Programme: Economic and social participation of vulnerable displaced and local populations in the South Caucasus" (EPIC)

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Activity:　　Mapping of Syrian Armenians in the regions of Armenia and their needs assessment

Period:　　01 October 2018 – 15 December 2018
　　　　　　　(up to 50 expert days)

1. **Project/Topic Background**

The programme on Economic and social participation of vulnerable displaced and local populations in the South Caucasus /EPIC was designed with the objective to improve socio-economic participation of vulnerable displaced and population of selected host communities in the South Caucasus. The objective is translated into three closely related fields of activity:

1. Strengthening capacities of public actors to promote economic and social participation of vulnerable population, both displaced and local
2. Increasing employability of target groups with a special focus on women and youth;
3. Enabling private sector actors to apply new measures to promote local economic development and to promotion business start-ups
4. Empowering communities and their individuals to actively participate in society.

The South Caucasus, since 1991 has witnessed a number of regional conflicts that resulted in proportionally huge displacements of population and large communities of displaced in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. Different factors hamper the economic and social integration of displaced population in their host-communities, among them a lack of vocational qualifications and key competencies that match the demands of the local labour market and a lack of opportunities to participate in decisions about the local development in their host-communities.

Due to the war in Syria there was another significant movement to Armenia primarily of people with ethnic Armenian background. According to the Government of Armenia and UNHCR, the number of persons displaced from Syria currently present in Armenia is estimated to be around 15 000-17 000. While these figures are small in absolute numbers, they constitute a significant challenge for a small country such as Armenia. The government needed to expand its capacity to respond to the humanitarian challenges, elevate its process of naturalisation and prepare for the integration of thousands of new citizens into the labour market and larger society.

The RA government introduced a number of measures assisting persons displaced from Syria, offering them a variety of protection options, namely by way of (i) simplified acquisition of citizenship, (ii) accelerated asylum procedures or (iii) privileged granting of short, mid-term or long-term residence permits.

The quite heterogeneous and diverse in terms of professional background and skills group of Syrian Armenians (SAs) is welcomed with open arms by the RA government and society. This combination of i) SA enthusiasm, broad skills, experience especially in the Middle East and Mediterranean and service-orientation together with ii) Armenia's declared interest and commitment for their integration supported by the international community offers excellent pre-conditions to tap into the many economic opportunities. This can possibly help Armenia's economy to innovate and grow and open new markets regionally and internationally.

The core problem of SAs for their economic integration in Armenia had been the lack of access to existing business networks as well as to employment and business support programmes and finance in order to rebuild their livelihood. Therefore, the project for "Economic Integration of Syrian Refugees in Armenia" (EISRA) was commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to improve the economic integration of Syrian refugees in Armenia. It was attached to the GIZ programme 'Private Sector Development in South Caucasus (PSD SC)' and its country component in Armenia. The project lasted for 3 years and ended in March 2018.

The Armenian component of the technical cooperation (TC) measure under the EPIC programme will be launched in October 2018 aimed at economic integration of displaced persons from Syria.

It is well known that Syrian Armenians are urbanised and concentrated mainly in the capital city Yerevan. Still some of them are also settled in the regions of Armenia, however there is no comprehensive data on the numbers, profile and needs of those located in the regions. To fill in this gap the project plans a mapping exercise in order to acquire the up-to-date information on SAs settled in the regions of Armenia. It is envisaged that the mapping will be done in close cooperation with the RA State Employment Agency (SEA) of the RA Ministry of Labour and Social Issues. The assignment implies also close cooperation with other state intuitions, such as RA Ministry of Diaspora, RA Ministry of Territorial Administration, RA State Migration Service and local municipalities to ensure comprehensive data collection not only with regard to the job-seekers but also including those who are not registered at the regional centres of the SEA.

2. Conditions of the assignment

2.1 Objective tasks and responsibilities

a. Objective

Establishing a comprehensive and user-friendly digital database on the target group residing in the regions of Armenia (including municipalities close to Yerevan). Creation and making accessible a comprehensive database and more precise and up-to-date needs assessment for the target group in the regions will thoroughly inform the various stakeholders involved in the field of SA economic integration and take well-informed decisions on interventions.

a. Tasks and deliverables

I <u>Design a database concept</u>

Merging the existing databases structures (e.g. demographics, population, employment status, economic/employment sectors, potentials, desires, needs, education, skills) and a methodical approach to compile the (still) needed data, which shall serve as a basis for the interpretation of the data leading to the identification of relevant activities for the target group (need assessment). The needs assessment should be differentiated/categorised by socio and economic conditions of the target group (e.g. age, gender, sector, education, unemployed, employed, entrepreneur, income, number of family members living in one household). socio-economic background). A user-friendly database shall be established preferably web-based, which will allow administrative access for update and maintenance, as well as it might offer decentralized access to information for the stakeholders. The concept should provide data protection conditions for sharing the database with the stakeholders. Stakeholders shall be trained further supplementing and using the data base, therefore it shall be set up in a comprehensible way.

II <u>Merging existing databases and collecting information</u>

Implementation of the created and approved database design by combining already existing databases (taking into consideration also the privacy rights and data protection), collecting the missing data about the target group and their needs. The database should reflect the data of SAs settled in the regions of Armenia who are looking for support and want to be engaged in activities offered by supporting organisations. The contracted company should assume responsibility for networking and engaging with related stakeholders from state and non-state actors.

III <u>Needs Assessment</u>

Conduct survey based on the created database to identify and analyze the needs of the target group. The survey methodology should apply qualitative and quantitative approaches to identify key obstacles Syrian Armenians face in the regions and measure the level of their economic integration and associated specific needs.

2.2   Deliverables and resources

Tasks – Deliverables	Timeline
I. Prepare and present a concept for the database design, structure and methodology.	
1. Develop the design of the structure for a comprehensive database (taking into consideration existing databases) with all relevant categories which also serve as basis for the interpretation/identification of relevant activities for	*1 October 2018*

Tasks – Deliverables	Timeline
the target group.	
2. Develop an appropriate methical approach to get in contact with the target group in the regions of Armenia and compile missing and additional data for a complete and comprehensive database	*15 October 2018*
3. Desk study/analysis	*30 October 2018*
4. Identification of target group and their needs in the regions of Armenia	
5. Present and report the drafts of database design, methical approach and needs assessment research plan to GIZ EPIC. Discuss and revise the drafts by integrating GIZ comments for final approval by GIZ.	
6. Present and report the revised and final version of the database design, methical approach and need assessment research plan to GIZ EPIC	*15 November 2018*
II. Merging existing databases and collecting information	
1. Implementation of the database design by **merging and integrating the existing databases into one** based on the categories agreed upon in the concept.	*3 December 2018*
2. Implementation of the concept by **compiling the missing and additional data** for a comprehensive database on the target group and their needs. The database should consist of SA economic actors (existing entrepreneurs and/or start-ups in need of support) and their specific characteristics and needs.	
3. Implementation of the concept by **interpreting/analysing the data** about the target group (by the various categories such as employment status and demographics)	

Tasks – Deliverables	Timeline
III. Needs Assessment	
1. **Conduct a survey among the identified target group in the regions for the respective needs analysis** in the context of improving skills, capabilities and employment opportunities in Armenia (needs assessment).	*By 3 December 2018*
2. Present draft needs assessment report to GIZ EPIC; finalise the report based on the received comments (study of up to 20 text pages excluding/not counting charts and illustrations) and prepare visualisation (PPT with up to 25 slides).	*Draft **by 5 December 2018** for discussion.* ***Final report** to GIZ EPIC based on comments and discussions **by 15 December 2018.***

2.3 Conditions and payment terms

Payment shall be effected based on the type of remuneration, following the performance of services, submission of reports, acceptance of services performed and invoicing. If travel to Yerevan or other places in Armenia is necessary, then the possibly required number and cost of travel should be clearly stated in the offer.

2.4 Coordination and communication

The hired company reports to the GIZ EPIC project coordinator. The consultants will coordinate closely in all technical issues with the GIZ EPIC team members. All activities have to be approved by the GIZ team beforehand.

2.5 Submission Requirements

The hired company needs to meet the following requirements:

- Proven expertise in the area of conducting research and needs analysis similar to the assignment (proven by references attached to the offer)
- Proven expertise in advanced statistical research skills and database administration to be used especially by practitioners/non-researchers
- Ability to access, establish and manage networks
- Proficiency in English and Armenian language (written and spoken), knowledge of Western Armenian and Arabic languages and mentality are an asset.
- Deliverables in British English
- Prior experience in dealing with Syrian Armenians in Armenia and their economic integration is a strong asset (proven by references attached to the offer)

- Excellent understanding of and ability to meet the demands and standards of an institution of international development cooperation
- Excellent understanding of how to approach and communicate with private businesses/start-ups, intermediaries, international organisations, government
- Structured, efficient, transparent and professional way of cooperation and communication
  Creative and innovate approaches for substantial and user-friendly publications and presentations