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**Terms of Reference: Climate Change Impact & Livelihoods Assessment in Kishoreganj, Bangladesh**

1. Context and background information

The typography and geographical location of Bangladesh makes the country highly susceptible to potentially hazardous weather phenomena such as heavy monsoon rain, cyclones, floods, storms surges, and heatwaves. As a result, Bangladesh is amongst the highest-ranking countries across the world when it comes to long-term climate risks. The Global Climate Risk Index 2021 ranks Bangladesh 7th in terms of countries most affected by extreme weather events from 2000-2019 and among the most vulnerable to climate changes which contribute to the frequency and already high risks of weather events in country. As an example, it is estimated that approximately 25% of the country is inundated on average every year as a result of unpredictable and increasing rainfall. Additional socio-economic and demographic factors add to the risks and impact of both natural and health related disasters in Bangladesh, such as: a high dependency on agriculture with 47% of the population being employed in the agricultural sector; massive and growing population density where projections indicate that the size of the population will increase to 200 million by 2050; and poverty rates as high as 20,5% of the population living under the national poverty line in 2019[[1]](#footnote-2) a figure which has likely increased during the COVID-19 pandemic which led to a rise in unemployment.

The North-eastern region of Bangladesh is particularly prone to floods and earthquakes. Heavy rainfall as well as runoff from the upstream hills in India frequently inundates the low-lying areas thereby damaging a significant number of houses and cropland. These natural hazards have a severe impact on people’s livelihood, food security, as well as physical and mental wellbeing, e.g. by disrupting water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure which can increase the likelihood of disease outbreaks. Lack of access to basic services and support for preparedness and response exacerbates the risks and impacts of disasters faced by communities.

In June 2022, the Danish Red Cross (DRC) and Bangladesh Red Crescent (BDRCS) conducted a scoping visit to Kishoreganj district, which is one of the most vulnerable and often affected area in the Sylhet division. The purpose of the visit was to assess the feasibility for conducting a needs assessment. Out of the district’s total areas (273,100 ha) 133,943 ha are so-called haor areas[[2]](#footnote-3) - wetland ecosystems located in floodplains and subject to seasonal floods. Though flood is a common phenomenon in the hoar areas the frequency and magnitude of seasonal and flash floods are increasing. In addition to this it has become increasingly challenging to predict floods as a result of different development activities along the rivers and the changing climate and weather conditions which also affect trends in rainfalls in turn jeopardising livelihoods by destroying crops and other livelihood activities.

1. Purpose and objectives of the livelihoods assessment

The underlying purpose of the assessment is to explore the feasibility of implementing a project that supports the livelihoods and climate change adaption among vulnerable and climate change affected communities in the area.

The specific objectives of the assessment are to:

1. Document the impact of climate change to the livelihoods of the communities in the hoar area;
2. Identify and propose the most appropriate, sustainable, and climate-resilient livelihood initiatives.

**3. Scope**

The assessment will be conducted in Kisheroganj district with particular focus on the hoar areas. It will be premised on detailed understanding of the impacts of climate change to the livelihoods and conditions of people in the hoar areas whilst using different methods and tools to explore the factors and impacts to the communities affected, evidence of small-scale community- led mitigation actions and coping mechanisms. The assessment will further explore whether women, men, and children/youth are impacted differently.

4. Methodology

The consultant is expected to utilise the following methods for data collection and analysis:

* Desk review relying on secondary data such as existing assessments, studies, reports and quantitative data sets (including data from existing disaster risk reduction, climate and meteorological systems)
* Focus group discussions (FGDs) with community members and local leaders
* Key informant interviews (KIIs) with local leaders, national authorities at district level, thematic experts and staff members from other organisations present in the area
* Transect walking and direct observation of the farmlands, living conditions and other aspects.
* Questionnaires at household level using KoBO
* Thematic analysis of qualitative and quantitative data
* Synthesis of key findings and recommendations

5. Deliverables and timeline

The consultant must deliver a well-written assessment in alignment with a pre-defined assessment tool and including the following elements:

1. A desk review of climate change impacts across Bangladesh and in Kishoreganj in particular;
2. An account of the demographic, livelihood trends, and available services and infrastructure in communities;
3. An analysis of how climate change impacts communities in terms of household livelihoods, health, access to water, sanitation and hygiene systems, and overall quality of life;
4. An assessment of gaps related to infrastructure and access to services that could reduce the vulnerability of communities;
5. An assessment of viable, relevant and sustainable livelihood activities that can be implemented in the communities.
6. An analysis of potential and innovative steps to be taken by DRC and BDRCS to reduce vulnerabilities among communities towards climate changes.
7. The consultant must present relevant findings, reflections and recommendations to relevant members of staff from DRC, BDRCS and other partners.

**6. Time frame**

The assignment will take a total of 25 days including preparation, actual data collection, data analysis and submission of final assessment report. The assessment and subsequent presentation will be conducted within the timeframe below:

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| **DATES** | **TASKS** |
| 19.06.2022 | The Danish Red Cross to launch TOR |
| 07.07.2022 | Deadline for applicants and recruitment of consultant |
| 24.07.2022 | Development of assessment tool |
| 31.07.2022 | Data collection via desk review and deployment to Kishoreganj |
| 18.08.2022 | Consultant to submit first draft to the Danish Red Cross |
| 23.08.2022 | The Danish Red Cross to provide feedback on the first draft |
| 29.08.2022 | Consultant to submit the final draft |
| 07.09.2022 | Online meeting and presentation of findings by the consultant |

7. Roles and responsibilities

An in-country and external consultant will be recruited to conduct the assessment. He/she will receive support by a team from BDRCS and DRC as per the roles and responsibilities defined below.

*The consultant will:*

* Develop assessment tools in consultation with DRC and BDRCS;
* Present an inception plan to BDRCS and DRC;
* Conduct initial meetings with relevant departments at BDRCS;
* Conduct desk research based on relevant existing material;
* Deploy to Kishoreganj to collect data and information through FGDs, KIIs and questionnaires and other agreed methods;
* Analyse data and synthesise findings and recommendations in a written draft assessment report incorporating the components outlined under section *4. Deliverables and timeline*;
* Revise and finalise the draft assessment based on feedback and comments from DRC and BDRCS team;
* Submit a final report with key findings, reflections and recommendations to DRC in due time;
* Present a summary report to a formal meeting comprised of BDRCS, DRC and other partners;
* Liaison with and inform DRC on progress and incorporate running feedback and guidance from the programme and junior delegates.

*The Danish Red Cross will:*

* Provide the consultant with a set template for the assessment;
* Coordinate with BDRCS HQ on all admin and logistics arrangements required for the field assessment;
* Provide day-to-day guidance and support to the consultant, including concrete comments and feedback to the assessment report;
* Arrange an online meeting and presentation (by the consultant) of findings to relevant members of staff and partners.

*The Bangladesh Red Crescent will:*

* Coordinate with Unit level, district and community leaders for the conduct of the assessment
* Organize communities/households/individuals for FGDs, KIIs.
* Support the assessment through the deployment of volunteers, if needed.

1. Candidate requirements

The candidate must have the following competencies:

* A minimum of 5 years of strong practical experience in conducting assessments on development programming.
* Proven experience in synthesising results and developing assessment reports
* Sound knowledge on livelihoods and/or climate change - preferably a professional background in either field from an NGO or similar;
* Excellent planning, communication and writing skills;
* Strong analytical skills and ability to digest and translate large amounts of information materials and data sets into clear and concise findings;
* Preferably in-depth understanding and/or experience of working with the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement;
* Good cultural understanding and sensibility to cultural differences;
* Fluency in Bangla and English (written and spoken).

1. Budget

The consultant must provide a detailed breakdown of the expenses and professional fees for the assignment.

Interested Candidates are requested to submit CV along with Financial Proposal to the below email address

[bangladesh.delegation@ifrc.org](mailto:bangladesh.delegation@ifrc.org) on or before 07 July, 2022.

1. Asian Development Bank. *Poverty Data: Bangladesh*. Link: https://www.adb.org/countries/bangladesh/poverty#:~:text=Poverty%20Data%3A%20Bangladesh&text=In%20Bangladesh%2C%2020.5%25%20of%20the,day%20in%202021%20was%204.0%25 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Ministry of Water Resource (2018): Haor Flood Management And Livelihood Improvement Project. Link: https://socialprotection.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/MoWR-HAOR-PD-presentation-SSPS-5Nov2018.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-3)