

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR STREAMLINING GENDER-RELEVANT STRATEGIES IN THE FACILITATION PROCESS OF M4C



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GUIDELINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL

This Request for Proposal (RFP) refers to the Terms of Reference (ToR) for “Streamlining Gender-Relevant Strategies in the Facilitation Process of M4C” placed in Annex 1. The ToR provides a basis for applicants to respond to this RFP.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

Eligible are applicants (researchers/ individual consultants/ team of consultants) with should meet the following qualifications:

- Appropriate knowledge, skill, and experience in gender mainstreaming, women economic empowerment (WEE) and gender governance.
- Understanding of market systems analysis, Market System Development (M4P/MSD) approach and proven track record to work for market development projects.
- Familiarity with disaster and climate vulnerability, and agriculture market development and char livelihoods of northern Bangladesh.
- Soundtrack record of conducting similar assignments will be an added advantage.

CONTENT OF THE PROPOSAL:

The language of the proposal should be English. The proposal must be submitted in MS Word, maximum 05 pages A4, font size Calibri 11, normal margin and 1.15-line spacing excluding cover page and annexes.

The main parts of the proposal should be structured as follows:

- Understanding of the assignment
- Previous Experience of conducting relevant assignments.
- Proposed modality to address the core objective of the assignment.

Annexes may be included to furnish any additional information.

LEGAL DOCUMENTS:

- Copy of E-TIN Certificate
- Copy of NID

EVALUATION PROCESS:

- a) Quality based evaluation will be applied by the M4C, Swisscontact evaluation team.
- b) The main part of the proposal will be taken for the evaluation only, excluding the annexes, and ranked based on obtained score for the proposals.
- c) Proposals submitted in the prescribed format and/or structured as per the required content will be preferred.
- d) Applicants with the highest score will be selected for the assignment provided that successful negotiations on the budget and other terms are reached. If there is no agreement on the final budget, then the bidder with the second highest score will be considered for discussion and negotiation.
- e) M4C, Swisscontact has no obligation to award the contract to any applicant if the proposals submitted do not match with the quality and the budget requirements of the project.
- f) M4C, Swisscontact has no obligation to provide any further information to the applicants or any other third party about the evaluation process and its results.

TIMELINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL:

- Applicants may submit questions for clarification to the M4C project to jannat.chowdhury@swisscontact.org or tawhidul.islam@swisscontact.org by April 7, 2021.
- The final proposal must be sent to M4C project to bd.infom4c@swisscontact.org by April 15, 2021.
- M4C evaluates and short lists proposals and informs applicant by April 22, 2021.
- Discussion of Proposal with selected applicant by April 26, 2021
- Final selection and contract signing by April 29, 2021.

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR STREAMLINING GENDER-RELEVANT STRATEGIES

INTRODUCTION

Swisscontact, Swiss Foundation for Technical Cooperation, is headquartered in Zurich and was founded in 1959 by leading figures from the Swiss private sector and Swiss universities. It is exclusively involved in international co-operation and since 1961 has carried out its own and mandated projects. In Bangladesh, Swisscontact is registered as an international non-governmental organization (INGO) under NGO Affairs Bureau, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Making Markets Work for the Jamuna, Padma and Teesta Chars (M4C) is a project mandated by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Government of Bangladesh. M4C's aim is to reduce poverty and vulnerability of char households by facilitating market systems that enhance opportunities for income generation. Until June 2020, it has benefitted 124,000 char households in ten districts of northern Bangladesh with an additional income of BDT 13,000/households. Swisscontact in collaboration with Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogura continue to implement M4C in Gaibandha, Jamalpur, Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram and Shariatpur districts until June 2024. A team of dedicated project staff supported by implementing partners (local NGOs) manage implementation of project activities in the field.

Through time-bound partnerships, M4C supports public agencies (research, extension, etc.), private companies (agro-input, agro-processing, financial institutions, etc.), and local market actors (retailers, traders, etc.) to expand to peripheral char markets and to promote their products and services. M4C offers financial and non-financial supports for a) pre- and post-market research b) strengthening capacity of and relationships/ linkages between market actors c) piloting and scaling up of inclusive business/ service delivery models. M4C also supports Char Development Research Centre (CDRC) and other selected NGOs to archive as well as disseminate information, knowledge, and lessons of various char development initiatives among public agencies, private sector actors, donors, NGOs, academics, and media. By doing so, M4C targets to create awareness and mobilize initiatives and investments in the char regions from wider public and private sector actors, beyond the project period.

M4C addresses following transversal thematic areas: women's economic empowerment (WEE), disaster risk reduction (DRR), governance and conflict-sensitive project management (CSPM) in the project design and implementation. In this context, M4C has prepared this specific ToR to ensure Gender Mainstreaming in the project implementation and documentation process.

RATIONAL OF THE TASKS

The periodic WEE assessment conducted in 2014, 2016 and 2019 provided the project with guidance on impact of project's work on the gender issues. Additionally, the project also conducted a gender system audit towards the end of M4C phase II to understand different aspects of internal gender issues relevant to project implementation, partnership management as well as within the project set up.

In the previous phases, M4C assessed following outcome level indicators to measure the changes of female farmers involved in M4C promoted Interventions -

1. Increase in income.
2. Access to opportunities and resources
3. Decision making authority. Change in roles.
4. Managing workload
5. Change in roles.

The following table provides the interventions where women's participation has been promoted:

Intervention Area	Example
Improving access to quality inputs and cultivation know-how	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in different Farmer's Field Day and Farmer's Training and receive information about quality inputs, seed treatment, use of CPS, macro-fertilizer, etc. • Demo-plot establishment
Promoting improved post-harvest practices through better market linkage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maize and Groundnut contract farming • Participation in different farmer's day and farmer's training to inform about seed retention; drying; shelling of maize; chopping, silage production and distribution in maize; chili plucking, sorting, storing,

Strengthening business relations between producers and other market actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in the Producer Groups and receive information about Market Linkage, Business Membership Services and Collective Buying/Selling
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utilizing the findings of WEE Assessment 2019 and gender system audit 2019.

TASKS

The consultancy will be for a period of 10 days during the period of March and April 2021. However, based on the merit of the proposal and the requirement of the expert the timeline of the assignment can be further updated. The Consultant shall specifically support M4C to develop Gender Strategy, Phase III outlining the following topics:

- Women-targeted activities within the business models.
- Specific gender priorities (time and resource-bound) for partners embedded within relevant business models.
- Ways of increased women participation and greater involvement in decision making processes.
- Guideline for CDRC to work in sectors that address the basic constraints of women that impede them from contributing to the sectors such as healthcare services, nutrition, skills development for women, improving financial literacy.
- Integration of DRR approach and Climate change adaptation to the gender mainstreaming design.

However, the findings revealed that, even though M4C team tried to integrate women relevant issues within the interventions, there are scopes to increase the intensity of private sector partners to mainstream gender focused activities in their work.

Thus, such learnings from Phase I and II will be utilized to refine the gender strategy to be adopted in M4C Phase III to lead the project to yield stronger Women's economic empowerment impact. In this situation, the involvement of a gender expert from the beginning of Phase III is important to integrate the gender strategy in the project implementation process.

OBJECTIVE

The core objective of the task is to support the project team to ensure gender mainstreaming in the project implementation and documentation process mainly by

TIME FRAME

The consultant will work for ten days for the assignment during 2021. The required days are distributed as shown in table below:

SN	Description of Tasks	Type of Assistance	Expected end date	Number of Days
				Total
1	Discussion with the project to have a brief on agro input partnerships, agriculture and livestock sector and T-OS model and discussion with relevant partners, stakeholders and CDRC	Remote	May 9, 2021	3
2	Prepare the draft of Gender Strategy	Remote	May 27, 2021	4
3	Debrief with M4C and SDC and incorporate the feedbacks	Remote	June 22, 2021	2
4	Finalize Gender Strategy, Phase III	Remote	June 28, 2021	1
	Total			10

DELIVERABLES

Following are the required deliverables of the assignment:

- Gender Strategy for M4C, Phase III
- Time Sheets

Knowledge Management, MRM, and Partnership & Grants team.

REPORTING

The consultant will report to the Team Leader of M4C. S/He will work closely with the project's Innovation &