

## Terms of Reference

### Senior Gender Specialist


#### Host and FDMN/DRPs Enhancement of lives through Infrastructure Improvement Project (HELP)

#### 1. BACKGROUND

Bangladesh has been coping with the sudden and large inflow of the Rohingya population displaced from Myanmar since 2017. The nearly one million Displaced Rohingya Population (DRP) reside in 33 extremely congested camps designated by the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) in the Ukhiya and Teknaf upazilas in Cox's Bazar district – Bangladesh hosts the largest camp across the globe. The extended presence of the DRP puts additional pressure already on poor areas, affecting livelihoods, services, and social cohesion. Hosting the DRP continues to stretch service delivery of the GoB, including for host communities, amidst decreasing humanitarian resources. The host communities perceive the impact of DRP on their livelihoods as predominantly negative. Perceived increases in crime and security concerns, and pressure on the environment, including deforestation and water source depletion, have been reported as sources of tension. Although the GoB's goal is the DRP's repatriation to Myanmar, recent developments – including the February 2022, military coup make it an uncertain outcome in the short to medium term. Even as the humanitarian emergency evolves to a protracted crisis, the GoB has demonstrated its continued commitment and leadership to support the DRP. Basic assistance in the form of food, shelters, and essential services have been provided using government systems and with support from the international community. Development partners, including the World Bank, have supported the construction of quality infrastructure, including cluster homes, disaster shelters, road networks, waste management systems, and electrical power generation systems in the form of solar PV Standalone Street lighting systems, solar PV water pumping systems, and solar PV nano-grid systems. To reduce the strain on livelihoods and basic service delivery in Cox's Bazar, the GoB has facilitated the voluntary relocation of around 30,000 DRP to Bhasan Char since 2021 an island located in the Bay of Bengal in the Noakhali District. Despite the GoB's continued efforts, critical challenges exist for the DRP and the host communities in fulfilling basic needs and improving livelihoods.

In the above backdrop, Host and Rohingya Enhancement of Lives through a Multi-Sectoral Approach Project (HELP) Financing aided by World Bank with the objective to improve access to basic services, and enhance disaster and climate resilience of the host communities and Displaced Rohingya Population (DRP) has been undertaken. HELP project builds on Emergency Multi-Sector Rohingya Crisis Response Project (EMCRP) to further focus on disaster and climate resilience due to the protracted nature of the crisis and high needs of the population. The project covers specific interventions in Cox's Bazar and Noakhali districts, targeting areas with high population burdens and focusing on improving infrastructure, disaster preparedness, renewable energy, and poverty reduction efforts, among others. The objective has been planned to achieve through the implementation of following works, supply of goods and hiring of services mainly:

- Construction of Multipurpose Shelter & Capacity Enhancement of existing shelters
- Construction of Bridge, Landing Stage & Cold Storage
- Improvement/ Widening and Strengthening of Rural Roads
- Improvement of Hat-Bazar
- Supply and Installation of Solar Street Light.





The components would cover all upazila in Cox's Bazar district and Hatia, Subornachar & Begaumganj Upazila under Noakhali district of Bangladesh.

### Gender Issues in the Project:

The situation of displaced women and girls, who account for 52 percent of the FDMNs in Bangladesh, is particularly in difficult situations. Women among the FDMNs had been subjected to gender-based violence (GBV) even before they fled to Bangladesh and remain at risk in the camps, including of trafficking. Psychosocial distress is highly prevalent, as girls and boys have witnessed horrific violence in Myanmar, including seeing family members killed and their homes burnt down. There is a relatively large share of female-headed and child-headed households.

FDMNs women face high levels of discrimination within their community, and most women stay in their shelters due to social norms that limit their roles in the public sphere as well as to avoid sexual assault and trafficking that is occurring in the camps. This restricted mobility is particularly challenging for women-headed households who compose 16% of FDMNs households. FDMNs women experience risks of domestic violence, sexual exploitation and trafficking; the extent of GBV faced by FDMNs women is difficult to quantify, but UN agencies and local NGOs report high levels. Approximately 85% of sites within Bangladeshi communities hosting FDMNs have no services for survivors of violence<sup>1</sup>. There is a need to expand services that address particular concerns faced by FDMNs women, and subsequently design interventions that provide safety and freedom of movement for women. Such interventions would support: (i) the provision of immediate health services for survivors of violence; (ii) working with community-based organizations to prevent GBV through outreach, peer counseling and behavior change interventions; and, (iii) livelihoods opportunities for FDMNs women. It is also important to ensure that all proposed activities under the project are inclusive towards vulnerable persons, such as children, elderly, people with disabilities/injuries, especially with respect to access and grievance redress.

The LGED intends to hire a Senior Gender Specialist under Selection for Individual Consultant following World Bank Procurement Regulation July 2016 (Revised in September 2023) for services to address the Gender issues under the project. It will be financed by World Bank and duration of the assignment is for 24 (twenty Four) months.

## 2. OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

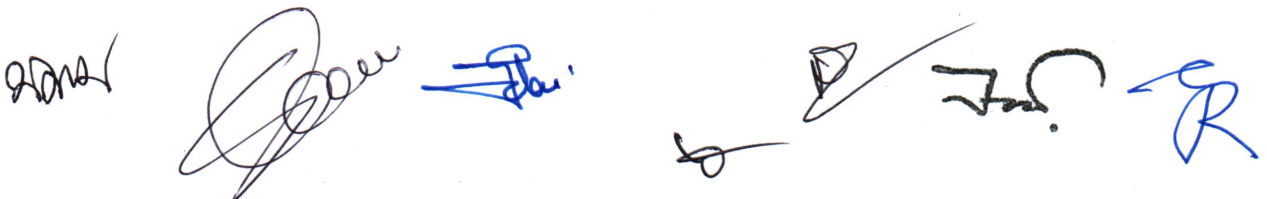
The Consultant will supervise and coordinate with the firm assigned to undertake the gender, social inclusion activities in design and implementation including addressing GBV issues in Field Level.

## 3. SCOPE OF WORK

He/she will undertake the following activities (amongst others, as per need):

- Prepare screening reports on gender and social inclusion in design and construction activities (where appropriate) on equitable terms in all the interventions proposed. Identify the challenges, especially where they are skill related;
- Prepare screening reports on gender and social inclusion in the community workfare and community services component regarding equitable terms in all the interventions proposed. Identify the challenges, especially where they are skill related;
- Coordinate with implementing partners to ensure that women are provided adequate opportunity in construction activities (where appropriate) on equitable terms in all the interventions proposed. This will require input into the contractor's packages to ensure incorporation;
- Ensure that women are getting adequate opportunities in the community workfare program and inclusive community services component by providing training and awareness raising where necessary. (For Component 2);

<sup>1</sup> ISCG Situation report: Rohingya Refugee Crisis Cox's Bazar | 24 May 2018

The bottom of the page features several handwritten signatures and initials in blue ink. From left to right, there is a signature that appears to be 'ADAN', a large stylized signature, a signature that looks like 'Jha', a small mark resembling a 'b', a signature that looks like 'D', a signature that looks like 'Jm', and a signature that looks like 'R'.

- Ensure that all infrastructure designed and constructed under the project is gender inclusive. Review relevant designs, assess proposed spaces and carry out necessary consultations for this purpose;
- Build linkages with other ongoing programs in the camps, and the two other projects funded by the World Bank, for enhancing gender outcomes and preventing GBV;
- Receive and address any gender related grievance received through the centralized GRM (take help of the firm where required); coordinate with the firm on grievances received through their channels and ensure that proper documentation takes place. Consolidate and prepare reports to be shared with the Bank on a quarterly basis;
- Ensure that all project activities address issues of adolescents, youth and child safety – which is fast emerging as one of the biggest challenges affecting families;
- Ensure that all activities are inclusive of issues related to children, elderly, people with disabilities and other vulnerabilities, especially with respect to access;
- Prepare and submit consolidated M&E reports to the Bank on a quarterly basis; and
- Any other relevant tasks assigned by PD.

#### 4. Qualification and Experience

- Bachelor/ Masters in Gender Studies, or Social Sciences or Equivalent;
- 10 years of general experience of which 5 years in activities related to social development and social safeguards of infrastructure projects preferably in in World Bank or similar financiers' funded project;
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills and report writing capacity in both Bangla and English;

#### 5. Responsibilities of Client

- Client will provide necessary assistance to the Consultant in carrying out his activities under the project. The Client will provide necessary office accommodation, computer, logistic services, consumables and other things or related services required for smooth execution of his services. The Client will provide necessary assistance to carry field trips if necessary.

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