HELVETAS
BANGLADESH

Call for Partnership

Panii Jibon (Water is Life) Project

Phase III 2021-2023

1. **Introduction**

This call for Partnership aims to identify National/Local Partner Organizations having the competencies and experience to implement the 3rd phase of the "Panii Jibon – Water is Life'' project (PJP). The key components of the project are 1) Climate Induced Migration 2) Food Security, Livelihood, Disaster Risk Management 3) Climate resilient Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and 4) Governance.

The call is open for the following 2 components while Governance is embedded with all three other components:

  a) **Climate induced migration**
  b) **Food Security, Livelihood and Disaster Risk Management**

Applicant organizations are invited to express their interest and **submit a proposal (as per template) for either any of the two (a or b) or both (a and b),** as per their capacities, experiences, presence in the project area and coordination and networks at local and national level.

The partner organizations will work in close cooperation with HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation (HELVETAS) in Bangladesh, which is responsible for the overall management of the project. HELVETAS will use its "partnership" approach to critically reflect on progress and steer the project jointly with the partners. The Partner Organizations will be responsible for the planning and implementation of the detailed activities and deliverables. The partner organizations are expected to work together and collaborate closely with HELVETAS, and act as an alliance to achieve the objectives of the project.

The overall duration of the PJP Phase III is 3 years over the period 2021-2023. However, this is to note that the contract with the selected partners will be on a year-wise renewal basis, as per HELVETAS practice, subject to approval from NGOAB and satisfactory performance and qualified audit reports.

Solely interested organizations *registered with the NGO Affairs Bureau* in Bangladesh are encouraged to apply. Application in a consortia or sub-contract of the services is not encouraged.

The applicants are invited to express their interest for 2 (two) Climate vulnerable districts Khulna and Bagerhat. The working areas are 14 unions in three sub-districts (Koyra, Paikgacha, Morrelganj). See the annex for the name of the working unions. The Applicants must apply for *all* 14 unions in three sub-districts in both the districts based on their presence and outreach capacity.

Background

Bangladesh's high vulnerability to climate change and human-made shocks and stresses leads to loss and damages of productive assets, crops, livestock, and infrastructure and contributes to food insecurity and poverty. Vulnerable people lack absorptive, adaptive, and transformative capacity to effectively prepare for and respond to natural disasters such as flooding and cyclones, as well as economic and political shocks, such as those resulting from displacement or food price hikes.

The southwest coastal region of Bangladesh is one of the country's most disaster-prone areas, experiencing both slow and sudden-onset disasters. It is a densely populated region, with an estimated 14 million inhabitants, which corresponds to roughly 9% of Bangladesh's total population (Population Monograph of Bangladesh 2015/BBS 2018). Around 20% of the people belong to the poor and about 10% to the extreme poor

in this area (Household Income and Expenditure Survey Poverty and Extreme Poverty Position by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics[1]). Teamed with demographic and social challenges, the increasing frequency and intensity of cyclones, storms, floods, and salinity intrusion have severely damaged communities throughout this area. Simultaneously, the region is a food deficit area where net food production and diversity of food production have declined significantly over recent decades.

Khulna and Bagerhat – the two target districts of the Panii Jibon project are those of the most vulnerable in this area. Both districts are experiencing climate-related impacts in the form of sudden-onset events (extreme events) like cyclones, storms, tidal floods, and increasing salinity as a slow-onset disaster.

In a country whose economy is primarily based on agriculture and fisheries, ensuring proper adaptation to climate change to provide adequate food production is essential to fight poverty and improve food security. Hence, in Phase 1 and 2, the project responded to these needs by focusing on enhancing food security and water access in the context of a changing climate.

Phase 2 of Panii Jibon project has been implemented by HELVETAS and four local partners with funding from the Climate Justice Resilience Fund (2018-2020) and the City of Zurich (2020). To strengthen the resilience and improve disadvantaged communities' well-being in this disaster-prone area, Panii Jibon project has addressed a set of interrelated and catalytic entry points, which enhanced the absorptive, adaptive, and transformative capacities of about 100,000 people, particularly vulnerable women and youths. Response strategies, which address basic rights to water and food, have been leveraged and sustained with actions that i) enhance economic inclusion (access to markets), ii) contributed to the diversification of income from outside the area (migration & livelihoods), iii) strengthened governance and advocacy capabilities, mechanisms that support community-led initiatives and foster accountability for public resource allocation and climate change finance.

2. Project Goals and Theory of Change

Panii Jibon's Impact Hypothesis for Phase 3 builds on the project's learnings about its achievements and challenges in the previous two phases.

The overall impact hypothesis of the Project is that when climate-vulnerable communities raise their voice about climate injustice, have access to public/private service providers who deliver climate-smart services; and these communities are supported by local government institutions, who are able to integrate priorities from decentralized planning in climate finance processes; then these communities become more climate-resilient and move towards climate justice on the ground.

The overall goal is defined as: Climate vulnerable, poor rural population, living in the southwest coastal area of Bangladesh, increase their resilience by adapting and transforming their capacities in the food and water sector.

The main outcomes of the project are:

Outcome 1: Climate-vulnerable communities have access to and use affordable services to ensure food security and safe water for improved climate-resilient livelihoods.

Outcome 2: LGIs articulate and include climate-smart services into Local Development Plans with the active participation of citizens and direct involvement of the public service providers and decision-makers.

Outcome 3: Climate-resilient approaches & models are disseminated and raised to respective public authorities to influence public policies and plans for climate justice.

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[1] Poverty and Extreme Poverty Rate of Bangladesh2018-19, http://www.bbs.gov.bd/site/page/648dd9f5-067b-4bcc-ba38-45bfb9b12394/-

The partners will be responsible to develop, plan and implement activities to ensure the following outputs under 3 outcomes:

Output 1.1 Service Providers are active in promoting climate-resilient and inclusive (gender sensitive) technology dissemination and promoting market linkages.

Output 1.2 Support safer migration and "smart use of remittances" (investment into adaptation measures) as an adaption strategy to diversify household income in climate-vulnerable communities.

Output 2.1. Local CSOs have established horizontal and vertical links with local, regional and national climate platforms and seek greater transparency and accountability on resilient climate actions.

Output 2.2. Local authorities are capacitated in implementing gender and socially inclusive climate and DRR interventions.

Output 2.3 Climate Vulnerable communities are capacitated to raise their demand and negotiate their entitlement.

Output 3.1. Inter-institutional dialogues on climate justice-related issues organized and implemented (climate change and migration, decentralized climate financing, lobby and advocacy at local and national level).

Output 3.2 Evidence-based advocacy based on action research towards climate justice (raise the demand and need to research, co-related, link other action research, plan).

The outputs are inter-related, and the outcomes contribute to each other. So, the components do not stand alone, rather they are interlinked across the outputs and outcomes. Thus, the applicant organisation should analyse proposed activities/ interventions accordingly. Based on experience and capacity, the organization will decide whether it will apply for component a) Climate induced migration or b) Food Security, Livelihood and Disaster Risk Management, or both the components.

3. **Profile of the Applicants & Required Competencies**

The partner organizations will have the following characteristic and capacities:

- o Have a sound understanding of the migration (preferably internal migration) context because of climate change (for component a).
- o Sound understanding of Food security, livelihood and DRR in Bangladesh in the context of climate change (for component b).
- o Minimum of 3 years of experience with project and/or programme with the respective component/s the organization is applying for.
- o Programme and project perspective in line with climate change. Strategic priority of climate change and Disaster Risk Management in the organization.
- o Have field presence (current/recent) in the geographical areas (at least at Upazila level) of the project including physical presence and strong relationship with the stakeholders.
- o Track record in terms of access to and acceptance by the communities in the proposed areas.
- o Members of network/platform/forum of organizations working on Climate Change, Migration, Food Security, Livelihood and DRR.
- o A good record of coordinating with local government institutions, local networks and forums, and other civil society organizations (including grassroots organizations) working in the Districts/ Upazilas/ Unions and build synergies with projects implemented by other organizations.
- o Have gender and anti-discrimination policies in place, and women in leadership positions.

4. **Requirements & Criteria for Evaluation of Applications**

The evaluation of applications and selection of the Partner Organizations will go through the following steps:

1) Formal Requirements (step 1): The applications complying with the deadline to submit, complete as per instruction in the template (Proposal template attached) will only be longlisted.
2) Fulfillment of Suitability Criteria (step 2): The longlisted applications fulfilling the suitability criteria (can demonstrate/ evident that they can carry out the mandate in organizational terms) as outlined in the proposal template will be considered in the shortlist.
3) Evaluation of Award Criteria (step 3): The shortlisted applications fulfilling the Suitability Criteria will be evaluated in the following areas. Based on the evaluation, the applications will be ranked according to the scores, and provisionally selected applicants will be informed. At this stage, the applicant might be called for a meeting/presentation, if any further clarification required.

Sln	Criteria	Marks
1	Understanding of the proposal (Background, Proposed activity, Indicator)	15
2	Implementation ideas (Beneficiary selection, Approach and strategy, monitoring and evaluation, accountability and learning)	10
3	Sustainability perspectives (Inclusiveness, sustainability of results, networking and connectivity)	10
4	Project fitness/alignment with organization's programme portfolio	10
5	Project portfolio and experience (Experience of projects related to the components applied for)	15
6	Presence of Organization in the project location	10
7	Climate Change perspective in the applicant organization	10
8	Network and Coordination at local and national level	10
9	Strategic fitness with Helvetas	10

4) Due Diligence and site visit (step 4): A verification of the organizational information of the provisionally selected applicants will then be conducted through a pre-award questionnaire as well as a physical verification at their office. It might include visit to current/recent project areas as well. Only the applicants who pass the due diligence check successfully will be awarded as partners for the project.

5. Timeline

Deadline of submission	February 28, 2021
Longlisting of the applications	By March 05, 2021
Shortlisting of the applications	By March 10, 2021
Evaluation of application	By March 19, 2021
Update evaluation result to provisionally selected partners	By March 25, 2021
Due diligence with provisionally selected partners	By April 15, 2021
Notification of decision/award	By April 30, 2021
Contract signing	May 1st week

6. Submission Procedures
o Applications must contain the documents according to the description in the proposal format. Rename the file as: Proposal_Name of Component (1/2/1&2)_Name of Organization_Date
o Applications are to be submitted to recruitmentbd@helvetas.org by 28th February, 2021
o The Subject of the email should follow: Proposal_Name of Component (1/2/1&2)_Name of Organization
o A hard copy of the proposal should be sent to: HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, Attn. Sharmin Zaman, House # 30/CWN (A); Road # 42/43 Gulshan 2, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh
o The envelope should be marked with 'Proposal_Name of Component (1/2/1&2)_Name of Organization'

If you have any query, pls write to recruitmentbd@helvetas.org by 18th February, 2021. You will be responded by 21st February 2021.