

## **Comprehensive Risk & Resilience Assessment Scope of Work**

**Background & Rationale:** Between 2011 and 2015, 5 million people in rural Bangladesh moved out of poverty. Of these, 3.5 million, or 70%, fell back into poverty during the same period. This extremely high rate of 'backsliding' is indicative of the evermore complex risk environment in which people in Bangladesh live and in which USAID programs are implemented. It also underscores the centrality of understanding this risk environment - and building resilience to the recurrent shocks and stresses associated with it - to ending extreme poverty in the country<sup>1</sup>.

The literature and data on risk and the impact of shocks and stresses on well-being in Bangladesh is extensive. However, the bulk of this literature and data is sectoral in nature or focused on a particular sub-set of shocks and stresses. A comprehensive understanding of the complex risk environment and the compound (or cumulative) nature of the shocks and stresses associated with it is lacking, as is an understanding of the current capacities of people, households, communities to mitigate, adapt to and recover from these shocks and stresses.

**Objective/Purpose:** To provide the USAID/Bangladesh (also referred to as the mission), its partners and other stakeholders with a comprehensive and consolidated risk and resilience capacity assessment to inform the USAID Bangladesh Country Development and Cooperation Strategy (CDCS), future program design and current program implementation.

### **Deliverables & Specific Tasks:**

1. **Comprehensive Risk and Resilience Capacity Review** - 25 pages, excluding summaries and annexes
  - a. Overview ( 5 pages with a 1 page summary) - a comprehensive overview of risk and resilience capacities in Bangladesh to inform the CDCS based on existing literature and data (see inputs), including qualitative data on risk and resilience capacities being collected in preparation for an upcoming FFP baseline survey.
  - b. Deep Dive on Southwest Bangladesh (20 pages with a 1 page summary) - a more detailed examination of risk and resilience capacities in the Southwest region and an examination of how varying risk profiles impact vulnerability and resilience to the shocks and stresses identified.

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<sup>1</sup> USAID defines resilience as the ability of people, households, communities, countries and systems to mitigate, adapt to and recover from shocks and stresses in a manner that reduces chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth (2012).

2. **Workshop on Relevance to and Ramifications for USAID/Bangladesh Programs -**  
This workshop will provide an initial opportunity for USAID staff and partners to explore the relevance of risk and resilience to current and future USAID programs.
  - a. The consultant will facilitate a two-day workshop at USAID/Bangladesh in June 2016 (specific dates TBD).
  - b. Summary - 5 page summary of the workshop.

### **Detailed description of Deliverable 1**

#### **1. Comprehensive Risk and Resilience Capacity Review** (25 pages, excluding summaries and annexes)

The review will consolidate existing literature and data (see inputs) to provide:

- a. Overview (5 pages with a 1 page summary) - an overview of the complex risk environment in Bangladesh, including the range of shocks and stresses that impact well-being and the compound (or cumulative) nature of these shocks and stresses, and the current capacities of people, households, communities and systems to mitigate, adapt to and recover from these shocks and stresses. This overview will inform the USAID Bangladesh CDCS.
- b. Deep-dive on Southwest Bangladesh which includes 20 districts in and around of Khulna and Barisal divisions (20 pages with a 1 page summary) - a deep-dive on risk and resilience capacities in southwest Bangladesh where a wide-range of USAID investments exist. This deep-dive will include a more detailed examination of the shocks and stresses that impact well-being, the compound (or cumulative) nature of these shocks and stresses and the current capacity of people, households, communities and systems to mitigate, adapt to and recover from these shocks and stresses. It will also examine how risk profiles – defined by livelihoods, gender, social exclusion and other factors – impact vulnerability and resilience to the shocks and stresses identified<sup>2</sup>. This deep-dive will inform future program design and current program implementation in the southwest and provide a model for examining risk and resilience in relation to programming elsewhere in the country.

*Risks, Shocks and Stresses* - For both the overview and deep-dive, a wide range of risks, shocks and stresses will need to be examined, including covariate shocks, idiosyncratic shocks, seasonal shocks, recurring shocks and medium to longer-term trends and stresses that undermine resilience and deepen the vulnerability. Categorically, they include - but are not limited to - natural, political, economic and health shocks, as well as longer-term stresses

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<sup>2</sup> This includes social exclusion on the basis of caste, religion, sexual orientation, and disability. The role of other factors affecting risk profiles such as child labor, early marriage, domestic violence, and TIP should also be explored.

related to climate change, population dynamics, migration and population movements (rural/urban, internal/external) pollution and global and local political-economy<sup>3</sup>.

Indicative list of shocks by category

- natural shocks - cyclones, storm surges, flooding, drought, earthquakes
- political shocks - hartals, social unrest, terrorism
- economic shocks - food price volatility, fuel prices, loss of job/wage earner
- health shocks - pandemics (avian influenza) cholera, diarrhea, road/water accidents

*Resilience Capacities* - Qualitative data on risk and resilience capacities being collected in preparation for an upcoming FFP baseline survey will inform the assessment of individual, household and community resilience capacities (see inputs). Other information on resilience capacities will also be incorporated, including - but not limited to - issues pertaining to systems level resilience such as weak governance, inefficient markets, lack of environmental safeguards, poor access to basic services and strained infrastructure. Given its prominence, the role of migration and remittances as an adaptive strategy will also be explored, including the positive and negative ramifications on livelihood risk profiles<sup>4</sup>.

**Inputs:** The following inputs will be incorporated into the comprehensive risk and resilience capacity review:

- **USAID assessments & recommended documents:** USAID/Bangladesh will compile a list of relevant assessments, information, and other documents, that may be used as inputs for the risk assessment. The USAID/Bangladesh point of contact (POC) will give this information to the consultant once there is a signed agreement.
- **Qualitative risk and resilience capacities data & narrative:** This will be completed by March 7th as part of the Food for Peace baseline survey, and USAID/Bangladesh will share the report with the consultant.
- **IFPRI data on movements in and out poverty** – (CoP – Akhter Ahmed)
- **Overseas Development Institute (ODI):** The USAID BFS commissioned a study on sustainable poverty escapes and backsliding in Bangladesh – BFS will share this document upon completion (expected March/April)
- **USAID GeoCenter maps:** USAID will provide maps developed by the GeoCenter on the impacts of specific shocks and stresses.
- **Other information sources:** the consultant should identify other studies/data necessary for this assessment.

### **Detailed description of Deliverable 2:**

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<sup>3</sup> This also includes more proximate stresses stemming from these underlying causes. For example, salt water intrusion stemming from climate change and variability.

<sup>4</sup> This includes migration to cities (RMG industry), as well as to prominent international destinations such as Saudi Arabia and Dubai

## 2. Workshop on Relevance to and Ramifications for USAID/Bangladesh Programs

In order for the comprehensive risk and resilience capacity review (deliverable 1) to help shape and inform the CDCS, future program design and current program implementation, the consultant will facilitate a two-day workshop at USAID/Bangladesh in June 2016 (specific dates TBD). Participants will include USAID staff and implementing partners (across offices/sectors) that are implementing programs implementing programs in southwest Bangladesh or programs that have the potential to address risks, build resilience capacities and/or influence well-being outcomes in southwest Bangladesh<sup>5</sup>. The objectives of this workshop are to:

1. Share the findings of the comprehensive risk and resilience capacity review with all mission staff and select partners operating in the SW zone of influence;
2. Develop a common understanding of resilience and how current projects individually and collectively address various aspects of the risk environment and/or contribute to building resilience capacities (absorptive, adaptive, transformative)
3. Identify existing mission/partner data sources and indicators that capture contribution of programs to addressing risk and building resilience capacities
4. Identify opportunities and strategies to deepen or expand programmatic contributions to addressing risk and building resilience capacities.

**Specific tasks include:** Develop presentation and workshop materials, facilitate the workshop, and write a 5-7 page summary by the end of June 2016. USAID / Bangladesh will identify and invite participants as well as organize the venue and other logistics.

### **Level of Effort (LOE)**

Below is the estimated LOE necessary for each of the two primary deliverables for anticipated overall LOE of 50 person days. For Deliverable 1, the **Comprehensive Risk and Resilience Capacity Review**, travel is not anticipated. The consultant(s) will gather any data and conduct communication remotely. For Deliverable 2, the **Workshop on Relevance to and Ramifications for USAID/Bangladesh Programs**, travel to Dhaka and field trip outside Dhaka is required.

### **Period of performance:**

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<sup>5</sup> Democracy and Governance programs addressing hartals and worker empowerment in the Ready-Made-Garment industry provide potential examples. The mission will identify partner participants prior to the workshop.

<p><u>Deliverable 1 review in May/June - 30 person days (performed remotely)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● executing tasks - 20</li> <li>● travel - 0</li> <li>● finalizing deliverables including reporting- 10</li> </ul>	<p><u>Deliverable 2 workshop in June - 20 person days (performed in Dhaka and field trip outside Dhaka)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● executing tasks - 11</li> <li>● travel - 4</li> <li>● finalizing deliverables - 5</li> </ul>
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### **Personnel Qualifications**

The team for these consulting services will consist of up to two individuals.

- Team members must have at least ten years working experience in developing countries focusing international development programming (design, implementation and evaluation) on poverty reduction, agriculture, health, disaster risk reduction, vulnerability and complex risk environment, governance, women's empowerment etc. with excellent workshop facilitation skill.
- The team leader must be internationally recognized specialist and a leading member of the resilience measurement community of practice and must have authored or co-authored multiple publications and have extensive working experience in Bangladesh.

### **Application Format**

1. A proposal, no more than ten (10) pages (not including attachments), describing how the assessment objectives will be met through every stage within the specified timeframe, including methodology and technical approach;
2. Creative portfolios, including internet links or digital copies of relevant risk and resilience study report developed by the individual/organization must be submitted alongside the proposal;
3. Technical qualifications of the team /individual including CVs for all proposed personnel and demonstrated awards or recognition of aptitude to be submitted with the proposal;
4. Tentative work schedule;
5. Budget, including a description of costs for personnel, travel (domestic and/or international), logistics, workshop and report preparation costs.

## **Proposal Evaluation**

USAID will evaluate proposals based on the following criteria:

1. Technical quality and feasibility of the approach to conduct the assessment under the proposed deadlines will be a factor in the evaluation of all proposals. Proposals should include a description of the proponent's proposed methodology to perform the study. (20%)
2. The capacity of individual/organization will be a factor in the evaluation of all proposals. Specifically, proposals will be evaluated as to whether the individual/organization itself has experience and capacity in respect of personnel and equipment, finance and experience to Bangladesh to perform this type of work. (30%)
3. Personnel experience and qualification of conducting high quality study of similar nature in developing countries (30%)
4. Demonstrated past performance to conduct creative and useful study in complex risk environment will be a factor in the evaluation of proposal. Past study report will be major determinant in this regard. (20%)