

Project title:

Knowledge Production in Times of Flight and War- Developing Common Grounds for Research in/on Syria (2781-00/2018)

Implementation period:

1 December 2018- 30 November 2021

Total budget:

EUR 568.485,00

Type and purpose:

Partner- led program evaluation: The evaluation management lies with the Austrian Development Agency's implementing partner. The project is funded by ADA and implemented through a grant agreement, with the planned evaluation budget included in the project budget.

The external project evaluation serves three interrelated purposes. First, to support institutional learning and contribute to a continuous improvement of the quality and effectiveness of Austrian development cooperations. Second, to provide reliable knowledge that contributes to the evidence-based design of development policy objectives. Third, to serve accountability for the use of public funding and the resulting effects on partners, donors and the public at large.

Project background:

The overall objective of KnowWar is to create a regional and international knowledge network of transdisciplinary research and transformative field research approaches and methodologies for conflict and war zones in (non-) academic realms (TransKnow). This objective will be reached by the following two components:

- I. Capacity development
 - a) on transformative field research approaches and methodologies for conflict and war zones,
 - b) by training MA and PhD students,

- c) by establishing a strategic relationship between academia and non-academic sectors of society (in particular social initiatives, NGOs, activists) and, thus, creating the core group of the network TransKnow.
- d) by strengthening internationalisation of the project partners and their capacity to network in innovative research

- II. Research on the power nexus between war, flight, humanitarian programmes, repatriation, and reconstruction by focussing on
 - a) international donors' programmes in Lebanon and their societal significance,
 - b) networks of solidarity between/with various refugee communities in Lebanon and
 - c) reconstruction efforts in Syria.

The end- term evaluation aims at the following:

1. Purpose:

- To provide an assessment of the overall project progress and results against the objectives and indicators of achievement as mandated by the donor ADA and stipulated in the project document.
- The main purpose of the evaluation is to contribute to accountability and communication, by providing an independent assessment of the overall project progress and results against the objectives and indicators of achievement, as mandated by the donor ADA and stipulated in the project document. Additionally, the evaluation will contribute to learning, by analysing the reasons why project interventions have worked as planned or not.

2. Objectives:

- To assess the relevance, effectiveness and sustainability of the project.
- To determine the extent to which the regional and international knowledge network (TransKnow) could be established.
- To assess the development of transformative research approaches and methodologies of the project in theory, research, training and outreach.
- To identify recommendations for future activities, with a particular focus on research outcomes and network activities.

3. Intended users:

Primary users: Project stakeholders, in particular universities in Lebanon, Palestine, and Austria. As well as (international) NGOs, community activists and social initiatives based in Lebanon and Syria and ADA.

Secondary users: Policy-makers and programme designers, Lebanese local authorities, UN organizations in Lebanon and Syria (UNHCR, UNDP, UNWRA, OCHA), international donor agencies operating in Lebanon and Syria.

4. Scope:

The evaluation will cover activities that have taken place since the beginning of the project until the time of the evaluation.

5. Evaluation Management:

The steering committee of KnowWar is responsible for the evaluation management. The project evaluation will be commissioned following an open, transparent procurement process. The selection of the evaluator is done on the basis of a technical and a financial (price) offer, which are assessed against the requirements set out in the ToR.

6. Timing:

The evaluation will take place between October and November 2021.

7. Key evaluation questions:

7.1. Effectiveness:

-To what extent could transdisciplinary and transformative research approaches and methodologies in conflict and war zones like Syria and Lebanon be established and practically applied? How were the project outputs used and which benefits could be created for the target groups? How were the project outputs used and which benefits could be created for the target groups?

-How did risk factors like the global COVID-19 pandemic and the multiple crises in Lebanon affect the overall project?

7.2. Relevance:

-Was it possible to comprehensively approach the power nexus between war, warfare, flight, humanitarian programs, (forced) repatriation, and reconstruction in Syria and its repercussions in Lebanon? What were the challenges and advantages of such an inclusive approach?

-To what extent did the project respond to specific needs of the target group?

-How well were the NGOs, community activists and social initiatives involved in the design, implementation and monitoring of the project?

7.3. Sustainability:

-To what extent was it possible to establish a transdisciplinary knowledge network KnowWar and does it have the capacity to deliver the benefits for which it was created?

-To what extent are the benefits of the programme likely to sustain in the long term? What are the main factors behind this?

7.4. Lessons learned:

What lessons can be learned or good practices can be identified from the implementation of the project?

8. Evaluation design and approach:

The evaluation follows a mixed-methods approach using non-experimental design. The methods planned are a document review, 15- 20 key informant interviews, one focus group discussion with training participants.

9. Budget estimate for the evaluation consultancy:

	INCEPTION	INQUIRY	ANALYSIS & SYNTHESIS	REPORTING	RESERVE
	5 days	11 days	4 days	7 days	1 day

FEES FOR ONE EVALUATOR (€500/D)	€2,500	€5,500	€2,000	€3,500	€500
		€500			
MISCELLANEOUS	€500				
TOTAL	€15,000				

For this evaluation, one evaluator is needed for 28 working days. It is important to remember that working days do not mean calendar days. They do not include weekends and public holidays.

This above calculation is based on the following considerations:

For inception, five working days are required for a kick-off meeting, initial document review, developing the evaluation design (methodology and methods) and the drafting and finalisation of the inception report and related annexes (ADA guidelines).

11 working days are calculated for doing inquiry (and related preparations), of which nine for 15 interviews and the focus group discussion, and two for document review. Next, for analysis and synthesis, a minimum of four working days is needed to process and analyse the interview data in order to derive findings, conclusions and recommendations. This includes half a working day for the presentation of preliminary findings. For drafting the evaluation report, seven working days are calculated – assuming approximately five pages per day of report writing and an additional day to account for the feedback and review process.

The cost calculation for travel and subsistence is minimized due to the global pandemic and the ToR aims for an evaluator from the region. The cost position 'miscellaneous' includes costs for communication, copying/ printing and software licences.

10. Deliverables:

The following deliverables are expected as they correspond to the timeline and budget (for more details see annex: ADA Guidelines for Programme and Project Evaluations)

- An inception report detailing the methodology, data collection tools, quality assurance, ethics and timeline
- A draft of the final evaluation report in English for review
- A final report in English (35 pages max in length, excluding appendices)
- A online presentation of research findings to the project team
- A filled out Result Assessment Form
- A two-pager summary highlighting key lessons learnt in this project (English, Arabic)

11. Experience of Evaluator:

- Master's degree (PhD preferable) in research methods and/or evaluations, development, conflict, peacebuilding or any related field in the social sciences
- Excellent proficiency in English and Arabic - written (including professional English reporting) and spoken
- More than five years of experience in programme/project evaluation, including collecting data in interviews, surveys and focus groups and analysis
- Experience in conflict analysis, working with justice and civil society sectors
- Experience in working with international organizations
- Experience in conducting quantitative and qualitative analysis
- Experience in evaluating capacity development projects
- Monitoring and Evaluation methods and data collection skills
- Familiarity and experience with contextual challenges in the geographic location(s) where the study will take place

12. Specifications of the Submission of Offers

- Updated CV
- Short outline of relevant experience (1- 2 pages)
- Short outline of suggested methodology, work plan, timeline (2- 3 pages)
- Budget, based on daily rate

Terms of Reference | External Evaluation | KnowWar

- Deadline of submission: 20 August 2021
- Contact: klaudia.wieser@univie.ac.at

13. Selection Criteria:

Consultant proposals will be selected for:

- Relevance of proposed methodology to the goal, objectives, and research questions for the project
- Quality of proposed methods and evaluation approaches
- Qualifications of the candidate(s)
- The proposed budget in relation to the proposed methodology
- Timeline for proposed activities

14. Annexes

- [ADA Guidelines](#) for Programme and Project Evaluations
- [Reference](#) to key publicly accessible documents relevant to KnowWar