# INVITATION TO SUBMIT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

(For Shortlisting of interested National and Local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) as Implementing Partners)

Relief International (RI) is a humanitarian non-profit agency founded in 1990 that provides emergency relief, economic rehabilitation, development assistance, and program services to vulnerable communities worldwide. In Bangladesh, RI started implementing a range of diverse development programs in 2004 and expanded into Cox’s Bazar in 2017 to respond to the needs of the Rohingya and affected host communities.

To advance its partnership strategy aimed at building partnerships with local and national NGOs, RI is now launching this Expression of Interest (EOI) from National and Local NGOs/Partners who have expertise in **Youth Empowerment** sector.

**Summary of Project:**

The rapid and unexpected increase in Rohingya refugees from Myanmar has had a massive impact on the social, economic and political fabric within Bangladeshi host communities (HCs) in Cox’s Bazar. While the initial response to the influx was one of compassion, rising competition over jobs and public services, coupled with environmental degradation and fears of rising insecurity (both real and perceived) has caused patience among the host communities to wear critically thin. This is particularly the case for HC workers that rely on unskilled casual work. Unable to access job opportunities amidst depressed wages and rising inflation, frustrated HCs – especially youth - have expressed growing resentment towards the Rohingya and the humanitarian community which, if left unchecked, may result in future conflict and marginalization.

In response to these issues, a diverse and layered approach is needed to working with HC youth in a way that will ultimately reduce the risk of conflict in Cox’s Bazar by creating sustainable, market oriented resilient livelihood opportunities for HCs, while fostering an enabling environment for social cohesion. The Youth Entrepreneurship and Empowerment Support (YES)

Program will take a community driven development approach to enhance the skills and competencies of female and male unemployed youth in Teknaf, Ukhiya, Ramu and Cox’s Bazar Sadar. The program will be delivered leveraging Relief International’s (RI) global and local experience, as well as that of a diverse set of core local entity partners: the Christian Commission

for Development of Bangladesh (CCDB) is from the faith-based sector, mPower Social Enterprise Limited (mPower) is from the private sector, and the Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) is a youth-based organization. Given the complexity of the Cox’s Bazar context, YES will be informed by a series of participatory assessments that will collect key information to be used in the prioritization, design and allocation of resources towards specific interventions, as well as establish a foundation for the program’s monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) framework. These will include a conflict analysis, gender analysis, labor market needs assessment, vocational training sector assessment, and survey of youth interest and skill levels, and will serve as a foundation for integrating Do No Harm and conflict sensitivity principles across the program.

**Program Outcome:**

* 60% of targeted Host Communities reporting improved perceptions of Rohingya and reduced expectation of conflict.
* 75% of HC youth placed in gainful employment within 6 months of training.
* 25% increase in income (from baseline) of vulnerable women and men from sustainable economic opportunities
* 3 local partners (5000 staff) with improved knowledge, capacity and systems to enable them to be assessed by USAID to receive direct awards.
* 15,000 youth trained in market-led skills

**Brief Activities and expertise we are looking from partner:**

* Online TVET provider.
* Expertise on developing online TVET curriculum & modules.
* This partner will help identify modules from the existing curriculum that are appropriate for e-learning and will digitalize them.
* This partner will also share a portion of the program’s TVET graduate target

Interested Applicants may obtain further detailed information on the scope of activities by emailing**:** [ribgd.partnerships@ri.org](mailto:ribgd.partnerships@ri.org).

The Expression of Interest must be submitted in the English language and shall contain information per the template attached. Based on the information received, RI will contact shortlisted applicants who fulfil the criteria to engage in further discussions on collaboration.

RI reserves the right to accept or reject any applicant, withdraw the selection process, and reject the EOI at any time, thereby not incurring any liability to the affected NGOs/Partners.

**DEADLINE AND SUBMISSION PROCEDURE:** Completed **EOI template**, should be sent by e-mail to [ribgd.partnerships@ri.org](mailto:ribgd.partnerships@ri.org) with the subject “EOI: Partnership with Relief International Bangladesh in Cox’s Bazar District”. The deadline for submission is no later than **5 pm on Friday 24th September 2021.** For general queries, please reach out to [ribgd.partnerships@ri.org](mailto:ribgd.partnerships@ri.org).

Based on the information received by partners, RI will contact only successful applicant for the next stage to be an implemented partner for the YES Project’s new TVET partner. Please note that it’s a small grant project till June 2022 (can be extended upon satisfactory outcomes and availability of funds)

RI is seeking EOIs from registered NGOs or other stakeholders who have a good reputation and proven experience in **planning and implementing projects in Cox’s Bazar District**. Organizations should also have experience in developing and strengthening strategic partnerships with both INGOs, NGOs and government agencies in Bangladesh, and preferably have familiarity with programming specific to vulnerable groups/refugees/host communities/persons with disabilities.

# ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

# To be eligible for this EOI, the applicant should meet the following essential criteria:

Be legally registered in Bangladesh

1. NGO and its board of directors is not blacklisted by any state actors or international donors
2. Have a minimum of 3 years of work experience in implementing programs in Cox’s Bazar

# EOI DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION

EOI submissions must provide the following information and documents for qualification. Applicants submitting incomplete information may not be considered.

1. In the attached template, provide the following:
   1. Name of organization with contact details for both head and field offices (physical address, email addresses);
   2. An organization profile which includes company history, organogram, key staff and profile of senior professional staff at the organization (maximum five); annual budget for the past 3 years, main donors and partners (both national and international, including local authorities)
   3. A list of the most relevant projects completed and ongoing in the past two years in Bangladesh. The following information for each project is to be included: start and end dates (month/year); contract value (US$); donor; the number of managerial and technical staff; overview of the scope of the work (including areas of operation and targeted beneficiaries). Note: the final project reports should be attached if available.
   4. Short description of any relevant work targeting persons with disabilities, host communities and refugees
2. Current and valid registration certificate issued by the Government of Bangladesh to conduct operations in Bangladesh.
3. Any former audit reports/statements (within the last three years)
4. Annual report on previous performance