

***Nuton Jibon Livelihood Improvement Project (NJLIP)***

**BANGLADESH**

**IDA credit no. 5594-BD**

**Terms of Reference for**

**Selection of Individual Consultant for Technical and Environmental Audit including Impact Assessment  
of community Sub-projects  
Contract no. S-37 (NJLIP)**

**Background**

The Social Development Foundation (SDF) is an autonomous and 'not-for-profit' agency, established by the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) in 2001 to promote community-based initiatives designed to serve the needs of the poorest and the most vulnerable, particularly women and youths. SDF's mandate is to contribute to the overall agenda of poverty alleviation in Bangladesh through empowering the poor and financing their development activities employing a Community Driven Development (CDD) approach that focuses on community organization, capacity building and principles of participation, empowerment and downward accountability. The vision of SDF program is to focus on building and strengthening of inclusive and participatory institutions of the poor and improving their livelihoods.

The "Nuton Jibon Livelihood improvement Project (NJLIP)" came into being in August, 2015 with a budget of US\$ 220 million for a time span of 6 (six) years. The Project Development Objective (PDO) is **to improve the livelihoods of the poor and extreme poor in the project areas**. The key outcome indicators are defined around: (a) livelihoods (e.g. increase in household income); (b) outreach and coverage (e.g. number of direct beneficiaries, by gender and outreach per village); (c) strengthened self-management (e.g. index measuring empowerment and gender aspects). This PDO is being achieved by employing a CDD strategy to (i) empower the poor and strengthen local governance by developing sustainable, participatory and accountable rural community institutions; (ii) increase employment opportunities by enhancing skills, supporting the start up or expansion of income generating activities and improving access to markets and financial institutions; and (iii) support small - scale demand - driven community investment sub-projects that are prioritized, implemented and managed directly by the rural poor.

The Nuton Jibon Livelihood Improvement Project (NJLIP) consists of three components (A) Community Institutions and Livelihood Developments; (B) Business Development and Institutional Strengthening; and (C) Project Management, Monitoring and Learning;

**Component- 1: Community Institutions and Livelihood Development**

The objective of this component is to mobilize and empower village communities, build and strengthen pro-poor institutions, and village development fund and livelihood-related investments. The component includes two sets of activities:

**Community and Livelihood Development:** The objective of this component is to: (i) mobilize the poor and extreme poor in selected rural communities by building and strengthening beneficiary community institutions; it supports the mobilization and formation of community institutions, their capacity building and training on community manual. (ii) **provide funding for small infrastructures such as construction of**

roads, culverts, drains, installation of tube-wells, water distillation/desalination plants and livelihood support for project beneficiaries. This includes construction of Gram Samiti office buildings and development of Gram Parishad into inclusive, autonomous and accountable village institutions with financial and institutional capacity to plan. It also covers to support youth development, developing a sustainable village – based savings and credit system and strengthening, operation and maintenance of community infrastructures and (iii) provide nutrition awareness and agricultural production knowledge.

**Nutrition Awareness and Support:** The project has introduced Nutrition Awareness and Support as a sub-component. The objective of the nutrition sub-component is to raise awareness, improve attitudes and practices that enhance nutritional outcomes for targeted beneficiaries in selected project areas and to support beneficiaries in optimizing their livelihood activities. This is being achieved through (i) promoting better hand washing practices amongst beneficiaries, particularly before food preparation, feeding of babies and when using sanitation facilities; (ii) promoting better infant and child feeding practices for pregnant and lactating mothers; (iii) mainstreaming nutrition sensitive actions into selected income generating activities. Behavioral change campaigns and awareness building would be facilitated by SDF using the established community mechanism, while the activities outsourced to experience NGOs in the intervention areas.

**2. Business Development and Institutional Strengthening:** This component aims to increase livelihood opportunities of poor and hardcore poor by facilitating their organization into producer groups, cooperatives and societies and by improving their market and business orientation and forward and backward linkages in the market systems.

The specific objectives are to (i) build and strengthen producer organizations as market partners and commercially oriented entities; (ii) facilitate interaction between producers and traders/processors of products in the down- and up-stream value chains; and (iii) support market/business oriented investment to solve bottlenecks in the market chains and/or adding value to the products (e.g. poor and hardcore poor capturing a higher share in the value chain)

**3. Project Management, Monitoring and Learning:** This component supports the management of the project, monitoring and continuous learning throughout the project period. The component continues supporting third party monitoring and impact evaluation activities as well as build and expand on communication aspects. SIPP-II has established a well-functioning Monitoring and Information System that has been further build-on and expanded. Information and communication technology supported feed-back mechanisms are introduced under the project to simplify and feed into existing feedback and monitoring tools.

## **B. Project Area**

The project has 3 regions comprising of 12 districts under six divisions such as Dhaka, Chattogram, Khulna, Barishal, Rangpur and Sylhet. This includes 7 predecessor SIPP-II intervened districts (SIPP-II was implemented in a total of 16 districts from July 2011- December 2015 and currently 2<sup>nd</sup> tier institutions

support is being extended by SDF) and 5 new districts where the NJLIP is being implemented. A total of 36 upazilas and 209 unions are covered by three regions under the NJLIP. The target group of the project is the poor and extreme poor in those poorest upazilas. The project supports an estimated 2,500 new villages in 12 districts (around 500,000 poor and extreme poor households/2.25 million beneficiaries).

Under component-1 of NJLIP i.e. community institutions and livelihood development a good number of infrastructure development works have already been implemented by the project in line with the results framework of NJLIP that yield enormous benefits to the beneficiaries in terms of easing their forward and backward communication to markets, hospitals, attending social events, visiting relatives and also similarly contributing to children to attend schools.

In order to assess the performance of these infrastructure works and environmental impact of the infrastructure/livelihood activities of the project, a study needs to be conducted by involving individual consultants preferably during the period from **March to June 2019**. In order to do this, the technical and environmental audit and impact assessment **on infrastructure sub project and Environmental assessment on infrastructure/ livelihood sub-projects will meticulously look into** different documents and records relating to infrastructure and livelihood development with environmental safeguard, design elements, procurement, accounts and financial reporting to meet the obligation of the Gram Samiti (GS). The proposed assessment will also identify and evaluate the qualitative values that would compare with the economic changes due to rural infrastructure built and livelihood development by the community and also ensure whether financial transparencies as well as accountability aspects are considered during implementation period. This report is expected to be informative, analytical with vivid articulation which could supplement the Implementation Completion Results Report (ICRR) from borrowers' perspective. In this regard, the consultant should use primary data and information to be collected by himself/herself and secondary data available with SDF-MIS.

### **3.0 Objective of the Consultancy**

The main purpose of this consultancy is to conduct a technical audit for infrastructure sub-projects and environmental impact audit for infrastructures as well as livelihood development sub-projects and to assess the economic impacts of rural infrastructure that have been implemented since beginning of sub-projects.

These are as follows:

- To review documents and records relating to infrastructure and livelihood development, environmental safeguard, procurement, accounts and financial reporting that meet the obligation of the Gram Samiti (GS).
- To identify socio-economic impacts of sub-projects (infrastructure and livelihood development) in a qualitative manner based on FGDs and KIIs.
- To assess environmental performance and benefits from the completed community infrastructure and livelihood development sub-projects (IGAs).

- To conduct interviews/interact with GS, SPC, Producer group members , NJG members and SAC regarding their views and perceptions related to sub-project planning and implementation, operations and maintenance works, usefulness etc.
- To verify the implemented infrastructure in accordance with the environmental soundness and concerned design, drawing, specification, bill of quantity, cost effectiveness etc for infrastructure development sub-projects.
- To verify the implemented livelihood activities specially the on farm IGAs in accordance with environmental issues like compost & virmi compost making, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Bio security etc.
- To verify the quality of materials being used, labor days generated through infrastructure development sub-project implementation works etc. in accordance with the engineering analysis.
- To verify the expenditure in accordance with the bill vouchers of construction materials, labor days, transportation, etc.
- To identify constraints associated with the mitigation measures and effective functioning of O&M activities of completed infrastructure sub-projects;
- To identify, assess and audit, measures and standards, used in the detailed design, construction and operation of the developments and determine whether the environmental impacts were reduced to an acceptable levels;
- To identify and describe elements of community and environment likely to be affected by the developed sub-projects and likely to cause productive impacts, including natural and man-made environment;
- To identify and quantify emission sources and determine the significance of impacts on sensitive receivers and potential affected users;
- To identify, describe and quantify any potential landscape and visual impacts and evaluate the significance of impacts on completed sub-projects;

#### **4.0 Scope of Work**

In view of the overall project objectives, SDF intends to hire an individual consultant to carry out a **technical audit** and economic assessment of **on-going and completed community infrastructure sub-projects** in the project areas focusing particularly on design and construction consistency, environmental (both for infrastructure and livelihood development), economic and financial soundness of community sub-projects and outcomes.

The Consultant will conduct technical audit and economic impact of ongoing/completed community infrastructures e.g. GS Office building, road, culverts, deep tube-wells, drains, etc. in different project villages under different clusters. The Consultant will visit **approximately 50 villages under NJLIP at different locations in the SDF project areas** where GS implemented different infrastructures construction exist as per approved plan. The consultant will select the villages randomly.

The villages will be selected by the consultant to collect data on technical audit perspective as well as economic analysis at different villages (randomly selected). The assessments will include the following:

- Technical Review of infrastructure in selected villages constructed under NJLIP.
- Assess environmental safeguards considered in the infrastructure
- Assess compliance with SDF guidelines and policies
- Economic analysis to measure success of the projects
- Environment analysis of the livelihood activities undertaken by the NJG members.
- Assess the environmental awareness of the NJG members regarding the implementation of different on farm activities at village level.

#### 5.0 Inputs and support from SDF

**Manuals/Booklets:** SDF will provide Project information and relevant documents (Community Infrastructure Support Fund, Livelihood chapter of the COM, Livelihood reports, Booklet on Community procurement, Booklet on Community finance, Booklet on Social Accountability and Governance, Booklet on Participatory Appraisal and Milestone Checking of Fund Proposal, etc.) Moreover, the consultant could utilize SDF field staff as data collector as well as reported data.

**Reports:** Internal Audit reports on Gram Samiti, Reports of Appraisal & Monitoring Team, and Reports of Process Monitoring Agency will be provided. SDF will make arrangements to provide orientation programs for the consultant.

#### 6.0 Outputs/ Deliverables

The consultant is responsible to submit the deliverables / reports as mentioned below:

Sl. No	Deliverables/ reports	Time after effectiveness of the contract
1	Submission of Inception report including methodology of technical audit and impact assessment, proposed tools, sampling & data collection strategy etc. and work plan as part of inception report.	Within 2 week
2	Submit progress report on the field work as per methodology, including data collection	Within 8 weeks
3	Submit progress report on the field work, including data collection after completion of the rest of the villages of remaining districts.	Within 10 weeks
4	Submit the draft report including data analyses and compilation of all districts.	Within 14 weeks
5	Submission of final technical audit report and impact assessment report	By the end of week 16

### **7.0 Procurement/ Hiring method**

a) The consultant will be hired following Individual Consultant(IC) selection method.

#### **b) Academic Qualifications and Professional Experience of the Consultant:**

The consultant should have a **Graduation degree in civil engineering or of equivalent degree** preferably with a Ph.D. with at least **12 years working experience** in rural development engineering, assessing impacts of infrastructures and their environmental aspects. The consultant should have strong and proven record of checking the technical consistency, economic and financial soundness, implementation capacity; beneficiary participation (contribution and involvement), review etc of the rural development engineering projects, and ability to communicate effectively and respectfully with rural communities.

### **8.0 Duration of work and estimated budget**

The assignment is for a period of four **(4) months**.