

TERMS OF REFERENCE

STUDY ON "CHALLENGES FOR ACCESSING LOCAL WATER BODIES OF FISHERS-FOLK COMMUNITY MEMBERS OF NORTHERN REGION AND CHAR INHABITANTS OF BANGLADESH"

Food Security Thematic Programme (FSTP)
Oxfam in Bangladesh

Background

Oxfam in Bangladesh has been implementing food security governance projects in three northern districts namely Kurigram, Rangpur and Dinajpur with the financial assistance of European Union. The project strives to increase awareness of vulnerable farmers' and fisher folks' on various rights and entitlements issues and establish/increase their access to different government's facilities and services and participation in the decision making processes. Three implementing partners namely Polli Sree-Dinajpur, ZIBIKA-Kurigram and SEED-Rangpur are directly working with 10,000 farmers and fisher folks and organized/ formed 60 Community Based Organizations (CBO) under 12 unions. As part of campaign and mobilization activities, numbers of dialogues, linkage building workshops, mass gathering and round table meeting with MPs and other political leaders and government officials were organized by Partner organizations in respective areas. Oxfam along with the PNGOs have also successfully organized the 1st National Farmer's Assembly in May 2014 in Dhaka at the BIAM Foundation auditorium. Over 400 farmers and fisher folks, civil society representatives, government representatives, policy makers, development practitioners, experts, journalists from print and electronic media participated in the Assembly.

Overall Objective of the study

To identify problems and challenges faced by fisher folk community members residing in northern char area of Bangladesh in accessing water bodies and availing related government's extension services to ensure food and income security.

Specific objectives

- To identify the existing **status of reorganization** of true/ authentic fisher folks community members residing in northern char areas of Bangladesh
- To identify the specific challenges faced by fisher folk community members residing in northern char areas of Bangladesh with regarding to **access to local water bodies** for livelihood purpose;
- To document the existing **leasing process/ practices** (of government) of local water bodies in northern regions of Bangladesh
- To **identify gaps** between existing policies and prevailing practice with regards to access to water bodies for marginal/ traditional/ authentic fisher folk community members of northern areas of Bangladesh.
- To document the attitude and behaviour of local level government officials, local elites and influential, political actors toward the fisher folk community members.
- To understand the local power-structure dynamics with regards to access to local water bodies.

Some Guiding Research Questions

It is to be noted that, these questions are not exclusive and it is expected by the consultant to develop similar questions to make this list comprehensive.

- What are the challenges and barriers of fisher folk community members in northern char areas of Bangladesh with regards to access to water bodies?
- What are the legislative and policy provision for vulnerable fisher folk community members of Bangladesh?
- What are the support/ service provisions offered by the government's respective line departments for fisher folk community members of Bangladesh?
- Adequacy, appropriateness and relevance of existing support, services, subsidies, access to finance etc.
- Challenges and barriers faced by fisher folk community members in accessing government service facilities and entitlements?
- What are government's monitoring and accountability mechanisms to ensure rights and entitlements for fisher folk community members?
- Role of the local elites, elected representatives and influential persons in ensuring rights and entitlements of fisher folk community members of Bangladesh?

Scope of study

It is expected that the study will check the existing status of fisher folk community members in project locations. The scope will also include review of relevant policies and official documents/orders and other relevant secondary documents on the existing services provisions. Some supporting case stories/ human interest stories can/ should also be prepared to support the findings of the study. The consultant will find-out the gaps in the support and services of respective department through physical field visits including interview, observation and FGD in the project area including Rangpur and Kurigram district. The FGD will be implemented with assistance from PNGO team and have to incorporate the field findings in the study report accordingly. The analysis and data collection should be gender segregated and special emphasize should be provided to capture, document and highlights women's rights and entitlements issues in the study process.

Deliverable:

1. Full Study report in English with an executive summary and specific recommendation;
2. Develop an abstract of the report with no more than 500 words;
3. Finalize the report addressing the comments/feedback from Oxfam;
4. **Prepare a summary (synopsis) of the report in Bangla and present it in the Parallel Session of the assembly day in 15th of September 2015 (Possible);**

The report should include:

- The gender perspective, diversity and discrimination to for availing access to services.
- The report will be prepared on the basis of study and information generated from the working area of the project where CBOs supported under this project are dealing with such challenges.
- The report will reveal community's demand and further support required from relevant departments of the government.
- The paper will come up with specific recommendations to improve the water body management system, relevant services and support towards vulnerable fisher folk community.

Responsibility of the consultant:

- Develop clear methodology and the timeframe of the study
- Review the policy and implementation gaps (gaps between policy and practice/implementation) identified through social audits, dialogues and public hearing process.

- Review the policy and identify its limitations, collect field level information on the implementation status of water body management and fishery policy (FGD and KII with relevance stake holders).
- Submit the draft report to Oxfam for comments/feedback
- **Finalize the report addressing the comments/feedback from Oxfam**
- **Prepare a summary (synopsis) of the report for the assembly in Bangla and present it in parallel Session on assembly day in September 2015.**

Responsibilities of Oxfam:

- Provide comments and necessary adjustment on designed methodology.
- Ensure support for arranging the field level activities.
- Feedback on draft report and key note paper

Assessment criteria for selection of the consultant:

| Sl. Number | Area of assessment | Score distribution | Remarks |
|------------|---------------------------|--------------------|---------|
| 01 | Understanding of the ToR | 10 | |
| 02 | Relevant experience | 15 | |
| 03 | Proposed methodologies | 15 | |
| 04 | Financial competitiveness | 10 | |
| | Total marks | 50 | |

Timeline of the study:

- 1st of July to 31st July 2015 (Four week)
- Submission of draft report and key note paper by 1st of August 2015 without any delay.
- Submission of final report 12th of August 2015 after accommodating necessary feedback

Area to be covered: Rangpur and Kurigram

Maximum funding available: BDT 2, 75,000.00 including VAT & Tax

How to apply:

The Individual/firm must submit the following documents along with Technical & Financial Proposal (including VAT/TAX):

For Individual Consultant:

- Maximum 2 page CV highlighting related assignment completed with client name, contract person and mobile number (this person must have fulltime engagement during assignment time)
- Other Team members' one page short CV highlighting related assignment completed
- TIN Certificate (PDF soft version)

Application Instruction:

We invite proposal from interested individuals to undertake this assignment. **Please refer detailed TOR for this assignment** and submit your letter of interest to abakshi@oxfam.org.uk by **25 June, 2015**.