**CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

**TO PARTNER WITH THE UDDOKTA PROJECT**

**Applications will be screened on a rolling basis.**

**SUBJECT:** Call for Expressions of Interest to partner with the Uddokta Project in Sylhet Region

1. **ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND**

iDE is an international NGO with over 39 years of experience in designing and delivering market-based anti-poverty programs in 14 countries. We are a world leader in making markets work for the poor as well as the longest established market development specialist NGOs in Bangladesh. iDE believes that markets can be a powerful force for improving smallholder prosperity by creating income and livelihood opportunities for poor rural households. iDE Bangladesh currently has eight projects in agricultural markets, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and access to finance with a focus on women’s economic empowerment and climate-smart technologies.

1. **PROJECT BACKGROUND**

Uddokta - empowering entrepreneurs - is a three-year (2020-2022) project co-funded by Chevron and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and implemented by iDE. Under Chevron’s Bangladesh Partnership Initiative (BPI) and SDC’s COVID-19 Relief Emergency Grant, Uddokta seeks to improve income and livelihoods, and promote the inclusive and non-discriminative society and employment opportunities of the poor and disadvantaged people through enterprise development and strengthening market systems in the Sylhet Division (Northeast of Bangladesh). The first objective of the project is to increase the income of 1,100 micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and 110 local cooperatives by 35% in Chevron catchment through improved access to goods, services, technology and information as well as Chevron’s engagement and positive impact in the community. The second objective is to ensure 1,500 out-of-job youths who have been affected by COVID-19 (at least 30% are women) have full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs in high-growth sectors and increase their household income by 50%. Approximately 30,000 households are anticipated to benefit from increased incomes as a result of improved social and economic wellbeing including access to goods, services, and employment triggered through systemic market changes catalyzed by Uddokta. Uddokta is being implemented in 4 districts in the Sylhet division: Sylhet, Moulvibazar, Habiganj, and Sunamganj. Eight Upazilas are Sylhet Sadar, Moulvibazer Sadar, Sreemangal, Kamalganj, Nabiganj, Sunamganj Sadar, Dakshin Sunamganj and Chatok.

1. **PRIORITY AREAS OF INTEREST**

The Uddokta project of iDE-Bangladesh invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) from international, national and regional private companies engaged in agricultural mechanization, agricultural inputs, climate-smart technologies (i.e. renewable energy, waste management, recycle-upcycle products etc), ecotourism, access to finance and WASH sector to partner with the project. In particular, the project is interested in partnering with firms that are interested in expanding their operations, market to the Sylhet Division and can create new job opportunities for the youths of the Sylhet division. The project anticipates signing grant agreements with successful partners, subject to alignment with Uddokta priorities, due diligence, and agreement on terms. Only registered private companies with established offices and businesses should apply for this support.

1. **INSTRUCTIONS**

**The Expression of Interest Information should:**

* Be in English, no more than 2 pages in length;
* Be submitted electronically;
* Include a summary of your organization's history and current business activities and capacity
* Short description of the proposed idea, concept, and activities. Indicate the impact this will have on your business and how you think it would benefit youths or communities in the Sylhet region
* Indicate why you cannot implement these ideas and activities without project support.
* Details of current or past work (if any) with projects funded other development programs
* Notional budget for the proposed activities, including an estimated contribution to the budget from the applicant. Follow the below table:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of activity** | **Target quantity for 2022** | **Unit Rate- BDT** | **Total Budget- BDT** | **Cash contribution from Company (BDT)** | **In-kind contribution from Company (BDT)**  | **Requested contribution from iDE- BDT\*** |
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**Documents required:**

* **Organizational Profile:** This will include your organization's objectives, management capacity, networks, national or international affiliations, product categories and technologies, and information on your operations and management systems.
* **Legal registration documents:** This should include your organization's registration in Bangladesh, under the appropriate department, tax registration documents, and any other documents that relate to your functioning in Bangladesh.

Interested private firms who are committed to increase their business in the Sylhet division are requested to submit a proposal to bangladesh.procurement@ideglobal.org and copy it to krana@ideglobal.org with the subject line ‘**Uddokta Expressions of Interest**’. The submission deadline is **31 March 2022** at 5 PM Bangladesh Standard Time. Any queries regarding the EOI should be sent to Ms. Krisha Rana (krana@ideglobal.org). Only shortlisted firms will be contacted for the next round of the selection process.