**Terms of Reference (ToR)**

**For**

Facilitating a study on **‘Dynamics of extreme poverty, new poor and exclusion in a post-covid and inflationary economy: review of existing national data with regional perspectives from Rangpur and Rajshahi Division’**

under the projects ‘*Promotion of Social Partnership for Empowerment of Marginalised Communities in 6 districts and at national level in Bangladesh (PROSPECT)*’ and ‘*Strengthening the resilience of the poorest population to the impacts of climate change in Bangladesh* *(PORIBESH)*’

**BMZ Project No.: 4163 & 5981**

1. **Introduction**

NETZ Partnership for Development and Justice (short: NETZ) is a non-governmental organisation which promotes human rights and justice in Bangladesh with a focus on the most vulnerable and marginalised people to create an enabling environment in the society for demanding good governance, a non-discriminatory society and social justice. NETZ is looking for hiring researchers to carry out a study on ‘Dynamics of extreme poverty, new poor and exclusion in a post-covid and inflationary economy: review of existing national data with regional perspectives from Rangpur and Rajshahi Division’ in two of its projects titled ‘Promotion of Social Partnership for Empowerment of Marginalised Communities in 6 districts and at national level in Bangladesh (PROSPECT)’ and ‘Strengthening the resilience of the poorest population to the impacts of climate change in Bangladesh (PORIBESH)’

1. **Rationale of the study**

In the last years of economic shocks induced by pandemic and inflationary pressure, previously positive poverty trends have been reversed and new exclusions created. Several studies have been conducted by various think-tanks and institutions particularly focusing on newly poor people. At the same time, other trends such as the effects on lower poverty lines (extreme poverty), the increasing pressure from human-induced climate change and deteriorating ecological resources and the volatile human rights situation with increasing violence against women and minorities and other conflicts, have often not been integrated in the analysis.

##### Objectives of the study

There are three major objectives of the study which should be addressed in three distinct parts:

1. **Review of existing data** from major studies conducted since 2020 on the national level. Particularly, data will be analysed regarding the following questions:
   1. Who are groups of new poor following the pandemic and the global economy? (Particular occupational or social backgrounds, geographical areas, etc.)
   2. What is the increase of poor people living in Bangladesh in 2020, 2021, 2022 according to studies conducted during this period?
   3. What is the effect (economic and rights-based; qualitatively and quantitatively) of the increasing numbers of “new poor” on extreme poor groups, both pre-existing and new? Are the extreme poor pushed down further by new poor?
   4. Is there any recovery of the “new poor”?
   5. What are group- and region-specific problems?
   6. As far as possible, all data should be gender-disaggregated
2. **Quantitative and qualitative empirical study** in two working regions of NETZ PNGOs (Naogaon and Lalmonirhat). The data adds to and can be compared with the existing data analysed under objective 1). In this part of the study, qualitative data and case studies can be added.
   1. Who are groups of new poor?
   2. What is the effect (economic and rights-based; qualitatively and quantitatively) of increasing numbers of poor people on extreme poor groups, both pre-existing and new? How is their recovery?
   3. What are group- and region-specific problems?
   4. Collection of case studies in an annex to the study.
3. **Advocacy Brief** to create visibility and awareness of the topic for both decision makers and public.
   1. Policy brief for international donors and development agencies
   2. Policy brief for GoB
   3. Newspaper article
   4. Study brochure (digital) summarizing the main findings of the study

1. **Study Team**

We suggest forming a study team consisting of two people/parties (gender parity should be maintained):

A) a senior researcher from a civil society think tank,

B) a junior researcher/research team for the field,

C) a team of data enumerator supervised by the junior researcher

The responsibilities of the respective team members are:

A) The senior researcher reviews literature and suggests research design. The main responsibility is for objective/part 1) and 3), but s/he also provides supervision for part 2) and ensures interlinkages with the other parts of the study.

B) The junior researcher/research team conducts field research in collaboration with the senior researcher and NETZ. The main responsibility is for part 2) of the study.

To support the team, a staff member of NETZ coordinates with other NETZ co-workers, PNGOs and advocacy partners of NETZ.

**5. Methods**

1) Review: It would be preferable that the reviewers have already contributed to data collection of existing studies on new poor and/or extreme poverty. *Geographical area*: nationwide.

2) Field survey: Identifying people below extreme poverty line before Covid and asking them about the later change in their situation (recall method).

Geographical area: The primary data and qualitative information for the study will be collected from two working districts i.e. Naogaon and Lalmonirhat of the projects and including project participants and other people of their communities at community, union, sub-district and district level. Existing partnerships with NGOs in this region can be used to acquire in-depth information on local dynamics and build up relations with the study field. However, the study should not be limited to people who are in NETZ projects.

3) Advocacy Brief: A short and pointed overview of the findings is prepared. Based on an analysis of current main development discourses of international organisations, interlinkage is made to development initiatives, budget allocations in the national budget of Bangladesh and recommendations are formulated. The Advocacy Brief is published in a digital form and a newspaper article is published in a national English daily in Bangladesh.

The study is expected to be completed within 30 working days, including review by senior researcher; orientation of data enumerators; field work in the working areas of the above-mentioned projects. The first draft of the report should be submitted to NETZ on or before 25 March 2023. NETZ will provide feedback and comments within two working weeks of receiving the first draft of the report. The final report should be submitted to NETZ by no later than 20 April 2023.

A draft of the detail methodology to be used for the study will be prepared by the selected researchers and shared with NETZ to accumulate feedback and suggestions before information collection.

**6. Tasks and duties**

* Review study design and propose a work plan with detailed methodology
* Include feedback given by NETZ, if any
* Collect and in-depth review existing studies on new poor from organisations such as PPRC, BIGD, CPD, SANEM, BRAC, World Bank.
* Collect overall trends in numbers
* Review relating to the questions on extreme poverty and exclusion
* Identify gaps in the existing data that might be addressed by field study
* Discuss with field team how to address the gaps
* Visit project areas (Naogaon and Lalmonirhat) to collect data and qualitative information
* Systematically collect quantitative data of 2.000 households in 4 sub-districts
* Systematically collect qualitative data on the research questions of the field study by visiting at least 200 households (4 sub-districts, 50 respondents per sub-district) and Focus Group Discussion (FGD)
* Prepare 10 detailed case studies from the field showing different dimensions found in the field study
* Share insights with senior researcher and discuss integration with national data
* Share draft study (in English) with NETZ and adjust to feedbacks from NETZ
* Prepare the final report in English
* Prepare an Advocacy Brief in a short and precise manner suitable for international advocacy including recommendations for programmatic intervention both for government and non-government actors.
* Incorporate feedback from NETZ after submitting a draft.
* Prepare a newspaper article to be submitted to a national newspaper.
* Prepare a short brochure based on the findings of the study.
* Share the draft with NETZ before submission.

1. **Expected Outputs and Deliverables**

The consultants will formulate a report following the format provided by NETZ or with consensus of NETZ incorporating three distinct parts as outlined above. A mandatory report structure is jointly decided at the beginning of the study. The report will be in English and have a length of approximately 50 pages (excluding Annexures).

1. **Required Qualifications:**

The consultants should have at the minimum the following qualifications:

* Demonstrable expertise of working on poverty trends
* Track record in conducting research and study including quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis
* Sound knowledge of the indicators of assessing social science research
* Sufficient and well documented publication to prove writing (in English) and analysing skills
* Experience in managing and coordinating research and delivering agreed outputs on time
* Ability to respond to comments and questions in a timely, appropriate manner
* Ability to write high quality, clear, concise reports in English
* Willingness to travel to and work in the project implementation areas
* Independent from NETZ, i.e. not related to NETZ or a beneficiary of NETZ

1. **Terms of Payment**

For the remuneration, a distinct agreement will be signed with the selected Consultant and Research Associates. In addition to the remuneration, NETZ will pay the cost of travel, accommodation, food and/or any other necessary expenditure on fixed term basis (based on a detailed calculation). The study team will receive 30% of the total remuneration after signing the agreement. Another 30% will be paid after the submission of first draft report. Remaining 40% of remuneration will be paid after approval of the final report by NETZ. Tax will be deducted at source as per the rules and procedures of Government of Bangladesh. NETZ will pay the VAT.

1. **General conditions**

* NETZ reserves the right to disagree with any incomplete work and consequently NETZ may retain the last instalment of the remuneration.
* The contracting authorities also reserve the right to amend this contract at any time according to the necessity of the project given prior communication.
* The contract may be terminated if the consultants are found non-compliant to the terms and conditions of the contract.
* NETZ will have the copy right of all results and documents elaborated under this assignment. Any publication also in extracts needs prior approval of NETZ.
* The assigned consultants agree with the Child Protection Policy and Gender Policy of NETZ when signing the contract. During the consultancy, the mentioned safeguarding measures of the policies are complied with.

1. **Proposal Submission**

Consultants interested to apply to NETZ are kindly requested to submit the following on or before **30 January 2023** through e-mail to [asim@netz-bangladesh.de](mailto:Asim@netz-bangladesh.de)

* Technical proposal (not more than 4 pages)
* Financial planning (not more than 1 page)
* Most recent CVs of each Researcher (not more than 4 pages)