**Terms of Reference (TOR) for**

**Selecting the Partner Organizations (POs) for implementing**

**“Resilient Homestead and Livelihood Support to the Vulnerable Coastal People of Bangladesh (RHL)” project.**

**Project Duration:** 60 months (five years)

**Project Area:** Seven coastal districts (Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Barguna, Patuakhali, Bhola, and Cox’s Bazar)

**Total Project Budget:** $49.99 million ($42.20 million GCF grant and $7.79 million PKSF contribution as co-finance)

**Project Background:**

The geographical location and low elevation of the coastal zone of Bangladesh make it vulnerable to disasters. In contrast, climate change asserts a new miserable effect on the lives and livelihoods in the low-lying coastal region. According to the IPCC 6th Assessment Report (AR6), the global sea level will elevate 0.44-0.76 m by 2100 under the intermediate GHG emissions scenario (SSP2-4.5). It is predicted Bangladesh that a 45 cm rise in sea level may inundate 10-15 percent of the land by the year 2050, resulting in over 35 million climate migrants from the coastal districts. The vulnerability of these coastal people can be defined in three ways: i.e. climate-sensitive livelihood, vulnerable settlements in low-lying areas, and scarcity of safe drinking water. Many coastal residents depend on sessional substance agriculture and agriculture wage labor, which are highly climate-sensitive. Moreover, many coastal inhabitants live in houses built of mud and plants, which are severely affected by cyclones, storm surges, and high tides. The lack of climate-resilient housing poses a serious poverty trap, as many of the coastal inhabitant’s incomes go toward house repairs. Under this circumstance, to develop a climate-adaptive coastal community in Bangladesh by adopting climate-resilient housing and livelihood technologies, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) approved “Resilient Homestead and Livelihood support to the vulnerable coastal people of Bangladesh (RHL)”a five-year project, in 36th GCF Board on July 14, 2023. The Palli Karma-Shayak Foundation (PKSF) will implement the project, a Direct Access Entity (DAE) of GCF, an apex development organization under the Financial Institutions Division of the Ministry of Finance, with a budget of $49.99 million. The project has chosen seven exposed coastal districts, namely Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Barguna, Patuakhali, Bhola, and Cox’s Bazar, which are particularly vulnerable to sea level rise, salinity intrusion, coastal flooding, cyclones, and storm surges due to their geographical position. The Project will enhance the resilience of 362,475 targeted people to climate change by adopting and practicing adaptive activities in the Project Area.

The project’s primary goal is to develop a climate-adaptive coastal community in Bangladesh by adopting climate-resilient housing and livelihood technologies. The Project will also enhance the capacity of the communities and organizations to address climate change impacts in their localities.

**The specific objectives are:**

1. To develop climate-resilient homesteads for marginal, vulnerable communities in the southwest coastal zone of Bangladesh;
2. To develop climate-adaptive livelihoods for vulnerable coastal communities; and
3. To enhance knowledge and awareness of vulnerable coastal communities on climate change issues.

Aligning with the stated specific objectives, the project will construct climate-resilient houses for the most vulnerable households, climate-adaptive farming technologies (e.g., crab farming along with mangrove tree plantation, sheep or goat rearing, household-based agriculture, etc.), with technical, financial, and capacity building, supply chain development and market linkage support. The concept of a climate-resilient homestead in the coastal areas of the country includes a raised homestead area, a cyclonic storm-resistant house structure, homestead-based vegetable cultivation, sanitary latrine, rainwater harvesting system and saline-tolerant fruit trees and mangrove species plantations in and around the raised homestead area. This integrated climate-resilient homestead development will protect them from coastal inundation and cyclones and help increase households’ income. These homesteads will also provide some safe space for livestock farming for project participants.

The project participants will be able to identify the impacts of climate change on their lives and livelihoods and prepare plans for addressing those impacts through 3,200 climate change adaptation groups (“CCAGs”). The Project follows agriculture and food security sector guidelines while designing climate-resilient livelihoods. The Project is divided into the following outcomes, outputs, and activities (each an “Outcome,” “Output,” or “Activity”):

**Outcome 1: Decreased risk of loss of assets and life from extreme weather events**

Over three-fourths of households in coastal areas are vulnerable to intensive precipitation, cyclones and storm surges, and coastal flooding due to perishable materials. The proposed project will support the construction of climate-resilient housing to sustain livelihoods. The concept of climate resilient housing under the project includes raising homestead plinths above flood or tidal surge level, constructing and/or reconstructing houses that are resilient to climate change and associated shocks (i.e., cyclone, storm surge, tidal surge, coastal flooding, etc.), construction of climate-resilient sanitary latrines, rainwater harvesting system, homestead gardening system, and tree plantations around the homestead area. Resilient housing is very important for building the resilience of the affected community because they have to spend much of their income on repairing their houses each year during the post-monsoon period, compromising their income, food, and nutrition security.

**Output 1.1 Climate-resilient homesteads constructed**

Activity 1.1.1 Design and building of homesteads

Activity 1.1.2 Homestead tree plantation

**Outcome 2: Livelihood Resilience to SLR/storm surge and salinity**

The RHL will implement goat or sheep rearing in slatted houses and the fruit-fish-fiber model, which combines crab hatchery and farming, homestead vegetable cultivation, fruit trees, and mangrove plantations. Critical elements for the success of the proposed interventions would be a) capacity building of participants, particularly women; b) adequate and suitable access to resources for beneficiaries and other value chain actors; c) collaboration between government and nongovernment institutions, d) private sector engagement and improved climate change adaptation knowledge, and practices. The project will provide the selected beneficiaries with technological support and capacity training in promoting saline-resilient technologies and practices, particularly in the agricultural sector. This outcome will be supported through a combination of grant and loan financing. The loans from PKSF as co-finance to beneficiaries will be used for purchasing goats or sheep, and GCF grants will support building goat/sheep houses. The project will provide technical support and seeds to the selected households for vegetable cultivation, while the households will finance the cost of production.

**Output 2.1: Traditional farming practices climate-proofed**

Activity 2.1.1 Construction of slatted houses for goat/sheep rearing

Activity 2.1.2 Provide financial support for goat/sheep rearing

Activity 2.1.3: Introduce the cultivation of saline-tolerant vegetables within homestead areas

**Output 2.2: Community-based farmed crab supply chain created**

Activity 2.2.1: Development of crab hatcheries (10 stages)

Activity 2.2.2 Financial support for producing crablets

Activity 2.2.3 Technical and financial support for “crab nursers” (20 stage)

Activity 2.2.4 Technical and financial support to “crab farmers” (30 stage)

**Outcome 3: Improved climate planning and implementation by communities and local-level institutions**

Addressing climate change impacts at the community level requires specialized institutions. Local government institutions in Bangladesh mainly deal with regular development activities. Besides, some experienced NGOs have strong, long-term relationships with local communities due to credit programs. These organizations would play a crucial role in promoting climate change adaptation activities at the community level. The proposed project will select some Implementing Entities (IEs) in the proposed working areas and enhance their capacity through training and practice adaptation activities. The project will also engage local government representatives in various activities, including area selection, beneficiary selection, and livelihood activities. To achieve the project objectives, the project will also carry out policy advocacy with the government, particularly for crab sector development and marketing. Government departments and institutions will play a role in the decision-making process at the community level by participating in meetings and workshops during implementation. The Union Parishad (UP) chairman will be the focal point of the local GRM process.

**Output 3.1: Climate change adaptation groups (CCAG) formed and operationalized**

Activity 3.1.1: Beneficiary selection and group formation

Activity 3.1.2: Prepare beneficiaries’ socio-economic profile

Activity 3.1.3: Arrange monthly group meetings on climate change issues for CCAG

**Output 3.2: Capacity built among IEs and relevant institutions apprised of project**

Activity 3.2.1: Prepare training manuals on adaptation technologies and crab value chain

Activity 3.2.2: Prepare guidelines on project management

Activity 3.2.3: Organize training for beneficiaries and stakeholders

Activity 3.2.4: Organize training for IEs’ staff

Activity 3.2.5: Implement workshops and seminars

Activity 3.2.6: Organize exchange visits for beneficiaries and IE staff

Activity 3.2.7: Improve data for crab research and development

**Output 3.3: Knowledge products prepared and disseminated**

Activity 3.3.1: Prepare and disseminate knowledge products

Activity 3.3.2 Real-time evaluation study of project activities.

**Summary Project activities and deliverables**

| **Activities** | **Deliverables \*** |
| --- | --- |
| Activity 1.1.1 Design and building of homesteads | * At least constructing 3,000 climate-proof houses * A storybook with relevant information |
| Activity 1.1.2 Homestead tree plantation | * More than 400,000 windbreak trees (or 20 saplings per HH) will be planted * A comprehensive report on tree plantation |
| Activity 2.1.1 Construction of slatted houses for goat/sheep rearing | * At least 20,000 HHs (90,000 beneficiaries) will be supported through sheep/goat rearing in slatted houses * A report of completed slatted houses |
| Activity 2.1.2 Provide financial support for goat/sheep rearing | * At least 20,000 HHs (90,000 beneficiaries) will be supported through loans for sheep/goat rearing in slatted houses * Annual loan disbursement report/agreements |
| Activity 2.1.3: Introduce the cultivation of saline-tolerant vegetables within homestead areas | * At least 20,000 beneficiary HH will cultivate saline-tolerant vegetables * Activity reports |
| Activity 2.2.1: Development of crab hatcheries (1o stage) | * Establish 50 micro crab hatcheries * Annual training reports/management guidelines * Hatchery operational guideline |
| Activity 2.2.2 Financial support for producing crablets | * Loan support for 50 micro crab hatcheries entrepreneurs * Loan and grant disbursement report/ agreements |
| Activity 2.2.3 Technical and financial support for “crab nursers” (2o stage) | * At least 500 entrepreneurs will engage in crab nursery * Annual training report * Annual loan /grant disbursement report/agreements * A report on crab nursery. |
| Activity 2.2.4 Provide technical and financial support to crab farmers (3o stage) | * A list of 20,000 beneficiary households * Annual training report * Annual loan/grant disbursement report/agreement * A report on the establishment of 20,000 ponds for crab growing with a mangrove tree plantation |
| Activity 3.1.1: Beneficiary selection and group formation | * Selection of 81,450 direct beneficiaries (20,000HH) * Formation of 3,200 CCAG |
| Activity 3.1.2: Prepare beneficiaries’ socio-economic profile | * 81,450 direct beneficiaries (20,000HH) Socio-economic profile report |
| Activity 3.1.3: Arrange monthly group meetings on climate change issues for CCAG | * A document on meeting content for the CCAGs * Annual CCAG meeting reports |
| Activity 3.2.1: Prepare training manual on adaptation technologies and crab value chain | * Training Manual * Meeting notes |
| Activity 3.2.2: Prepare guidelines on project management | * Training plan document * 5 guideline documents |
| Activity 3.2.3: Organize training for beneficiaries and stakeholders | * Training plan document * Training participants’ list * Training reports prepared by IEs |
| Activity 3.2.4: Organize training for IE staff | * Training plan document * Training participants’ list * Training reports prepared by PMU |
| Activity 3.2.5: Implement workshops and Seminars | * Workshop report |
| Activity 3.2.6: Organize exchange visits for beneficiaries and IE staff | * Activity list * A list of 5,000 Participants * Exchange visit plan document and report |
| Activity 3.2.7: Improve data for crab research and development | * Meeting notes |
| Activity 3.3.1: Prepare and disseminate knowledge products | * Prepare five guidelines and training manuals, 20 newsletters, one lesson learned, and five best practice publications. |
| Activity 3.3.2 Realtime evaluation study of project activities | * Study reports |

EOI (Expression of Interest) in the prescribed format are invited from interested eligible organizations to be the project’s Implementing Entity (IE). To be selected, IEs will have to meet the following minimum criteria:

* Permanent existence of the organization in the project areas.
* At least five years of experience implementing climate change-related projects or programs.
* A good track record of financial transactions (i.e., at least BDT one crore, which is around USD 100 thousand annually for the last three years)
* At least B+ as per PKSF’s rating (assessment using defined assessment criteria, which include financial efficiency, economic efficiency, operational efficiency, growth indicators, financial strength and risk management, accounting and internal control system, social performance, human capacity, and governance).
* Valid legal documents, including registration.