Consultancy Service for research: Evaluating Early Action in Anticipation of Landslides in Nepal

Terms of Reference (ToR)

Background: CARE Nepal

CARE is an international NGO with local staff and community partners in more than 90 countries. We create local solutions to poverty and inequality and seek dignity for everyone every day and during times of crisis. CARE puts women and girls at the center of everything we do because they have proven to be the best hope for creating lasting change in the world. CARE has been operational in Nepal since 1978 and works in partnerships with government and non-government stakeholders across the spectrum of humanitarian action and long- term development programs.

Background: Start Fund Nepal and Anticipatory Action

Start Network

Start Network is made up of more than 50 aid agencies across five continents, ranging from large international organizations to national NGOs. Together, our aim is to transform humanitarian action through innovation, fast funding, early action, and localization.

Start Network is working to create a system in which:

- Response to crises will be defined by that closest to them based on humanitarian need.
- Early and predictable funding will reduce the impact of crises and the cost of responses.
- A diverse group of organizations work together to adapt to the needs of people affected by crises.

Start Fund Nepal

Start Fund Nepal is a member led, rapid emergency response pooled funding mechanism that was created in 2021 with support from the UKAID. Modeled on the Start Network's successful global Start Fund, which releases funding within 72 hours of a crisis alert, it fills a crucial gap in humanitarian funding. It is accessible to a growing network of I/NGOs operating in Nepal to anticipate and respond early to under the radar emergencies. Currently, there are 32 (16 NGOs and 16 INGOs) members within the Start Fund Nepal and till date has disbursed approximately 1.1 Million GBP. Till February 2023, altogether 11 alerts were raised and among them, 10 alerts were activated and awarded of which, three alerts were anticipatory: N-04 (Cold Wave), N-05 and N-08 (Landslides).

Start Fund Anticipation

The Start Fund Anticipation enables NGOs to prepare when they see a crisis coming and respond early to mitigate the predicted impacts. Since 2016, Start Network members have accessed the Start Fund in advance of a crisis and acted to mitigate and prevent the impact on at-risk communities before the disaster is forecast to strike. They have conducted risk analysis, monitored forecasting information, and created crisis monitors of dynamic humanitarian situations to present timely alerts for Start Fund NGO-led decision making. In 2021-2022, the strategy of Start Fund Anticipation is developing, with an intentional move towards at least 30% of Start Fund Alerts falling under the "Anticipation" heading – either anticipating to act in advance, or using forecast information to develop and begin immediate relief while a crisis is unfolding. In order to reach this goal, Start Fund Anticipation is working with its partners and providing funding to help generate robust, significant data on the advantage of acting early, and to create guidance and instructional documents for actors in other regions.

Interventions as part of the project – Alert N05 and N08:

In 2022, funding was released to two anticipatory projects for landslides in Nepal. Both of them considered data-driven disaster anticipation, i.e. geological assessments, meteorological information, pre-agreed plans and financing to act well ahead of the approaching landslides.

N05 – Implemented by CRS (INGO) and SSIDC (NGO) – Gorkha region (£30,000)

Location: Aarughat Rural Municipality, ShyamChet Village

This project supported permanent relocation to a safe location that allowed the at-risk community to continue their livelihoods while being safe from immediate danger. The anticipatory response therefore was centered around a shelter solution - transitional shelter in a safe location among other things. This allowed an owner-driven approach to the housing needs and preferences. The additional support on WASH, DRR, Protection ensured inclusive, participatory approach to a dignified continuity of life in the face of disaster. The overall reach of this project was 168 HHs (576 people).

N08 – Implemented by Cordaid (INGO) and MPDS (NGO)- Dadeldhura region (£38,687)

Location: Balaucha and Oba villages in Aalital Rural Municipality, Dadeldhura, Nepal

This project supported the most at-risk households from the possible landslides in the Balaucha and Oba areas of Aalital Rural Municipality. The project sought to set an example that early anticipatory action can prevent loss of lives and property during any disaster event which can occur in the future and also promote a culture of decision making based on research findings. The project reached 774 people and helped them relocate to a nearby community forest as temporary shelter. Geological technical assessments revealed the villages at risk of continued small-medium scale landslides in the future hence rendering it unfit for future habitation.

Scope of study

The study will seek to answer the overarching question of how early action and anticipatory action 1) leads to better results for the crisis affected and at-risk community; 2) enhances the capacity of crises responders; and 3) creates a more effective project through the use of data/information and planning ahead of a crisis.

It will look at the extent to which data/information sharing in advance improves the quality of humanitarian interventions, and will question what kind of data and information are useful, and who should it be shared with.

The evaluation will seek to identify the advantages to at-risk communities acting early, through a household level study of how the assistance they received pre-landslide changed their livelihood, asset protection, and health.

Finally, the study should seek to identify what enables at-risk communities to change behaviors and to listen to the early warning or evacuation/relocation messaging, and what prevents community members from doing so.

Key questions

The analysis will focus on the effects of two anticipatory action projects funded by Start Fund Nepal on two different affected populations (locations) – targeting a population that received relocation assistance and another that received temporary shelter to move away from a landslide risk zone. A key element of these projects was the development of a geotechnical analysis project, which generated landslide mapping data and assigned risk zones. By comparing the post-project statuses of these two groups of beneficiaries, the analysis will identify the effects (positive or negative) of the different timings and approaches, and what difference the data and information sharing/coordination in advance made to the project delivery and effectiveness.

In addition to household level data, data collection with implementing agencies, and the local government should be included, as well as in-depth interviews with recipients of assistance.

Specifically key questions might include,

Household A: On a Household level:

A. What difference did the support provided make to those affected by the landslide? What are the benefits and drawbacks of the two approaches from the community members' perspectives? What would have been the outcome had the assistance not been received?
B. How did the timing of the interventions affect those who received it? What difference did it make to provide the assistance at that particular point in time?
C. Was the harm and loss that agencies planned to avoid through interventions actually avoided by the community?
D. Were people's livelihoods impacted due to the relocation/landslide season; were people able to recover more quickly due to provided aid?
E. To what extent did these projects coordinate or fill gaps from other interventions?

Household B: On a Behavior change level:

F. What influenced members of the same community to relocate or not relocate/evacuate or not evacuate based on the early warning from the agencies?
G. What other messaging did they receive on the impending landslides?
H. What encourages people to make a significant change/what enables them to do so? What do they need to have in place to do this? For example, did they agree to the results of the geotechnical assessments immediately?

On an NGO level:

A. To what extent did the data and information available in advance help inform the project?
B. How did the agency decide to utilise the data and information available, and how relevant was it?
C. What else was needed for this project to be successfully designed and implemented?
D. In what context is this level of data sharing and coordination useful?
E. What was the level of support from the supporting INGO (eg. in capacity building)?
F. What was the level of coordination with the local government?
G. What challenges do you see in executing such anticipatory projects?
    a. How did this project influence the implementing organisations' perception of anticipatory action (eg. compared to conventional disaster response)?

On Local government level:

A. How did this project influence the local government's perception of anticipatory action(eg. compared to conventional disaster response)?
    a. What were the effects of using data driven response in the two projects?
    b. What were the challenges with collecting and using vulnerability and hazard data? Was it valuable in collecting them beforehand?
B. What challenges do you see in executing such anticipatory projects?
    a. Has the response influenced the resource mobilization ability of the local government or any other proactive planning approaches? Have they focused more on disaster mitigation strategies?
C. Were the results of the geotechnical assessments/expert opinions helpful in making early relocation decisions from the local government's end?

Expected activities and outputs

- Inception report and presentation outlining approach, methodology, and plan
- Document review of the implementation reports of the two projects and the analysis of action grant data
- Development of tools for data collection in liaison with relevant staff.
- Household level study – via a quantitative survey delivered to around 250 people
- Key informant interviews with the implementing staff, and the local government
- In depth Interviews (IDIs) with a sample of affected people from each project
- Triangulation of the interview findings with other documentations including data on reach and targeting of affected households and household effects of interventions
- A report outlining findings and a final presentation

Timeline:

- Contracting to be complete **March 30th 2023**
- Inception report to be complete by April 5th 2023
- Draft one to be delivered by May 20th 2023
- Final draft to be delivered by **June 10th 2023.**

Location and official travel involved

The consultant will have to manage all required transportation in Kathmandu and outside Kathmandu.

Services the service provider will provide

The consultant is expected to provide the consultancy services for as mentioned in the TOR and submit all the deliverables on time.

Qualifications:

- Advanced university degree in disaster risk reduction and/or management, business administration, economics, statistics, development studies or other related discipline;
- At least five (5) years of experience in monitoring and evaluation (M&E) methods and approaches (including quantitative, qualitative, and participatory); planning, design and implementation of M&E systems; research; and report writing;
- Experience in disaster risk reduction and management; Experience with Forecast-based Action, Anticipatory Action (AA) and Financing is an asset.
- Knowledge and experience with outcome harvesting or behavioral change evaluation methods.
- Experience with household level data collection
- Understanding and knowledge of basic computer applications such as MS Word, Excel and database management. Knowledge of statistical software like STATA, R or Python is an asset.
- Excellent writing and analytical skill in drafting concept notes and reports.

Supervision Arrangements

The consultant firm will work closely with the MEAL and technical specialists of Start Fund Nepal.

Proposal Submission Guideline/Required Documents

- Proposal Submission Deadline - 19th March 2023.
- Vendor can send email to npl.carenepal@care.org for queries related to consultancy service
- Required Documents-
    - Technical and Financial proposals separately
    - CV(s) of the Consultant(s) with full date of birth in DD/MM/YYYY format. The date of birth is required for vetting purposes.
    - Copies of- Firm registration certificate, VAT registration certificate, latest tax clearance certificate. For firms that are tax exempted by the government, a copy of the tax exemption certificate should be submitted.

If any documents/information is not available or not applicable, the reason(s) must be clarified in the proposal form. CARE Nepal will have the right to disqualify the proposals from the selection process if the proposal submission guideline has not been followed.

The proposal shall be submitted via email to- npl.carenepal@care.org

Evaluation of Proposal

The technical (70%) and financial (30%) proposals will be evaluated based on following:

Technical

- Understanding and interpretation of the Terms of reference
- Methodology
- Time and activity schedule

Organizational/Personnel Capacity Statement

- Relevant experience related to the assignment
- Team Composition as per ToR
- Curriculum Vitae with relevant references

Financial

- Proposed budget with detail break down

Payment terms:

The payment will be made on deliverable basis upon mutual agreement

1. Inception report: 40%
2. After Draft report submission: 40%
3. After Final report submission: 20%