



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR PROJECT EVALUATION
OF “WOMEN-LED COLLECTIVE ADVOCACY FOR CLIMATE ACTION”
(Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal)
January 2025

Background Information

The [Women-led Collective Advocacy for Climate Action](#) project runs from 19 September 2022 to 19 September 2025. This project aims to strengthen and sustain the capacity of networked, women-driven CSOs in Bangladesh, Maldives, and Nepal to advance local climate resilience, enable effective advocacy at all levels of governance, and improve gender-equitable land rights.

Women bear the brunt of negative climate change impacts, and there is a critical need to advance women-led interventions and advocacy efforts to build local climate resilience and emergency preparedness in South Asia. As a foundational aspect of building climate resilience, strengthening women’s land rights (WLR) has been proven to increase communities’ adaptive capacities, food security, health, and women’s participation in political processes. Bangladesh, Maldives, and Nepal are three geographies that exemplify climate and land inequities.

In Bangladesh, women suffer disproportionately from the coastal impacts of climate change intersecting with livelihoods and WLR. In Maldives, warming temperatures and rising humidity are increasing to life-threatening levels, while sea level rise offers an existential threat to the most marginalized. In Nepal, climate change is creating both drought and intensified flooding in an annual cycle that amplify existing land issues, particularly for the landless, and notably women who enjoy land rights in less than 20% of households. The Women-led Collective Advocacy for Climate Action project anchors its work in priorities and activities determined by women in the region, as these women are among the most affected and most capable of leading in the climate action sphere when equipped with the rights and capacities to do so.

The project has aimed to strengthen and sustain the capacity of networked, women-driven civil-society organizations (CSOs) in Bangladesh, Maldives, and Nepal to advance local climate resilience and emergency preparedness, enable effective advocacy at all levels of governance, and improve gender-equitable land rights. By advancing the project goals of forging coalitions; developing capacity, strategy, and policies; and creating and engaging in fora for information-sharing and scaled efforts, this initiative demonstrates that armed with the necessary connections, information, and resources, women-led coalitions will drive problem-solving, provide policy leadership, and serve as a model for the region. Achieving these aims will ultimately result in enhanced, sustainable, and inclusive climate action and bolstered gender-equitable land rights, directly benefitting women and men with roles in the government, development organizations, civil society, and households. The project’s success will increase demand and accountability for WLR as a tool for equitably addressing climate change with the potential for a scaled impact through national policy and program reform. The project’s learning and advocacy efforts will

influence the broader South Asian region and could inspire similar models of women-led networks to advance climate action and emergency preparedness for the region.

This project leverages the organizational strengths and partnerships between Landesa, the International Land Coalition (ILC), the Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD) in Bangladesh, Land Sea Maldives (LSM), and the National Land Rights Forum–Nepal (NLRF). Landesa and ILC provide regional coordination, capacity-building resources, and technical climate change expertise, while ALRD, LSM, and NLRF serve as national focal points for building their respective country coalitions and programmatic interventions. An existing Stand for Her Land Bangladesh Country Coalition led by ALRD and the ILC Nepal National Land Coalition led by NLRF are helping to inspire the development of a Country Coalition in Maldives under the leadership of LSM.

The Women-led Collective Advocacy for Climate Action project has three main goals:

Goal 1: Support the formation of coalitions of women-led or women-focused organizations and the development of national strategies together with monitoring, evaluation, and learning plans that emphasize the role of women’s land rights, livelihoods, and well-being for strengthening climate resilience in Bangladesh, Maldives, and Nepal.

Goal 2: Implement country coalitions’ strategies to strengthen capacity and knowledge sharing amongst women-led or women-focused CSOs for innovative approaches to securing gender-equitable and socially inclusive land rights and building climate resilience to spur local implementation of sustainable land management and livelihood practices (including in forests and coastal ecosystems), build adaptive capacity and emergency preparedness, and ensure human security.

Goal 3: Create or support fora for information-sharing and scaled advocacy efforts led by Country Coalitions and partners at the local, national, and regional levels for effective emergency preparedness, climate action, and gender-equitable and socially inclusive land rights.

Landesa is an international nonprofit dedicated to ending global poverty by securing land rights for rural communities around the globe. We are committed to a future in which all women and men who depend on land have secure, legal land rights – one of the most powerful tools for lifting oneself, one’s family, and one’s community out of poverty.

To achieve our vision, we partner with governments, civil society, and companies to develop pro-poor and gender-sensitive laws, policies, and programs that have helped strengthen land rights for more than 720 million people in the last 5 years. Since our founding in 1981, we have worked in more than 65 countries throughout the world, with central office staff in the U.S. (Seattle, Washington and Washington, DC) and regional programming in China, India, Liberia, Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda, Indonesia, Cambodia, and Thailand.

Project Evaluation Scope of Work

Anticipated period of performance: March-August 2025

This project evaluation will serve to identify key learnings from the implementation of the Women-led Collective Advocacy for Climate Action project and offer good practices that can be shared with regard to the development of women-focused or women-led country coalitions that aim to create changes at the local or national level on laws, policies, and practices. The objectives of this summative project evaluation carried out as the project comes to completion are:

- To track and assess the effectiveness of the project overall and each country coalition's approach to creating and building the coalitions to enable climate action that is gender-responsive, including on women's land rights (to reach the outcomes established in the project's Theory of Change)
- To assess the coordination and technical support provided by Landesa and ILC
- To evaluate the extent and reach of both the capacity-building activities at the national/local level, as well as the regional and global advocacy engagements for inclusive climate action; and
- To identify opportunities to strengthen the national coalitions and their identification of strategic interventions locally and nationally, as well as regionally and globally.

The project evaluation will cover the following evaluation and learning questions through a set of methods to be proposed by the evaluator (consultant or consultant team). These methods can include a review of project documents (and a brief survey of relevant published material), as well as interviews with project personnel, partners and coalition members, participants, and other relevant stakeholders. The evaluator may suggest adjustments to these questions in the inception report after a preliminary review of project documents and conversations with project partners. The project evaluation will cover the period from the start of the project (19 September 2022) to the end of July 2025 (the project ends on 19 September 2025).

General:

1. In an overall sense, what have been the strengths and challenges for the coalition in each country context for meeting project objectives? How well were partners supported by Landesa and ILC? How have the coalition strengths been achieved? What were the specific achievements in terms of improving gender equity and social inclusiveness both in terms of the project process and the results of implementation? And how were challenges addressed?
2. How has the coalition in each country established a set of strategic initiatives to fulfill the project objectives in their specific context? In particular, what has the role of specific women-led or women-focused organizations been in the coalition? What has been the role of other organizations in the coalition? What have been the multiple benefits of organizing such coalitions? How useful were the capacity-building and training activities to fulfill strategic goals for coalition members?
3. How well have the specific strategic initiatives developed by the coalition been able to meet the project objectives in their specific context? To what extent have these interventions been timely and relevant for meeting the project objectives? What has been the quality of project deliverables? Was there good compliance with the plans and timelines set out by

the coalition members? In what way did the country coalition activities benefit women and men to achieve better gender equity and social inclusiveness?

4. In what way has the national coalition been able to achieve positive changes in the government's policy orientation (local, sub-national, or national) through dialogues, policy changes, and changes in national and global (or regional) climate or land commitments (such as NDCs or SDGs)? What has been the level of satisfaction among the key government (national or local) and partner stakeholders in the varied productive policy engagements with the national coalition? Were any new laws or bills drafted through the support of the project? In what way were linkages between land rights and climate change action developed at the policy or practical field level? How could the project have more effectively achieved changes in the regulatory arena? What are the lessons for achieving policy impact?
5. How have the project initiatives at the local level promoted gender-equitable and socially inclusive land rights, sustainable land management, and livelihood practices, and disaster preparedness/climate change adaptation at the community and household level? In each context, these can range across such areas as strengthening women's land rights, disaster preparedness, integrating climate change responses into sustainable land use planning, and climate-smart agriculture that benefited local stakeholders. What do the local stakeholders perceive to be the gains from the community-level project activities? How well do these activities meet the project objectives? How useful were training and awareness-raising activities? In particular, how well have the linkages between land rights and climate change been improved? What are the suggestions on how to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of these local-level activities?
6. In what ways were the coalitions and partners able to share/learn from each other, and also build international (such as at the UNFCCC COP meetings in 2023, 2024), regional (Asia Land Forum in Feb 2025), and varied national advocacy actions? How well were the project achievements and case studies communicated at advocacy venues and in overall media dissemination? What did key stakeholders at these advocacy events perceive to be the main contributions of partner participation?
7. What do national coalition members see as valuable learning within each national coalition? What influence, if any, did that learning have on project activities? In what way do coalition members think this project's actions will have an influence on future developments after the project's end? What are the good practices (including those on processes) that have emerged in each national context from this project? In an overall sense, how do coalition members assess the effectiveness of the project?
8. Based on the findings from this project evaluation what are the insights that can be leveraged for the design and implementation of a future project that is similar in orientation? What do the good practices identified in this evaluation indicate for the objectives of future projects? What other dimensions of inclusive climate action could be included in a future project?

The evaluator will be expected to oversee all aspects of the evaluation, including but not limited to:

- Regular meetings with the Landesa lead person(s)
- Methodological design
- Review of all project documents and brief review of literature for each national context (such as on women's land rights, adaptation and mitigation to climate change, disaster preparedness, sustainable land use planning, and livelihoods)
- Inception report
- Creation of interview guides for a range of stakeholders
- Organize all field visit logistics and obtain any necessary permissions to collect information and obtain a free certificate on human subject research by completing Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP)'s online training
- Carry out online and field interviews and visits in the three countries (May to June 2025)
- Attend the partners meeting in Kathmandu in late April 2025
- Analysis of all data
- Virtual presentation of initial findings, drafting and revising of deliverables until the report is finalized
- Travel arrangements and expenses.

The evaluator will communicate regularly with Landesa and the Women-led Collective Advocacy for Climate Action Project team including virtual check-ins and email updates with Landesa every two weeks throughout the course of the engagement. The evaluator may also be invited to participate virtually in learning sessions and project meetings. The evaluator will participate in person in the partners meeting to be held in Kathmandu (28-30 April 2023). The field visits to each country will take place after that – likely Nepal first, Maldives next, and then Bangladesh. Each trip will be between 7 to 10 days (to be discussed).

The evaluator will seek informed consent from participants in the evaluation and protect any personally identifying information, especially from participants in community-based activities. The evaluator will not subcontract any or all parts of the scope to another firm.

The project evaluation report will document the evaluation process, re-state the project objectives, set out the findings for both each country coalition as well for the project broadly, identify recommendations, and provide a conclusion that sums up the overall success and learning of the project and reiterates key findings and recommendations.

List of Partner Locations

The Women-led Collective Advocacy for Climate Action project is being implemented in three countries: Bangladesh, Maldives, and Nepal. In each country, not only will there be interviews in their respective capitals, but there will also be field visits to key sites. These will be identified in collaboration with the Landesa lead person and the partner leads. In many cases, these field visits will be to locations that involve a domestic flight and further local travel.

In all countries, the lead organization of the coalition will arrange language interpretation support for field interviews. In this way, the interpreter will be very familiar with the local issues and terminologies.

Data Collection Methods

The evaluator will draw upon a range of qualitative methodologies that include:

- Semi-structured interviews with Landesa and ILC project staff
- Semi-structured interviews of coalition members and lead partner organization
- Semi-structured interviews of stakeholders in the government and other CSOs
- Focus group discussions (FGDs) with men and women, separately, from local-level communities
- Key informant interviews (KIIs) with government officials, NGOs/CSOs, traditional leaders, and policymakers.

Deliverables

In addition to regular meetings with the Landesa lead person every two weeks, a set of deliverables will be part of the project evaluation responsibilities. The evaluator will submit the following deliverables to be reviewed and approved by Landesa:

- a. Inception report that provides details of the overall design of the project evaluation, technical approach for qualitative research, proposed plan for interviews in each country, analysis, and work plan with the proposed schedule.
- b. Fieldwork methodology and interview protocols.
- c. Preliminary analysis and virtual workshop to discuss findings with Landesa (and ILC).
- d. First report draft
- e. Finalized report of 30 pages (not including annexes) and a slide deck (about 20 slides).

Tentative Timeline

- Project documents, deliverables, and learning documents review (March to April 2025)
- One week to 10 days of travel to each country including partner meetings (May and June 2025)
- Participate in the partner meeting in Kathmandu (April 2025)
- Preparatory and post-visit online Zoom interviews
- Preliminary analysis and virtual workshop to discuss findings with Landesa (and ILC) (June 2025)
- First report draft and slide deck (July 2025)
- Finalized report draft (early August 2025)
- Finalized report and virtual e-briefing to Landesa staff (August 2025).

Selection Process

Landesa will evaluate the proposal submissions based on alignment with the project evaluation goals, the technical and budget merit of the proposed evaluation, and the qualifications of the consultant and/or the consultant team using the following criteria:

- Based in South Asia with experience in land rights (including women's land rights) and climate change adaptation/ mitigation

- Understanding of gender issues and coalition-building
- Technical merit of the proposed methods of data collection and analysis
- Team qualifications, including experience collecting similar data, strong skills in project evaluation, and a university degree in relevant discipline
- Proposed budget.

During the evaluation process, applicants may be contacted by Landesa for more detailed information.

Guidelines for submitting proposals

A copy of the proposal should be sent to Nargis Karimova (nargisk@landesa.org) and to Nayna Jhaveri (naynaj@landesa.org) by **10 February 2025**. Please include "**RFP: Women-led Collective Advocacy for Climate Action Evaluation**" in the subject line.

Please provide the following information in the proposal packet:

1. A statement of the consultant and/or consultant team qualifications for the assignment, demonstrating their expertise in qualitative research (maximum 1 page)
2. Descriptions of previous projects related to the assignment, including client contact details (or ideally reference letters) for at least two projects (maximum 2 pages)
3. CV of consultant and/or consultant team
5. Broad description of logistics for carrying out project evaluation
1. Estimated budget (in USD) is up to \$33,000. The budget should include all costs related to the project evaluation. A maximum of 20% of the total budget can be paid upon signing the contract. The remaining funds will be transferred according to a schedule that is structured around Landesa's approval of deliverables.

Theory of Change: Inclusive Climate Action

