

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Contracting Party: Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB)

Project: ZZZ2304-IRK Strengthening local climate-sensitive and universal WASH capacities using and disseminating the Green Humanitarian Aid approach. Salahaddin_ Iraq

Project period: September 2023- September 2026

Procurement ref: ZZZ2304-IRK Service 2026-03 Endline Evaluation

Project Location: Salahaddin

Target Districts: Al-Dour, Al-Alam and Sainya

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1. Organizational Background

Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB) is a German non-governmental organization with over 300 branches nationwide. ASB operates both nationally and internationally, responding to emergencies and supporting development efforts worldwide. The organization's Foreign Aid Division focuses on emergency relief and early recovery, including health services, WASH, livelihoods, and protection.

ASB has been active in Iraq since 1991 and currently implements humanitarian and development interventions aimed at strengthening resilience in conflict-affected contexts. These interventions are implemented in close coordination with local authorities and partners and address critical needs in the health, WASH, education, climate adaptation, food security, and livelihoods sectors.

2. Project background

Iraq is experiencing increasing pressures related to water scarcity, environmental degradation and climate-related risks, which affect vulnerable communities, local institutions and the availability and sustainability of essential services. These challenges are particularly relevant in areas where communities and local authorities have limited resources and capacities to anticipate, prepare for and respond to environmental and climate-related risks.

Within this context, ASB implemented the ZZZ2304-IRK project in Iraq, focusing on strengthening climate-sensitive and inclusive WASH approaches, disaster and climate-risk management, environmental awareness, institutional capacities, coordination and community resilience.

The Iraq component of the project focuses on Al-Dour, Al-Alam and Baiji districts in Salahaddin Governorate. The project works with communities, municipalities, civil society organisations and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen their capacities to address WASH, environmental and climate-related challenges.

The project includes interventions aimed at strengthening local risk-reduction planning and preparedness, developing mechanisms for anticipatory humanitarian action, improving coordination and networking among relevant actors, strengthening environmental assessment capacities, promoting climate-sensitive WASH approaches, and supporting greater awareness and application of environmental and climate-resilience principles.

Among the Iraq-specific interventions, the project supported the development of risk-reduction mechanisms through the three municipalities and planned three mechanisms for anticipatory humanitarian assistance as part of municipal risk-reduction plans.

The project also included capacity development for representatives of civil society organisations and governmental institutions in Salahaddin on environmental screening and assessment tools, including NEAT+, with particular relevance to the increasing water-scarcity context in Iraq.

The final evaluation will therefore assess the extent to which the project has achieved its intended results and contributed to meaningful and sustainable changes in the capacities, practices, systems and resilience of targeted communities and stakeholders.

3. Purpose of the Evaluation

The purpose of the final evaluation is to provide an independent and evidence-based assessment of the performance, outcomes, impact and sustainability of the ZZZ2304-IRK project in Iraq.

The evaluation will examine not only whether planned activities and outputs were delivered, but also whether these interventions contributed to changes in knowledge, capacities, practices,

institutional systems, coordination, preparedness and resilience among targeted stakeholders and communities.

The evaluation will generate evidence on what changed as a result of the project, for whom, to what extent, why the changes occurred, and whether these changes are likely to continue beyond the project period.

The evaluation findings will be used by ASB, partners and relevant stakeholders to strengthen future programming related to WASH, climate change adaptation, environmental sustainability, disaster-risk reduction and community resilience in Iraq.

4. Evaluation Objectives

The specific objectives of the evaluation are to:

1. Assess the **relevance** of the project interventions to the needs, priorities and context of targeted communities and stakeholders in Iraq.
2. Assess the extent to which the project achieved its planned **outputs and outcomes**.
3. Assess the extent to which the project contributed to changes in:
 - knowledge and capacities;
 - institutional practices;
 - disaster and climate-risk preparedness;
 - environmental management;
 - climate-sensitive and inclusive WASH practices;
 - coordination and networking;
 - community resilience.
4. Assess the **impact and longer-term changes** to which the project has contributed at community and institutional levels.
5. Assess the extent to which targeted municipalities, CSOs and other stakeholders can **apply and sustain** the capacities and systems developed through the project.
6. Assess the effectiveness and functionality of project-supported **risk-reduction and anticipatory-action mechanisms**.
7. Assess whether the project contributed to improved consideration of **environmental, climate, gender, disability and inclusion considerations** within relevant practices and planning.
8. Identify **unintended positive or negative changes** resulting from the project.
9. Assess the **sustainability** of project results and the likelihood that benefits will continue after project closure.
10. Identify lessons learned, good practices and recommendations for future ASB programming in Iraq.

5. Evaluation Scope

The evaluation will cover the **Iraq component of ZZZ2304-IRK only**.

The geographical scope will include:

- Al-Dour District;
- Al-Alam District;
- Baiji district;
- Salahaddin Governorate, Iraq.

The evaluation will cover the full project implementation period and all relevant project interventions implemented in the three targeted districts.

The evaluation will consider the perspectives of:

- Direct and indirect community members;
- Relevant project participants and beneficiaries;
 - o Municipal authorities;
 - o Government representatives;
 - o Civil society organisations;
 - o Tikrit university
 - o Community representatives and structures;
 - o WASH stakeholders;
 - o Disaster-risk and climate-related actors;
 - o Project staff and management;
 - o Relevant partners and other stakeholders.

The evaluation will not assess project components implemented in other countries under the global programme.

6. Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation will use the OECD DAC evaluation criteria as the principal framework:

Relevance: Assess whether the project responded appropriately to the needs and priorities of targeted communities, municipalities, CSOs and other stakeholders in the Iraqi context.

Coherence: Assess the compatibility of the project with relevant local, governorate and national priorities, policies and other interventions addressing WASH, water scarcity, environmental sustainability, climate change and disaster-risk reduction.

Effectiveness: Assess the extent to which planned outputs and outcomes were achieved and identify the factors that facilitated or constrained achievement.

Efficiency: Assess whether resources, time, technical assistance and project management arrangements were used appropriately to achieve the intended results.

Impact: Assess the positive and negative, intended and unintended, direct and indirect changes to which the project contributed.

Sustainability: Assess the likelihood that project benefits, capacities, mechanisms, practices and systems will continue after project closure.

7. Evaluation Methodology

The evaluation will use a **mixed-methods approach**, combining quantitative and qualitative methods.

The methodology should allow the evaluator to triangulate information from project documentation, monitoring data, beneficiaries, communities, institutions and other stakeholders.

The evaluator is expected to develop a detailed methodology and sampling strategy during the inception phase.

Proposed methods include:

- Desk review;

- Quantitative data analysis;
- Key Informant Interviews (KIs);
- Focus Group Discussions (FGDs);
- Stakeholder interviews;
- Community consultations;
- Observation/site visits where relevant;
- Review of project-supported plans, mechanisms and tools;
- Review of training and capacity-building evidence;
- Before-and-after comparison with baseline data
- Triangulation of quantitative and qualitative findings.

8. Target Group/ Sampling

The evaluator will propose a representative and context-appropriate sampling strategy during the inception phase.

The sample should ensure appropriate representation of:

- The three target districts;
- Relevant beneficiary/community groups;
- Women;
- Persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups where applicable;
- Municipal authorities;
- Government representatives;
- CSOs;
- Community representatives;
- Other relevant stakeholders.

The final sampling approach should balance statistical reliability, geographical coverage, stakeholder representation and available resources.

9. Ethical Considerations

The evaluation must comply with recognised ethical standards for evaluation and humanitarian research.

The evaluator will:

- Obtain informed consent from participants;
- Ensure voluntary participation;
- Maintain confidentiality;
- Protect participants' personal information;
- Avoid unnecessary collection of sensitive information;
- Ensure safe and appropriate participation of vulnerable groups;
- Ensure that participation does not expose individuals to harm;
- Maintain independence and impartiality;
- Declare any actual or potential conflict of interest.

No participant should experience negative consequences as a result of participating in the evaluation.

10. Evaluation Deliverables

The selected evaluator/consultant will be expected to provide the following deliverables:

ASB Responsibilities:

- Provide all relevant project documentation
- Facilitate access to stakeholders if needed
- Review and provide feedback on deliverables.

Evaluator Responsibilities:

Inception Report: The inception report should include:

- Detailed evaluation methodology;
- Evaluation questions;
- Data collection tools;
- Sampling strategy;
- Data analysis plan;
- Workplan and timeline;
- Ethical and safeguarding measures;
- Limitations and mitigation measures.

Data Collection Tools: The evaluator will develop and submit all proposed tools for ASB review before data collection, including:

- Survey questionnaire;
- KII guides;
- FGD guides;
- Observation/site-visit checklist where relevant;
- Consent procedures.

Preliminary Findings: A presentation of preliminary findings should be provided to ASB following completion of data collection and initial analysis.

Draft Evaluation Report: The draft report should present:

- Executive summary;
- Project background;
- Evaluation methodology;
- Limitations;
- Findings;
- Analysis against OECD DAC criteria;
- Cross-cutting findings;
- Lessons learned;
- Conclusions;
- Recommendations;
- Annexes.

Final Evaluation Report: The final report will incorporate ASB's comments and provide clear, evidence-based findings and actionable recommendations.

11. Qualifications and Experience of the Evaluator

The evaluation should be conducted by an independent evaluator or evaluation team with:

- At least **5 years of relevant professional experience** in programme evaluation;
- Demonstrated experience conducting final, outcome or impact evaluations;
- Experience with humanitarian and/or development programmes;
- Strong knowledge of OECD DAC evaluation criteria;
- Strong quantitative and qualitative data-analysis skills;
- Experience in WASH, climate change, environmental sustainability and/or disaster-risk reduction;
- Experience working in Iraq or a comparable context;
- Strong report-writing and analytical skills;
- Demonstrated ability to engage with government, civil society and community stakeholders;
- Strong understanding of gender, disability and inclusion;
- Fluency in Arabic; knowledge of English; is an advantage.

12. Indicative Timeline

The assignment is expected to commence by **1 September 2026**, including the selection of the evaluator, initial coordination, and inception meetings, and should be completed by the **second week of October 2026**. The full evaluation process, from inception and planning through to the submission and presentation of the final report, is expected to be completed within approximately **30 working days**. This timeframe will cover evaluator preparation, desk review, inception, fieldwork, data collection and analysis, report drafting, finalisation, and presentation of findings.

Activity	Indicative duration
Contracting and preparation	1 day
Desk review	2 days
Inception report	2 days
Tool development and approval	3 days
Data collection	5-7 days
Data analysis	4 days
Draft report	4-5 days
Presentation/validation	1 day
ASB review	1-2 days
Final report	2-3 days

13. Reporting and Management

- The evaluator will report to the ASB Iraq Country Office and work closely with the MEAL and program units. All reports will be submitted in English. Progress updates shall be shared **every week (every Sunday)** via phone call, with more frequent coordination during key phases such as data collection and analysis.
- All deliverables shall be subject to review and approval by ASB before final acceptance.