Skills for Safe Reconstruction Project (SSRP)

**Terms of Reference for the Summative Evaluation of Skills for Safe Reconstruction Project (SSRP)**

1. **Project Description**

   Three years passed since the earthquakes of 25 April and 12 May 2015 that have been catastrophic for Nepal with nearly 9,000 people losing their lives and 22,000 injured. The Government of Nepal reported that 498,852 houses were fully damaged, and 256,697 partially damaged by the earthquake (Post Disaster Needs Assessment, Government of Nepal, 2015). The scale of the disaster was quite huge which affected nearly 800,000 households. For which, training new masons and upgrading skills of existing masons was necessary to fulfil the gaps of required skilled masons.

   Skills for Safe Reconstruction Project (SSRP) is conceptualized based on the Sectoral Plan “Social Sector: Rural Housing and Community Infrastructures” of the Post Disaster Recovery Framework (PDRF) which aligns with the goals of National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) of Nepal. Swisscontact with support from Swiss Solidarity is implementing the project through local NGOs and private sector partners in selected areas of Sindhuli district.

   Sindhuli is among the 14 heavily affected districts by the earthquake and has a total of 75,207 houses of which 20,035 were fully damaged and 17,383 were partially damaged by the earthquake. The number of earthquakes affected households of Sindhuli in project working areas is Sunkoshi Gaupalika 4723 HHs, Marin Gaupalika 3340 HHs, Golonjor Gaupalika 2992 HHs and Kamalamai Nagarpalika 8150 HHs

   Project activities were commenced after getting approval from National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) at the central level and from District Disaster and Relief Committee (DDRC) at the district level.

   The project is currently providing technical assistance (TA) through awareness raising and capacity building to 10,000 house owners and has trained 1,660 local construction workers in earthquake-resilient construction technology through 50 days On-The-Job Training (OJT) for new workers and Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUBDC) developed 7-day masons training for existing workers.

   **Component 1: Awareness raising and capacity building of house owners**

   This component aims to sensitize house owners on safe reconstruction practices by increasing their knowledge on building safe houses and ensuring their commitment to employ skilled workforce for reconstructing their houses. The project has developed a comprehensive awareness package that meets the needs of local house owners. Besides sensitizing and qualifying house owners to follow key elements of safe reconstruction and enabling them to supervise the reconstruction process of their houses, the awareness component also supports them with information regarding government grant procedure and government technical assistance.

   **Component 2: Training and Skills Upgrading of Masons**

   In Sindhuli district alone, an estimated 4'200 skilled masons are required for reconstruction.1 Acknowledging the skills gap, this component aims to train new and existing masons to facilitate the

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1 as per Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) report of 2015
reconstruction process in Sindhuli and create gainful employment for the training graduates by involving them in reconstruction work. The project promoted two types of trainings as follows:

50-days’ On-the-Job Training: The project provides 50-days On-the-Job mason training (OJT) to members of earthquake affected households to engage them in reconstruction works and create gainful employment opportunities for them. As part of the OJT, during each training event, minimum two earthquake resilient houses are constructed for most vulnerable families, carefully chosen by the local community through a fair and transparent process. The project has built 108 houses during OJT for most vulnerable families based on list provided by NRA. After completing the training, trainees are certified by the National Skills Testing Board (NSTB).

9-days’ Skills Upgrading Training: The Project provides 7-days’ masons training to existing masons with the objective to upgrade their skills and practical knowledge on earthquake resilient building techniques. Additional 2 days are added to this training to include life skills and basic entrepreneurship concepts to boost their confidence level and entrepreneurial skills. On completion of the training, the trainees are certified by the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC).

2. Intervention Logic
Overall goal of project is “contribute to future risk reduction of the most affected population by the earthquake (April and May 2015) in selected areas in Sindhuli district. Through capacity building of house owners and skills training for construction workers the project contributes to a safe reconstruction process.” The project has two main outcomes:

Outcome 1: House owners sensitized by the project build earthquake resistant houses that comply with government reconstruction guidelines.

Expected results of outcome 1 are:

- Awareness and knowledge of housing-related risks and earthquake resilient sustainable solutions among house owners have increased.
- House owners are committed to employ skilled construction workers and have the ability to supervise the reconstruction of their house.

Outcome 2: Construction workers trained by the project are placed in gainful employment for reconstruction work in Sindhuli district.

Expected results of outcome 2 are:

- Construction workers enhance their skills, including on earthquake resistant construction methods.
- Training Providers will be strengthened to deliver quality training for construction workers.
3. **Output Results achieved by February 2019**
   - Over 22,000 house owners directly or indirectly sensitized via door-to-door visits, cluster orientations, help-desks, interaction programs, technical and community mobilization and mass media campaigns.
   - 1,660 local construction workers trained on earthquake resistant mason trainings
   - 31 instructors received Training of Trainers (ToT) in earthquake resilient construction technology.
   - 108 private houses built for the most vulnerable households by trainees as part of On-the Job-trainings.
   - Workers trained by SSRP have combined to build over 4200 private houses in Sindhuli.
   - Over 10,000 house owners sensitized by the project have built their houses by employing skilled workers as per the government construction guidelines.

4. **Rationale and Purpose of the evaluation**
   The purpose of summative evaluation of SSRP is to draw valuable lessons regarding overall effectiveness of strategies and the activities implemented to support reconstruction process in Sindhuli.

5. **Specific Objectives of the evaluation**
   The specific objectives of summative evaluation are as follows:
   - Assess the appropriateness/relevance and sustainability of the results (outcomes) of the project interventions;
   - Measure impact of the project activities in the lives of earthquake beneficiaries and support to reconstruction progress of the working district;
   - Provide findings, conclusions, recommendations and lessons to inform the future programme of similar type

6. **Scope and Focus**
   The summative evaluation will focus on the assessment/measurement of factors and evidence for achieving expected results of the project. This includes the criteria of impact, relevance, coverage, accountability, effectiveness, and sustainability of the project. The dimensions that are relevant and measurable are geographical location, age, gender and vulnerable households. The evaluation will focus geographically on four palikas: Sunkoshi Gaupalika, Golanjor Gaupalika, Marin Gaupalika and Kamalamai Nagarpalika where project is working. The evaluation will assess (i) how well the
Skills for Safe Reconstruction Project (SSRP)

project brought the change in the lives of the earthquake affected populations and to build their house in compliance with Government guidelines; (ii) enhancing livelihood of construction workers through the trainings provided by the project; and (iii) examine the coordination among the project’s implementing partners, government line agencies and with other donors/organizations working in the same geographical zones, and the synergies created to achieve results.

7. **Evaluation Criteria and guiding questions**

7.1 **Impact:**
- What are the evidences to show that the project is contributing towards future risk reduction of earthquake affected populations?
- What are the outcomes of capacity building programme for the house owners?
- What are the evidences to show capacity building programme pursued house owners to start reconstruction works?
- How well did project interventions accounted to reconstruction progress of the district?

7.2 **Relevance:**
- How well were project interventions relevant to the need of reconstruction support in the district?

7.3 **Effectiveness:**
- Have the outcomes indicated in the log frame achieved?
- What was the employment status of training graduates (9 days and 50 days mason training) in reconstruction works? How many houses have they already build?
- What is the average size of incomes earned by the training graduates working in reconstruction works/masonry work?
- How was the collaboration between two components to achieve the required result?
- How effectively were the beneficiaries targeted for different activities?

7.4 **Sustainability:**
- What strategies were taken to ensure sustainable results?
- What is the sustainability of employment of trained graduates?
- Is the intervention and its impact likely to continue when external support is withdrawn?
- To what extent can the project be scaled up?
- Has the exit strategy been defined?

7.5 **Coverage**
- To what extent were the most-affected people within working locations, reached?

7.6 **Coordination**
- To what extent did the project’s component partners coordinate the implementation of the project intervention amongst them and with local and national authorities, and with other organizations working in the same geographic areas?
- How effective were the partnership strategies/modalities in program implementation?

7.7 **Accountability to Project Beneficiaries:**
- What is the perception of the project beneficiaries and other stakeholders towards the quality and type of trainings, activities for their capacity building and other support that they have received?
- Did the intervention promote accountability to beneficiaries to ensure their meaningful participation in the activities?
Are monitoring, evaluation, feedback and complaints-handling processes leading to changes and/or innovations in program design and implementation?

7.8 Gender Equality
To what extent has the intervention reduced gender-based inequalities in access to and control over the resources and benefits of programme?

8 Methodology
8.1 Preparation of work plan
The evaluation team will prepare work plan that will guide the evaluation indicating the date of key deliverables and benchmarks. The work plan will be based on a preliminary review of project documents, literature review and discussions with the team. It shall be approved by the project.

8.2 Data collection
The methodology will include both qualitative and quantitative assessment of relevant secondary data. This is followed by primary qualitative and quantitative data collection through desk/secondary source review, Key Informant Interviews, Focus Group Discussions, field visits and field observations as appropriate to the data to be gathered. The evaluation team will develop structured, semi-structured and open questionnaires. The questionnaires have to be approved by the project. The evaluation team will test the questionnaires before finalizing them. The team will define a proposed sample and sampling methodology for this research. The required composition of the sample size should represent proportionately to represent all the geographical locations (Kamalamai Municipality, Marin Rural Municipality, Golanjor Rural Municipality and Sunkoshi Rural Municipality) where the SSRP is working, as well as gender disaggregation. It is envisaged that this should include:

- .... % of trained graduates
- ...% will be female.
- ........% of house owners sensitized by the project
- ....... Stakeholders/local authority should be taken for work performance level

Following tools and techniques can be adopted for survey methods (process of data collection):

- Direct interaction with the beneficiaries
- Key Informant Interviews
- Focused Group Discussion (women, DAG)
- Interview with the Implementing Partners (IPs)
- Interview with Stakeholders:

8.3 Preparation of draft and final evaluation report
The evaluation team will prepare draft report and put forward findings, recommendations and conclusions to the project and the team will be responsible for representing feedbacks and inputs received from the project in the final report.
The draft and final report will have the following structure:

- Title page
- Table of contents
- List of acronyms
- Executive Summary (max. 4 pages); must be a stand-alone summary describing the project, main findings of the evaluation, conclusions and recommendations.
- Main body (max. 30 pages):
  - Introduction
  - Background (Project Description, goals objectives)
  - Evaluation Purpose
  - Methodologies and Approaches
  - Scope and Limitations
  - Findings and Analysis
  - Lessons learned and Conclusions
  - Recommendations
- Annexes..

9 Deliverables:

- Submit a draft report in electronic copy on the summative evaluation to project, integrating findings from the study as prescribed in (8.3)
- Present study findings to the project staff; and
- Submit final report on the summative evaluation in hard copy and in electronic copies including survey data (e.g. database, excel, etc.) taking into consideration comments and suggestions from the project staff.

10 Assignment period

The assignment is to start on April 2019 and shall be for period of maximum 25 days. The proposal should indicate tentative time frame for this assignment.

11 Required Qualifications and Experience of the Consultant Agency/organization

For the assignment, the following requirement are essential:

- At least 5 years of relevant experience in economic development, skills development programme and/or humanitarian field and/or research field;
- Demonstrable experience in designing and undertaking quantitative and qualitative research/evaluation in the field of TVET and community empowerment programme or a related field using participatory approach;
- Understanding of the reconstruction process