
TERMS OF REFERENCE – PERCEPTION STUDY ON GENDER AND POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN SELECTED AREAS OF BANGLADESH

1. Background

Aparajita: Women's Political Empowerment is an SDC mandate awarded to Helvetas Swiss Incorporation, which implements the project in six different geographical clusters in Bangladesh in collaboration with Bangladeshi NGOs, which in the past had implemented earlier phases of the project, or, in one case, a similar project. Working under an overall development goal of promoting women's empowerment (stated as, "Aparajita contributes to equal participation, representation and leadership of women within local governance"), the project has three intended outcomes corresponding to: 1) engaging with potential and elected women representatives (P&EWRs) at the Union Parishad level with focus on building their capacity as individual and collective actors; 2) engaging with male members of the P&EWRs' families and local communities, and with other influential persons and local institutions that support the inclusion of women in local political life; and 3) seeking to influence policies and legal frameworks in ways that promote women's political empowerment.

2. Rationale

Given the above context, the assignment of this consultancy would be to focus on Outcome 2 of the project's objectives, largely looking into the secondary stakeholders that the project works with, and their roles in the lives and successes of the P&EWRs. This will help to understand the current scenario in the working areas of the project, regarding how the socio-economic context is in the Union Parishads, and from the community in how they perceive the role of women in political positions.

3. Objective

The objective of the assignment has a few layers:

- i. To create an understanding of the current context in the sampled Unions where the project is working in, in terms of how gender friendly, inclusive and supportive the Union Parishads are, and also aiming to envision the kind of UP they can aim to be by the end of the project.
- ii. Carrying out a gender equality and social equity focused assessment of the stakeholders in the wider community, including the community leaders, political parties, and even the families of the P&EWRs. This will also contribute to the baseline information for Outcome 2 & 3, and complement already collected baseline data for Outcome 1 of the project.
- iii. To provide strategic inputs on how to build on the current work, and engage better with the male UP members, family members of P&EWRs, and with the wider community.

4. Scope of Work and Methodology

- Review existing activities, gender-and social inclusion/ equity focused initiatives, strategy related documents; logframe and indicators.
- Create a work plan incorporating the objectives of the study, logframe indicators, and be part of the sampling process of unions;

- Develop research methodology, tools and plan, in collaboration with the project team;
- Conduct the study in the sampled project areas, involving project team members in the process;
- Compile a report detailing the baseline information as per the logframe indicators; and recommending strategic inputs in the way forward.
- Present the findings in a sharing workshop with the project team; and incorporate feedback into the final report.

To prepare for the assignment, the consultant will receive relevant documents for review and preparation. The process of the study will be collaborative with the project team, and the final sharing workshop will be attended by key staff of all implementing partners and HELVETAS. The consultant will prepare a research plan and finalize it in collaboration with the Project Coordination Unit of HELVETAS.

5. Deliverables

A **comprehensive study report** in English, highlighting the current context and perception of the different stakeholder groups focusing on gender and women's political empowerment. The report should more specifically include:

- Inception report including literature review, research methodology and field plan;
- Preliminary findings from the field work;
- Baseline information for chosen indicators based on the project's logframe;
- Recommendations and strategic input for engaging men and community members on relevant topics;
- Copy of the presentation on key findings for the sharing workshop.

6. Competences

The Consultant(s) must have experience working for development organisations in the past and already have expertise and experience in the field of gender, social inclusion, assessments, and preferably with experience in working in the field of masculinities.

7. Duration

The Consultancy will be for 4 weeks including 1.5 weeks of field work.

8. Submission of Proposals

The Consultant needs to submit an electronic version of a technical and financial proposal (separately) considering the scope of work. The Technical Proposal should contain: the consultancy firm profile including relevant experience, a complete description and explanation of the proposed methodology for the assignment including a detail work plan, time-line, staffing, names and qualifications of allocated personnel and any other resources that the consultancy firm might deploy to execute the study and achieve the scope of work. The Financial Proposal should stipulate the fees for the assignment including VAT and taxes. The subject line of the email should be written as '*Conducting Perception Study for Aparajita*'. The deadline for submission is 25th November, 2019.

9. Contact Person

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