**ToR of Multi Stakeholders Platform (MSP) development and support Consultants at Local Level**

PROJECT BACKGROUND

ICCO Cooperation (www.icco-cooperation.org) is an international organization, whose mission is to end poverty and injustice in the global south, in partnership with enterprising people. We invest in the power and dreams of entrepreneurial people, stimulate their entrepreneurial spirit, and connect them with businesses, governments and social organizations.

ICCO Cooperation is playing the lead role to implement EU funded “Sustained Opportunities for Nutrition Governance (SONGO) project” to improve maternal and child nutrition in Kurigram and Gaibandha districts. The SONGO project is 5 years duration with 4 inter-linked outcomes; (1) establishing upazila nutrition governance, (2) improving maternal and child health, nutrition (3) improving WASH practices (4) enhancing availability and access to safe and nutritious food.

 RDRS has been ICCO's long standing partner in a variety of large poverty alleviation and development projects in Bangladesh, often with food security components. RDRS will implement the project activities such as community mobilization, capacity building, committees formation, meeting organisation, workshops, monitoring, etc at a field level..

SONGO emphasizes the importance of sustained governance as a primary outcome and a precondition to achieve other outcomes that are based on the 2nd National Plan of Action for Nutrition (NPAN2) and three interlinked pillars or pathways (as per the UNICEF Conceptual Framework on Undernutrition.

1. HH food and nutrition security (including availability, economic access and use of food)

2. Feeding and caregiving resources and practices (including maternal, HH and community levels)

3. Access to and use of health services as well as a safe and hygienic environment (i.e. food, care and health).

While availability and accessibility of nutritious and safe food at HH level is a precondition for improved nutrition it does not automatically lead to improved nutrition among all HH members. Lack of nutrition, health and WASH related knowledge, attitudes and practices as well as intra-HH dynamics often impede nutrition improvement. Evidence has also shown that the extent to which women have access to and control over productive resources, time, knowledge and social support networks largely determine their own nutritional status and the kind of care they provide for their children and for the rest of the HHs. The nutritional status of a woman before and during pregnancy has a direct impact on the development and nutritional status of her baby. In order to address child undernutrition fully, the SONGO project will therefore employ nutrition-specific as well as nutrition-sensitive interventions through a lifecycle approach to deliver the right services and messages to the right person at the right time. The implementation will incorporate a Social and Behavior Change (SBC) strategy, using multiple approaches, ranging from interpersonal communication (such as counselling by health workers) to mass media (such as radio campaigns). SONGO will reach out to 120,000 HH final beneficiaries of which 95,000 HH are direct beneficiaries. The approach is based on proven and evolving experiences taking into account the importance of pre-conditions to address e.g. dimensions of availability and access to food as well as the required synergy between interventions and actors at various levels. Interventions will focus on mobilizing and coaching target groups as well as local public, private and development actors to collectively take the necessary actions towards improved nutrition.

**WORKING AREA OF THE PROJECT**

Kurigram district:

●Char RajibpurUpazila: Char Rajibpur and Mohanganj Unions

●ChilmariUpazila: Chilmari and Ramna Unions

●RowmariUpazila: Bandaber, Dantbhanga and Jadur Char Unions

Gaibandha district:

●GaibandhaShadarUpazila: Ghagoa, Gidari and Kamarjani Unions

●FulchariUpazila: Fulchhari, Udakhali and Kanchi Para Unions

●SundarganjUpazila: Belka, Chandipur, Haripur, Sreepur and Tarapur Unions

**PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTANCY**

SONGO is looking for two (2) consultants to operate in 1-Gaibandha, 2-Kurigram, for a full-time long-duration consultancy:

To Secure and Support effective facilitation, guidance and mentoring to MSP platforms for effective functioning of 6 Upazila Nutrition Coordination Committees (UNCC) and 2 District Nutrition Coordination Committee (DNCC) through their regular meetings, nutrition action plans, joint monitoring and reporting to Bangladesh National Nutrition Council (BNNC):

* The consultant will work to coordinate regular meetings with UNCC and DNCC stakeholders, drive and deliver value from bi-monthly coordination meetings of the platform with project staff
* Ensure delivery of informed and MSP created yearly nutrition action plans (in line with fiscal timeline), joint-monitoring events to track the progress and supporting administration to report the BNNC of 6 UNCC and 2 DNCC.
* The consultant will maintain necessary liaison and advocacy with chairpersons and member secretaries of UNCC and DNCC platforms to take their necessary initiatives regarding UNCC’s and DNCC’s roles and responsibilities according to their operational guideline.
* S/he will keep the evidence based records of progress for 6 UNCCs and 2 DNCCs and other ad-hoc information in close-coordination with the Nutrition Governance Advisor of SONGO project.

**ELIGIBILITY OF THE CONSULTANT:**

Having a Master's degree in Social Science will get preference. Required to have minimum 5 years of experience in governance projects/EU Project/ Nutrition Projects/ Rights-based or MSP Projects, and has demonstrable experience of lobby and advocacy with multi stakeholders in government departments as regular jobs. Prior exposure to the UNCC/DNCC structure is a big advantage:

* Previous experience in planning and implementing national nutrition or other multi-sectoralprogrammes in Government or development partner fields
* Experience working in government and/or with governments is a critical asset for this assignment
* Experience in facilitating multi-partner and multi-sector/stakeholder working groups
* Field experience at national and sub-national level work environments with good working knowledge of action plan implementation at de-centralized and National Level
* Good understanding of government processes at the District and Upazila level will be an added advantage

***SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED:***

* Proven experience and skills in strategic planning
* Proven ability to strengthen capacity of district and upazila level counterparts and partners
* Excellent communications and interpersonal skills
* Ability to influence and interact with senior-level decision-makers across different organizations
* Capacity to act with credibility, tact and diplomacy on sensitive issues and topics
* Experience in change management
* Proven skills in strong analytical and problem-solving skills;
* Excellent written/typed and oral communication skills in Bangla and English;
* Effective organizational skills; high drive for results;
* High commitment;
* Teamwork and strong interpersonal and intercultural skills;
* Computer literacy especially with Excel and database management is required

**CORE RESPONSIBILITY:**

* Facilitate bi-monthly meeting of Upazila Nutrition Coordination Committee (UNCC) of 6 upazila and District Nutrition Coordination Committee (DNCC) of 2 districts taking the necessary support from Nutrition Governance Advisor of SONGO project and other field staff.
* Facilitate to ensure the responsibilities of 6 UNCCs and 2 DNCCs are upheld, and maintaining close coordination with Nutrition Governance Advisor-SONGO project.
* Facilitate to ensure the evidence of UNCCs and DNCCs including minutes, report, photographs and other of meeting, nutrition action plan, joint visit, etc. when each occur.
* Maintain the regular communication with DC, CS, UNO and UH&FPO on behalf of the project for regularization of UNCCs and DNCCs.
* Maintain the evidence based lobby and advocacy with line departments of nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive as part of the decisions of UNCCs and DNCCs.
* Support to Upazila Coordinator/Technical Officer and Union facilitator for regular meeting of Other relevant standing committees (such as Disaster Management, WATSAN committee depending on need) by consultation with Nutrition Governance Advisor and Operation Lead.

**NATURE OF Consultancy:**

December-2020 to August-2021 initially with possibility for extension depending on contribution, performance and budget.

All transportation costs incurred as a result of engaging in project activities will be reimbursed by ICCO

**REQUIRED NUMBER OF CONSULTANTS:** 2 (Two) - to apply as individuals

**LOCATIONS:**Gaibandha and Kurigram

**COMPENSATION:** Negotiable. Consultant should put forward their proposed **Monthly/Daily**rate in their cover letter, considering tax & VAT as per government rules.

**CONSULTANCY APPLICATION PROCEDURE:**

Please submit your application details four pages CV and cover letter with mentioning expected Monthly or Dailyrate to **procurement.bd@icco.nl** . The subject line should be ''**Multi Stakeholders Platform (MSP) development and support Consultants at Local Level”.** Only shortlisted candidates will be notified for an interview.

**Women are encouraged to apply**

Application Deadline: 30th November 2020.

***\*\* considering the COVID-19 pandemic situation, consultants are encouraged to submit soft copies only***

***\*\*ICCO Cooperation holds the authority to terminate the consultancy if the consultant’s contributions and standards are not meeting the expectations of the organisation***