

Housing Land and Property (HLP) Rights Expert / Advisor - Pakistan

Terms of Reference (TORs)

Duration of the Contract:	90 days spanning over 6 months
Duty Station:	Home-based, with missions to Pakistan when needed
Level:	According to the NORCAP policy
Years of Experience:	15 Years
Expected Time of Deployment:	April 2023

Background

Pakistan has recently witnessed the worst flood in its history. According to NDMA, thirty-three million people have been affected across the country with consequential loss of lives, houses, crops, livestock etc. While the floods are receding, the affected families urgently need to be rehabilitated on lands and their houses rebuilt as winter is approaching fast.

Without the provision of land and houses to those affected by floods, the sustainability of recovery and reconstruction efforts will be severely undermined. Furthermore, it will adversely affect the already fragile social equilibrium in a country like Pakistan, so there is an added urgency for making an adequate intervention.

The property rights system in Pakistan is complicated; a huge percentage of land belongs to the citizens while State also has ownership of some lands and the State has a right to acquire private land in public interest after payment of compensation (The Land Acquisition Act 1894). The land registration/documentation system is also complex and varies in urban and rural areas whereas different laws deal with different situations and entitlements (The Registration Act 1908, the Land Revenue Act 1867).

Furthermore, the situation becomes more complex in the presence of centuries old customs and attitudes disempowering women from their due legal share in property/inheritance. This land system has come under tremendous pressure due to growing population as well.

The first and foremost effort should be to rehabilitate owners/residents on their own lands and houses. However, this seemingly simple exercise may involve substantial problems. In the event of flood having washed away prominent land marks and survey coordinates, difficulty will arise in the identification /delineation on the ground of a particular field of land. Disputes may arise among neighboring landlords about the boundaries of their holdings. Intervention of Land Revenue department with relevant land Record will therefore become absolutely necessary for the demarcation of individual holdings in the rural areas. Situation regarding owners getting possession of their urban housing will comparatively be simpler.

In view of the above UN-Habitat working jointly with UNCHR, and the other agencies to start an initiative to increase access for the affected families particularly women to HLP rights.

As a member of Inter-Agency Standing Committee, UN-Habitat has been engaged in humanitarian response in Yemen, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Somalia, Afghanistan, Sudan and many other countries. In Pakistan, UN-Habitat remained as the chair of the Housing, Land and Property Rights (HLP) sub-cluster, under the Protection cluster. The overarching goal of the HLP sub-cluster is to facilitate a more predictable, accountable and effective HLP response in humanitarian emergencies. In line with the Principles of Partnership endorsed by the Global Humanitarian Platform, the HLP sub-cluster operates as an open and inclusive forum to benefit from the wide range of expertise within the HLP community of practice.

The objective of this assignment is to assist the day-to-day management, coordination, monitoring and reporting of UN-Habitat's HLP projects and subsequent support to the HLP Working Group.

Reporting Line:

The Expert/Advisor will be hired and work under the overall supervision of Head of UN-Habitat Country Programme:

Duties and Responsibilities:

Within the delegated authority and under the supervision of Head of UN-Habitat of Pakistan Office, the HLP Expert/Advisor will be responsible for the following duties:

- Support the effective and efficient execution of UN-Habitat HLP projects and management of the project resources through resource mobilization activities, technical guidance, quality, cost control and ensure support of the project resources as per approved project document and substantive work plan.
- Prepare relevant documentation and reports related to projects.
- Coordinate the representation of UN-Habitat in HLP Working Group, inter-cluster coordination mechanisms and other relevant forums.
- Researches, analyzes and presents information gathered from diverse sources.
- Support in policy development, including the review and analysis of issues and trends, preparation of evaluations or other research activities and studies.
- Coordinate survey initiatives; designs data collection tools; reviews, analyzes and interprets responses, identifies problems/issues and prepares conclusions.
- Prepares various written outputs, e.g. draft background papers, analysis, sections of reports and studies, inputs to publications, etc.
- Undertakes outreach activities; conducts training workshops, seminars, etc.; makes presentations on assigned topics/activities.
- Coordinates activities related to the HLP projects.
- Develop and maintain effective partnership with counterparts including members of HLP Working Group and other relevant clusters, government counterparts and donors.
- Advocate for HLP in the humanitarian response and leads the mainstreaming of HLP in recovery, stabilization and reconstruction activities.
- Resource mobilization efforts for HLP-related projects and activities and develop project proposals, concept notes and project briefs as required.

- Gather information and data collection for programmes and activities related to HLP, legal issues and tenure through both desk review and field visits.
 - Provide support to plan, implement and monitor HLP sub-cluster activities.
 - Define the needs and provide the information required for the customization of the Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM) tool to Pakistan context, in coordination with GLTN.
 - Collect data, information management and development of data collection tools related to HLP, legal and tenure.
 - Provide technical inputs in the development of relevant UN-Habitat projects, plans and strategies.
 - Provide technical advice, strategic advice and coordination support for the Protection Cluster and its partners
 - Support effective implementation of HLP rights programming by UN and partner agencies
 - Provide technical inputs to strengthen the impact of UNDP's HLP initiatives in Pakistan.
 - Provide technical advice and mentoring for stakeholders in the development of strategies and policies
 - Support integration of HLP issues into programming in the flood affected areas in all the relevant fields.
 - Act as the technical liaison on HLP rights issues with stakeholders, including by providing analysis and technical advice as required
 - Propose, support the design of, or conduct research and analysis on HLP and displacement issues
 - Providing high quality technical assistance on HLP issues to counterparts:
 - Strengthen implementing partners' ability to work effectively on HLP issues, assist them to develop HLP training materials responsive to issues of the affected communities, and to integrate HLP rights issues into their awareness raising programmes and legal assistance at the community level.
 - Build capacity and strengthen coordination between national and subnational networks of HLP practitioners.
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How to apply:

Please send your CV with a short cover letter (max 250 words) to the following email address: jawed.ali-khan@un.org before the 31 March 2023