Terms of reference:
Qualitative Research Consultancy – Assessment of behavior change and policy reform processes in the Bangladesh Sundarbans

Background

Landesa is an international nonprofit, founded in 1981, and dedicated to ending global poverty by securing land rights for the world's rural farmers. Landesa has worked in 50 countries throughout the world, with a home office in Seattle, WA, and field offices in Monrovia, Dar es Salaam, Beijing, and multiple offices in India. The organization is widely supported by partners, including NGOs, foundations, donor agencies (USAID, World Bank, etc.), world leaders, educational institutions, and individual supporters throughout the world. Landesa is known for its advancement of pro-poor, gender-sensitive land rights reforms that have helped alleviate poverty, reduce hunger, and ease conflict over land for more than 540 million women and men.

Shushilan, a leading Bangladeshi NGO established in 1991, implements programs in socio-economic development, education, health, disaster relief, and human rights to create a more just and equitable society. Shushilan works to empower people through various programs including poverty reduction, environmental sustainability, education, health, and good governance. Through its work across Bangladesh, Shushilan has reached 9.5 million people.

Landesa and partner Shushilan have been carrying out pilot work in Bangladesh over the last 1.5 years as part of our _Coastal Livelihoods and Mangroves Project_. The pilot seeks to strengthen community capacities and promote behavior change in support of mangrove conservation and sustainable management of the mangrove ecosystem, through local government advocacy, gender-inclusive institution building, and behavior change interventions targeting mangrove forest-dependent communities. The project is piloted in Satkhira and Khulna, two of the five mangroves districts in Sundarbans. The pilot villages are Purbo-Dhangmari village of Banishanta union, Kalabogi village of Sutarkhali union of Dacope upazila under Khulna district, and Singhortoli village of Munshiganj union, Datinakhali village of Burigoalini union of Shyamnagor upazila under Satkhira district. Direct beneficiaries from pilot interventions include 955 forest-dependent community members; indirect beneficiaries include approximately 4,775 community members expected to benefit through the awareness-raising and knowledge-sharing components of the project. Additional stakeholders include Co-Management Committee members (CMC), members of Village Conservation Forum (VCF), members of Peoples Forum (PF), Community Patrol Group (CPG), Forest Department, Upazila Parishad and Administration, Local Government, Land Office and various Sectorial Agencies.

Assessment overview

Landesa and Shusilan are seeking applications from individuals OR teams of up to three people to carry out qualitative research which will assess the Bangladesh pilot work. The assessment has two parts: assessment of behavior change-related interventions, using Most Significant Change (MSC) Methodology; and assessment of processes of policy and program reform achieved due to the project's influence, through key informant interviews and participatory action research with state planners.

Assessment findings will help the Landesa-Bangladesh team understand progress achieved after 1.5 years of pilot interventions in terms of 1) any initial *community-level behavior change* in support of mangrove conservation and sustainable management and 2) *duty bearers' intention to act* for meaningful, gender-responsive community inclusion in mangrove forest governance. Learnings from the assessment will help the team in Bangladesh develop recommendations for scaling of interventions.

Main responsibilities:
- Coordinate and consult regularly with Shushilan and Landesa.
  o Consult Shushilan staff in Bangladesh to understand the context, purpose and scope of interventions, beneficiaries targeted, and state planners engaged.
  o Hold regular debriefs with the Shushilan team and the Landesa Sr. Research and Evaluation Specialist over the course of the consultancy.
- Develop study design.
  o Design the Most Significant Change study and sampling strategy, with review and feedback from the Shushilan/Landesa team and the Landesa Sr. Research and Evaluation Specialist
  o Design tools and sampling strategy for assessment of policy and program reform, with review and feedback from the Shushilan/Landesa team and the Landesa Sr. Research and Evaluation Specialist.
  o Ensure that all activities related to data collection and management follow Landesa's Ethical Guidelines for Research.
- Conduct in-person data collection in each of the 4 pilot villages (2-3 days in each village).
  o Coordinate travel logistics for fieldwork.
  o Coordinate with Shushilan team to schedule and identify/confirm places for carrying out data collection activities.
  o Carry out data collection, ensuring quality control and safe, secure storage of all data collected.
- Analyze and report findings.
  o Analyze the qualitative data collected.
  o Give a presentation for the Shushilan/Landesa team and the Landesa Sr. Research and Evaluation Specialist on findings from the MSC study and the assessment of policy and program reform processes.
  o Prepare a report in Bengali summarizing the findings from the MSC study and the assessment of policy and program reform processes.
  o Prepare a learning brief in English, based on findings from the report.

Deliverables (all deliverables are to be submitted in English, except where otherwise noted)

- Study design of: MSC and policy/program reform assessment
- Data collection tools
- PowerPoint presentation of findings
- Report in Bengali of findings from the MSC and policy reform assessment (10-12 pages)
- Learning Brief based on findings from the MSC and policy reform assessment (4 pages)

Anticipated timing and level of effort (LOE): Mid-October 2024 to end-of-January 2025, with anticipated LOE of 30-35 days.

- Mid-October to mid-November: Design of overall approach and sampling strategy; creation of data collection guides and tools
- Mid-November to mid-December: Data collection and processing
- Mid-December to mid-January: Data analysis, presentation, and report writing
- Mid-January to end of January: Writing of learning brief

Preferred qualifications
- Candidates with minimum 5 years' experience designing and conducting most significant change methods, working with coastal/riverine communities, and familiarity with gendered land and resource tenure concepts will be given high preference.
- Proficiency in Bengali
- Strong background in qualitative research
- Experience conducting research with government actors

Application instructions
Qualified candidates may submit proposals by August 5th to Pinaki Halder pinakih@landesa.org, with copy to Dr. Tatiana Gumucio tatianag@landesa.org. Proposals should include the following information:
- CV (no more than 5 pages)
- Letter of interest describing relevant experience and expertise
- Descriptions of past projects relevant to the assignment, including contact information of clients for at least two projects
- Estimated budget in USD, between $11,000 and $14,000, for the work. The budget should include all costs for field data collection and related travel costs.

*If applying as a team of (no more than 3) consultants, in addition to the four items noted above, proposals should also include:
- CV for each team member
- Staffing information, including the roles and responsibilities of each team member