

Terms of Reference (TOR)

International Environmental Compliance STTA

Bangladesh Host and Impacted Community Resilience Activity

Background

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)'s Host and Impacted Community Resilience Activity (HICRA) is the largest localization initiative supported by USAID in Bangladesh. Friends in Village Development Bangladesh (FIVDB), a non-governmental organization, leads a consortium of international and local technical and implementing partners.. HICRA's implementation period is initially until September 30, 2026, with a contingent renewal period until June 11, 2029.

HICRA's targeted areas - Cox's Bazar and the Chittagong Hill Tract (CHT) districts of Bangladesh - are among the lowest ranked in Bangladesh for education, skills training, food security, poverty, and agriculture productivity. The entire region has emerged as a climate-disaster hotspot. Erratic rainfall, seasonal and flash floods, tidal surges, cyclones, landslides, and droughts continuously result in loss of crops, houses, and lives. The influx of 700,000 Rohingya refugees in 2017 in Cox's Bazar, coupled with the large increase in humanitarian assistance, has also created or exacerbated social and economic challenges for host and impacted communities in this region. Access to jobs, finance, drinking water, and government services have all been strained due to the refugee crisis, in addition to the depletion of natural resources, groundwater and forests. This ongoing situation poses significant challenges for the communities directly responsible for hosting the refugee camps and the regions surrounding the Rohingya camps.

HICRA's goal is to improve the overall well-being and resilience of people residing in the communities hosting or impacted by the Rohingya refugee crisis. This will be accomplished by assisting poor, ultra poor, and other households in the Cox's Bazar, Rangamati, Khargachari, and Bandarban districts of Bangladesh, while safeguarding the surrounding natural environment, to achieve the following four Intermediate Results (IRs):

- Result 1: Income-generating opportunities expanded
- Result 2: Access to basic water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services enhanced
- Result 3: Sustainable natural resources management (NRM) strengthened
- Result 4: Ability of host and impacted communities to mitigate, adapt to, and recover from shocks improved

Objective of this assignment

It is anticipated that the consultant will provide needs-based, on-going support to HICRA over the life of the activity. This consultancy will provide subject matter expertise to support HICRA's environmental compliance documents, including contributing to: a modification of the Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) based on feedback from USAID; preparation of an initial Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (EMMP) and a Climate Risk Mitigation (CRM) plan; and future revisions/updates and reports related to these documents.

This consultancy will also support the HICRA team to develop related checklists, guidelines and internal training materials to ensure environmental compliance. Although the consultant will work remotely - s/he will need to work closely with the HICRA staff to obtain inputs regarding interventions and local conditions to develop the required documents and tools for monitoring. The consultant will be engaged by DevWorks International, a U.S. based organization and a partner of FIVDB.

Responsibilities of the Consultant

- Provide inputs to support the finalization of the modification to the IEE, which will include reviewing draft intervention summaries and responding to USAID's feedback
- Based on the determinations included in HICRA's IIE, lead the development of HICRA's EMMP with all required information for submission to USAID
- Lead the development of the CRM plan for submission to USAID
- Address USAID feedback on the EMMP and CRM plans, and related documents, to successfully shepherd these documents through the USAID approval process
- Meet with HICRA staff to discuss the aforementioned environmental compliance documents
- Support EMMP and CRM plan annual updates
- Lead amendments to the EMMP and CRM plans
- Support development of Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Reports (EMMRs) and CRM reports
- Provide support to HICRA in developing other environmental compliance documentation, including: checklists, guidelines, environmentally sound design management (ESDM) training for staff, and Programmatic Pesticide Evaluation Report - Safe Use Action Plan (PERSUAP) training for staff and participants.
- Work with staff to prepare annual EMMR and CRM plan reports
- Train, mentor and coach HICRA staff on environmental compliance documentation checklists, guidelines, environmentally sound design management (ESDM), and Programmatic Pesticide Evaluation Report -Safe Use Action Plan (PERSUAP)

Deliverables and Timetable

- Draft and finalize the modification to the IEE addressing USAID’s feedback - due on or about November 1, 2024
- Draft outlines of HICRA’s initial EMMP and CRM plan - due on or about November 1, 2024
- Notes from meetings with HICRA staff (1-4 meetings) to discuss the environmental compliance documents - due November 11, 2024.
- First draft of the IEE and initial EMMP (due November 22, 2024) and CRM plan (due November 26, 2024)
- Final drafts of the initial, EMMP (due December 2, 2024) and CRM plan (due December 4, 2024) addressing USAID’s comments – up to 8 workdays total, including sharing comments with HICRA staff
- Draft and final EMMR and CRM plan reports. Amendments and/or updates as needed (due August 30 each year)
- Draft and final annual updates to EMMP and CRM plans as needed
- Training materials for HICRA staff on developing other environmental compliance documentation including checklists, guidelines, environmentally sound design management (ESDM) training for staff, and Programmatic Pesticide Evaluation Report - Safe Use Action Plan (PERSUAP) training for staff and participants – due TBD

Level of Effort

Up to 60 days from October 28, 2024 - September 30, 2026.

Expected Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in environmental science or similar field; Masters degree preferred
- Demonstrated experience drafting USAID-approved EMMPs and CRMs
- Familiarity with Bangladesh’s south eastern ecosystems and climate threats
- Knowledge of environmental threats and mitigation measures for agriculture, income generation activities, WASH (water supply, latrines, water purification), natural resource management, disaster risk reduction and construction
- Fluency in written and spoken English is essential