

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR MEDIA FELLOWSHIP 2019

ON INEQUALITY AND OPPORTUNITIES IN CHAR AREAS OF BANGLADESH

Background of the Project

Oxfam employs more than six thousand people in 90 countries who share a commitment to work together to end poverty and suffering. It is committed to ensure diversity and gender equality within the organization and welcomes applications from women, person with disability and under-represented groups. Oxfam does not discriminate against applicants or employees based on their HIV/AIDS status. The organization has been working in Bangladesh since the War of Independence and has established a permanent country office in 1972. Since then it has responded to all major emergencies in the country. Oxfam's current program focuses on Economic Justice & Resilience, Gender and Women's Leadership and Humanitarian Capacity Building and Response.

A simple, inescapable truth underlines everything we do at Oxfam. There's enough wealth in this world to go around. It's not unfortunate that people live in poverty. It's unjustifiable. It's not their problem. It's ours too. And with the right support, we can stop poverty and suffering in their tracks. More than 8,000 people already commit their time and talents to our humanitarian and long-term development projects. Now we're looking for yours.

Oxfam in Bangladesh is looking for applications for "Media Fellowship 2019 on "Inequality and Opportunities in Char areas of Bangladesh". We invite applications from journalists, with demonstrated interest in covering emergency, disaster and development issues in Bangladesh, to undertake field based research and write articles/stories on various facets of inequalities and potential opportunities in Char areas of Bangladesh.

Rationale for the Media Fellowship

While Bangladesh has made remarkable achievements in terms of poverty reduction and Millennium Development Goals (MDG), the large Char areas of the country are identified as major poverty pockets, where the socio-economic conditions are significantly backward compared to the rest of the country. For example, Northern Char areas (in Bogra, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Jamalpur and Sirajganj districts) are among the fragile agro-ecological zones in Bangladesh (HKI and JPGSPH, 2011). The Char people indeed are a group who are yet to get the fair share of the overall development of the country. Hence, improving their condition is among the most significant pre-requisites of attaining the SDGs and nationally set macro-economic objectives.

On the other hand, there is huge untapped potential especially in terms of agro-business lying in these Char areas. It has been pointed out that a shift in traditional agricultural practices can unleash a lot of agricultural potential. For example, a shift from Boro rice to maize or wheat can increase the landproductivity remarkably in the Northern Char areas (ZEF Working Paper, 2013)². Both state and non-state actors have been working relentlessly with a view to improve the living standard in those areas for almost three decades. These have yielded significant positive changes

and brought forward furthers scope of intervention. For example, an intervention designed to promote vegetable cultivation by women in Char areas is contributing in economic empowerment of women in those remote areas and has improved socio-economic conditions of the Char households to a significant extent.

Media has a strong influence in creating mass awareness and sensitize relevant stakeholder including policy decision maker. Through this process, we are aiming to develop a resource pool within mainstream media who will play a proactive role in promoting the issues of char land in Bangladesh. green building in Bangladesh.

The overall aim of the fellowship program is to investigate and collect evidence-based stories on social inequalities in Char areas. At the same time the reporter should identify if there are opportunities for mainstream development in the char areas. The idea is to further sensitize the stakeholders through national mass media on the ongoing development agenda of the government.

Oxfam is providing Two (2) fellowships, for field visits to the Char region of Bangladesh for research-based media stories. Oxfam itself is also working to improve the conditions of the Char people through the Resilience through Economic Empowerment Climate Adaptation Leadership and Learning (REE-CALL) project

Objective of the Fellowship

The objective of this assignment is to sensitize and create a greater understanding of the issues around inequalities persist in char areas and government and other actors' agenda of development to mainstream the people of char areas of Bangladesh.

Issues to be covered in the Reports

Oxfam aims to engage national media (print and electronic) to share information about the following issues related to char areas of Bangladesh:

- Education system
- Treatment system
- Clean drinking water and sanitation system
- Communication system
- Unemployment
- Disaster resilience employment
- Land rights
- Power/electricity system
- VGD & VGF
- Technical education, training,
- Technology
- Agricultural system, inputs, opportunities
- Market system/facilities, proper price of productive materials

We expect the selected fellows will interview relevant stakeholders including but not limited to Minister/s, government high officials, academia, expert and suggest recommendations for addressing inequality, potential investment /development.

Timeline & Deliverable of the Fellowship

- The media fellows are expected to produce various forms of reports like special articles, featured articles, investigative /analytical report, op-ed etc in national media (print/electronic).
- Investigative reports will be published/telecasted in popular daily newspaper (Bangla/English) or Bangla TV channel.
- All reports must be publish/telecasted within 30 days after signing agreement.
- An anthology of reports with relevant information to be submitted to Oxfam
- Each awarded fellow should produce minimum 3 stories.

Selection Process

Following publishing advertisement for inviting application, Oxfam will review and shortlist applications as per its procurement policy and award the fellowship based on compatibility.

Eligibility

To be eligible for a Media Fellowship, applicants must:

- Be a full time or freelance journalist;
- Has at least 03 years of working experience as journalist either print or electronic media;
- Has relevant experience and knowledge of investigative reporting on environment, policy issues, development, political issues etc.

The General Terms and Conditions:

- Articles/reports or contents must focus on selected issue and finalized in consultation with Oxfam.
- One orientation session is mandatory for all selected fellows;
- Fellows will be responsible to publish their publications in their respective media outlets;
- All reports must cover investigative information with relevant reference;
- In any circumstances, the recruited journalist/media house should not change the agreed the timeline unless there is written approval from Oxfam;
- The recruited journalist/media house must maintain the standard quality in data collection, processing and reporting;
- The selected journalist/media house shall revise or modify sections of the draft report based on suggestions from Oxfam;
- In case of deviation, Oxfam has the right to terminate the agreement at any point of the assignment or deduct/cancel payment.

Guideline for Proposal Submission

The proposal/expression of interest (duly signed) should comprise with the following sections and given page limit. Proposal will be accepted only through email in PDF form duly signed by mentioning subject line **“Media fellowship on Inequality and Opportunities in Char areas of Bangladesh by 14**

March 2019 at hrrbd@oxfam.org.uk (Any kind of persuasion for obtaining fellowship will be considered as non-qualification of the applicant.)

Topic	Maximum Page Limit
Technical Proposal	
Cover Page	1 Page
Table of Content	1 Page
Understanding of the Assignment (Without copying from the ToR content)	3 Page
Proposed Methodology	2 Pages
Work Schedule	1 page
Team composition along with its rationale (if required)	2 pages
Any other relevant information (if required)	3 pages
Financial Proposal	
Budget details:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultancy days and fees (days should be mentioned for key member of the team) • Travel and accommodation • Any other expenditure (please mention nature of expenditure) • Mention 15% VAT and incorporate 10% tax within total cost • Total amount 	

Evaluation criteria

Criteria	Weight
Technical	30
1. Understanding of the ToR	10
2. Methodology	10
3. Strong skill and expertise on carrying out similar assignment (based on provided evidence)	10
Financial	20
Total	50

How to Apply

The individual journalist /media house must submit the following documents along with Technical & Financial Proposal. The financial proposal should include 15% VAT ONLY. Oxfam will deduct 10% Income Tax at source from the agreed consultancy amount.

For Media House

- Maximum 2 page organizational profile highlighting related assignment completed with client name, contract person and mobile number;
- Lead journalist (who will lead the assignment) Maximum 2 page CV highlighting related assignment completed, role in of the completed assignment;
- Firm's Certificate, TIN and VAT registration;
- Sample of two published report that best illustrate her/his (lead journalist) interest, knowledge and capability to carry out the fellowship assignment.

For Individual Journalist

- Maximum 2 page profile highlighting related assignment completed with client name, contract person and mobile number along with detailed CV;
- TIN certificate and any other relevant document (if necessary);
- Sample of two published report that illustrated her/his interest, knowledge and capability to carry out the fellowship assignment.
 - A recommendation letter from News Editor/Assignment Editor is required along with the application.