humanitarian responses often occur in recurrent or protracted crises. With the growth of the cash modalities, technological improvements, and donor budgetary constraints around international aid, engagement with social protection has become more prominent. Humanitarian responses need to be 'social protection aware' to avoid undermining local systems. This ToR aims to guide an evaluation that assesses NRC’s current and potential engagement with social protection systems, evaluates the impact of this approach on its programming, and provides recommendations for future strategic positioning. The evaluation lays the foundation for NRC’s engagement with social protection systems, aiming to develop a formal policy position. This strategy includes collaboration and exchange of expertise with local actors, ensuring that NRC’s interventions are socially protective and sustainable.

2. Objectives of the Evaluation

The primary objectives of the evaluation are to:

1. Assess how NRC’s humanitarian programs currently incorporate social protection elements.
2. Identify best practices, challenges, and gaps in NRC’s current approach to social protection
3. Evaluate the impact of integrating social protection mechanisms on the effectiveness and sustainability of NRC’s interventions, from the early phase of a response to a longer-term programming.

3. Scope of Work

The evaluation will focus on:

2. Impact Analysis: Assess the outcomes and impact of integrating social protection mechanisms on the targeted communities, including any changes in resilience, livelihood stability, and access to essential services.
3. Opportunities and Risks and Opportunities: Analyse the opportunities, risks and challenges of adopting a social protection-aware approach in NRC’s humanitarian programming.
4. Stakeholder Engagement: Engage with key stakeholders, including displaced affected and hosted communities, national and local authorities, partner organisations to gather insights and feedback on NRC’s social protection initiatives.

4. Methodology

The evaluation will employ a mixed-method approach, combining quantitative and qualitative data collection methods:
1. Documentation Review: Analyse existing NRC reports, strategic documents, program evaluations, and relevant literature on social protection in humanitarian contexts.
2. Key Informant Interviews (KIIs): Conduct interviews with NRC staff, displaced communities, national and local authorities, partner organizations, and other stakeholders.
3. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs): Organize FGDs with beneficiaries to understand their experiences and perspectives on social protection initiatives.
4. Surveys: Implement surveys to gather quantitative data on the impact of social protection mechanisms on targeted populations.
5. Case Studies: Develop case studies of specific NRC projects that have integrated social protection elements to illustrate best practices and lessons learned.

5. Deliverables

1. Draft Evaluation Report: A comprehensive report detailing the findings, analysis, and preliminary recommendations on how to enhance NRC’s engagement with social protection systems.
2. Final Evaluation Report: A final report incorporating feedback from NRC, including executive summary, methodology, findings, conclusions, and recommendations on how to enhance NRC’s engagement with social protection systems.
3. Presentation of Findings: A presentation to NRC’s key stakeholders summarizing the evaluation findings and recommendations.

6. Timeline

The evaluation is expected to take place over a period of 5 months, from September 2024 to January 2025. The proposed timeline is as follows:
- September 2024: Inception phase, including desk review and development of data collection tools.
- October 2024: Data collection phase, including KIIs, FGDs, and surveys.
- November 2024: Data analysis and preparation of the draft report.
- December 2024: Presentation of preliminary findings and submission of the draft report.
- January 2025: Finalization of the report and dissemination of findings.

7. Evaluation Team

The evaluation will be conducted by an external consultant or team of consultants with expertise in social protection, humanitarian response, and program evaluation. The team should have:
- Proven experience in conducting evaluations in humanitarian and development contexts.
- In-depth knowledge of social protection systems and their application in humanitarian settings.
- Strong analytical and report-writing skills.
- Ability to engage with diverse stakeholders, including beneficiaries, local authorities, and donors.

8. Budget

A detailed budget will be developed based on the proposed methodology and scope of work. The budget should cover all costs related to the evaluation, including consultant fees, travel expenses, data collection, and reporting.
9. Submission of Proposals

Interested consultants are invited to submit their proposals, including a 3-page max proposal with methodology, work plan, budget, and CV of the evaluator(s) by August 30.

10. Contact Information

For further information or to submit proposals, please contact: Nicolas Casale, NRC Global Lead for Collaboration with Local actors - nicolas.casale@nrc.no