

Terms of Reference (TOR)

Study on Tiger Widows in the South-west Coastal Area

1. Background

Bangladesh, a country of South Asia, located in the delta of the Padma (Ganges) and Jamuna (Brahmaputra) rivers in the northeastern part of the Indian subcontinent. It is the eighth-most populous country in the world, with a population exceeding 167.75 million people in an area of 147,570 square kilometers (56,980 sq mile)¹. Sea level rise is contributing to saline water intrusion as the high tide and river bank erosion are damaging the fragile embankment on the coast. The frequency and intensity of different natural calamities have increased in an alarming rate and impacted heavily on the livelihoods of the poor and marginal population. The people of the coastal area have tried many livelihood options to sustain in the area. A large population in this area are dependent on resources from Sundarbans for their livelihood. However, in the last decade the ecosystem of Sundarbans has declined due to exploitation of resources. Tiger attack is a common phenomenon in and around the forest and its frequency has increased. Many women have become widows due to the death of their spouses by tigers. These women are referred to as tiger widows and are living in the adjacent areas of the Sundarbans. They are reflected in the 2001 and 2011 population census of Bangladesh.

Tiger widows are considered one of the most vulnerable groups in the south-western coastal areas of Bangladesh. They live lonely and battle to survive. Their own communities discriminate them due to cultural stigma, social rejection, superstitions and beliefs associated with their spouses being killed by tiger. They are often blamed for the death of their husbands. The tiger widows are also the most economically vulnerable group. Despite working hard, they hardly manage to survive with their children. As women headed families, they are mostly deprived from their basic rights and state services. The majority of the tiger widows have no land. The dropout rate of their children is high after the death of their fathers. Their livelihood options are very limited. Those who have a small piece of land cannot cultivate any crop due to salinity in the area.

2. Context of the Organization

Local Environment Development and Agricultural Research Society (LEDARS) is a non-profit and non-political research organization of Satkhira district of Bangladesh. It is registered by Social Welfare Department and NGO Affairs Bureau of Bangladesh. LEDARS' vision is to contribute to poverty reduction of the poor and marginal groups through optimum usages of local resources. In order to ensure livelihood security of the most vulnerable and socially excluded segments of the population, LEDARS supports and equips people with appropriate methods to raise their voice for establishing basic and human rights. It has been working for social, economic and environmental development of the poor and marginal people of the southwest coastal region of Bangladesh since 1996. Its major working areas are Climate Change and Livelihoods, Ecology and Environment, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Human Rights, Good Governance and Gender Development, Education for Dignity, Health and Nutrition.

3. Rationale of the Study

Salinity intrusion has an impact of climate change which is responsible for creating a various number of problems in the south-west coastal region of Bangladesh. A huge number of people are engaged in resource collecting from the Sundarbans and are becoming victims of tiger attacks. As a result, the numbers of tiger widows are increasing in the area. They face a lot of problems after losing their spouses. But, there is hardly any study or research to explore the reasons of their vulnerabilities. There is no verified list of tiger widows with basic information. If the underlying reasons of their

¹ <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/bangladesh-population/>

vulnerabilities are identified, it might be possible to take necessary measurements to reduce the sufferings of these deprived women.

Considering the above context, LEDARS planned to conduct a study on tiger widows in the south-west coastal area. This study will investigate the underlying causes of the vulnerabilities and prepare a list with basic information of the tiger widows. The study will unveil the door of opportunities to acknowledge the existing problem and take necessary initiatives to minimize the sufferings of the tiger widows.

4. Objectives of the Study

The overall objective is to investigate the underlying causes of the vulnerabilities and map out the socio-economic context of the tiger widows.

Specific objectives:

- To explore the underlying causes of the vulnerabilities of tiger widows in the south-west coastal area.
- To map out the socio-economic context of the tiger widows.
- To measure the number and prepare a list with basic information of the tiger widows.
- To determine a way forward on how to reduce the vulnerabilities of tiger widows.

5. Scope of work

LEDARS is implementing the project “Strengthening Livelihood Security of Climate Change Vulnerable People” in the coastal Unions of Shyamnagar Upazilla under Satkhira district and Koyra Upazilla under Khulna district. LEDARS has been working with tiger widows for many years to reduce their vulnerabilities and establish their rights. Our head office is located within the working area which is very close to the Sundarbans.

- There is a scope to determine the vulnerabilities of tiger widows.
- Conceptualise the way forward on how to reduce the vulnerabilities of tiger widows.
- Develop a database of tiger widows and share the information to relevant government authority.

6. Geographical Coverage

Name of district	Name of upazila
Satkhira	Shyamnagar
Bagerhat	Mongla
	Morrelganj
	Sarankhola
Khulna	Koyra
	Dacope

7. Responsibilities carried out by the consultant

- Conduct a comprehensive literature review that provides an overview of the existing literature in the proposed study topic.
- Submission of an inception report within 2 weeks of the assignment, including but not limited to the following topics:
 - a) Introduction
 - b) Initial Literature Review
 - c) Refined research objectives and research questions based on literature review
 - d) Research methodology
 - a. Methods
 - b. Sampling
 - c. Data collection
 - d. Analysis Plan
 - e) Limitations & Risk Assessment

- f) Scope of further study
- g) Annex - Work Plan (including any support needed from LEDARS)
- h) Annex - Data collection tools
- Develop questionnaire for study in consultation with LEDARS
- Collect data according to the proposed methodology
- Analyze the data using STATA or SPSS software
- Prepare draft and final research report
- Give a presentation on the study in the LEDARS Head office

8. Supports from LEDARS

- LEDARS will provide all necessary cooperation and supports to the consultant for proper execution of the assignment.
- LEDARS will provide all necessary documents and information to the consultant.

9. Deliverables

The following final deliverables are expected to be submitted by the selected firm/consultant:

- Inception report following the structure listed above.
- Draft report.
- A high quality, analytical research report of maximum 25 pages, with a very clear and concise executive summary (excluding annexes and datasets).
- A high quality presentation.
- A copy of collected information (primary or secondary data).

10. Qualifications & Experience required

- The lead researcher should hold master in Sociology, Development Studies or related fields.
- The lead researcher with proven previous research experience (minimum 5 years) and publications (at least 3).
- Experience in working with development partners.
- Applicants must share the evidence of previous work completed.
- Provide information of two references.

11. Selection Procedure

Sl.	Description	Score	Remarks
01	Relevant Qualification and Experience of Lead Researcher	10	
02	Quality of Technical Proposal	60	
03	Financial Proposal	30	Financial Proposal will be reviewed only when the Technical proposal meet the quality criteria.
Total		100	

12. Documents to be submitted

Following documents need to be submitted to knowledge.manager@ledars.org while applying:

- A short CV (04 pages) maximum highlighting experiences on related assignment completed with detail client name, address, contact persons & communication details (above criteria listed under “Qualifications & Experience required” relevant here).
- For other members of team (if any) include short CV highlighting relevant tasks or assignment.
- TIN certificate (if available)
- A brief technical and financial proposal based on the information provided above.
- **Last date of Application: September 28, 2022**

13. Duration of the assignment

The contract period is from 1st October to 20 October 2022.

14. Standard Terms:

Duration: The total period of providing the consultative services will be up to 20 October 2022 from the date of contract signing.

Remuneration/Fee: Interested bidders are requested to submit their financial proposal along with the technical proposal. Expenses not specified in the financial proposal or not mentioned in any section of the agreement are the sole responsibility of the Consultant.

Payment: As per policy of LEDARS the fees will be paid in instalment basis. All the payments will be made through account payee cheque.

Sl	Particulars	Payments
1.	After submission of inception report	25%
2.	After submission of draft report	45%
3.	Submission of final report	35%

Copyright and Confidentiality: LEDARS will have the copyright for all the documents prepared by the consultant(s) including questionnaires, survey formats, case studies if any, and the final report with due acknowledgement. No part of the document should be reproduced or published in any manner without prior written approval of LEDARS. The consultant will maintain the confidentiality of the stated assignment.