

Terms of Reference: Economic Planning or Economic Investment Advisor to Lebanon

1 FEBRUARY 2021

BACKGROUND

Lebanon is facing challenges on several fronts. A humanitarian crisis, with many displaced due to the regional turmoil, and an economic crisis, exacerbated by the recent COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, on August 4th, 2020, a large blast occurred at the Port of Beirut which damaged the Port infrastructure, and any building surrounding it for kilometers, setting damage estimates between 3.8 and 4.6 billion US Dollars¹. The death toll exceeded 200 people, wounded in the thousands, and displaced in the hundreds of thousands. In the wake of this multi-faceted crisis, the government of Lebanon needs to recover better and greener to tackle the economic crisis, the blast impacts, and other instabilities.

In order to combat the pandemic, the government had to take measures starting March 13, 2020 – from closing down schools and universities, to large and small businesses, and the ports, among other measures, which were successful in curbing down and avoid the health impacts of the COVID-19. As of January 31, 2021, Lebanon has 301,052 confirmed cases, with a total death toll of 3,082.

While the measures taken to combat the pandemic have gradually been eased, allowing for the economic activities to start, the above has resulted in dire economic, social and financial situation. This has only been accentuated by the blast and its impacts, which has halted a large area of economic activity and essential services: the World Bank estimates that the consequent physical capital losses of the blast will cause an additional decline in GDP (up to 0.4 to 0.6 percentage points).

In April 2019, the government has designed a program and for economic recovery to restore confidence and urgently gather needed foreign support. and. This program, along with other investments, have now become a priority to put the country back on a long-term sustainable growth path, and to enhance resilience against any future shocks.

In parallel, the government of Lebanon has been in the process of preparing the NDC Partnership Plans, conducting climate mainstreaming into the capital investment plans, as part of its commitments under the Climate Change Paris Agreement, and there's a need to combine both efforts in order to secure a green recovery plan.

About the NDC Partnership

The NDC Partnership is a global coalition of countries and institutions working to mobilize support and achieve ambitious climate goals while enhancing sustainable development. Through our Partnership, members leverage their resources and expertise to provide countries with the tools they need to implement their NDCs and combat climate change to build a better future. Hosted by WRI and the UNFCCC Secretariat, the NDC Partnership has members in all regions of the world, with staff in Washington DC and Bonn, Germany.

¹ Beirut Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA), World Bank (2020) (<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/lebanon/publication/beirut-rapid-damage-and-needs-assessment-rdna--august-2020>)

About the NDC Partnership's Economic Advisory Support

The NDC Partnership has initiated support to integrate climate actions in recovery planning in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic. This support comes at a critical time when many countries are revising their commitments to the Paris Agreement in 2020, through the enhancement of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). While countries design stimulus packages and recovery plans in response to COVID-19, there is opportunity to ensure that national climate ambition is an integral component of short- and long-term recovery and economic growth strategies.

SCOPE OF WORK AND DELIVERABLES

The government requests a national consultant embedded in the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR), the co-focal point of the NDC Partnership in Lebanon, in close coordination with the Ministry of Environment (co-focal point of the NDC Partnership in Lebanon). The detailed activities and deliverables are outlined in the table below.

Duration

This is a full-time position for 12 months based in Beirut, Lebanon.

Activities and Deliverables

Activities	Deliverables	Deadline
Detailed workplan and methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Report outlining the detailed workplan and methodology	1 month after contract signature
Conduct an assessment on the comprehensive impacts of the economic crisis, Beirut blast and the COVID-19 pandemic on national growth, sustainable development objectives and climate action; in coordination with all the stakeholders involved in the above	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Report on the assessmentTwo-page Ex. Summary and identified good practices	3 months
Identify green growth and resilience measures across all sectors (including but not limited to the health sector) to recover from the several crises, identify entry-points in strategies, projects and investments for integration, and identify the stakeholders responsible for the implementation of the respective green growth and resilience measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Report on the measuresTwo-page Ex. Summary and identified good practices	3 months
Identify capacity-building opportunities in key institutions to sustainably mainstream green growth and climate action concepts, and conduct the necessary trainings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Report on capacity-building opportunities and trainings conductedTwo-page Ex. Summary and identified good practices	3 months
Support the process of climate-proofing investment plans (CEDRE/LEV/economic reform) at CDR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Participation in high level and technical level consultations and periodic progress reports	Throughout the contract duration
Final synthesis report on impact of the tasks undertaken with a summary report on areas of success	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Report on results achieved	2 months

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Advanced degree in economics (MSc and above), public policy, business administration, finance, environment, or a related field.
- At least 5 years of professional experience in the field.
- Experience in macroeconomic and fiscal dimensions.
- Good understanding of Lebanon's environment and development issues would be desirable.
- Proven ability to network and develop partnerships across a range of stakeholders and manage complex multi-stakeholder strategies and plans.
- Preferred experience in relationship management with senior leaders and high-level audiences.
- Experience working with government stakeholders in national and/or regional policy.
- Experience across multiple contexts, and an understanding of international policy debates and challenges in finance and economics.

REPORTING

Government Reporting

The Economic Advisor will report to the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) and to the Ministry of Environment. The advisor will be required to produce a final synthesis report on the impact of the tasks undertaken, along with a summary report on areas of success.

NDC Partnership Support Unit Reporting

The advisor will also report to the NDC Partnership Support Unit on the status of the deliverables outlined in this TOR on a monthly basis.

Duty Station

The advisor is expected to report to CDR on a full-time basis and bring his/her own laptop to the duty station.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Technical and financial proposals should contain all the information required above along with the resume/CV from the applicant.

The final proposal should be submitted to Mr. Omar Zemrag (Omar.Zemrag.5@ndcpartnership.org) and Ms. Ralien Bekkers (Ralien.Bekkers@ndcpartnership.org) with the subject "Economic Advisor_Lebanon" no later than 20 February 2021.