

Mercy Corps Indonesia

Scope of Work: Consultants

Project/Consultancy Title: M-RED Phase 4 Research and Learning consultancy

Project Location(s): Based in Jakarta (remote work), research scope for Indonesia, Nepal, and Timor Leste

Background:

Mercy Corps is a leading global organization powered by the belief that a better world is possible. In disaster, in hardship, in more than 40 countries around the world, we partner to put bold solutions into action — helping people triumph over adversity and build stronger communities from within.

In disaster-prone countries, climate related shocks and recurring disasters contribute to loss of livelihoods and household assets of poor communities resulting in food insecurity and cyclical poverty. Life-saving community mobilization of conventional disaster risk reduction (DRR) approaches has seen tremendous growth in the last decade; however, these efforts have had limited effect on mitigating the economic losses suffered by the poor when disaster strikes.

Mercy Corps' Managing Risk through Economic Development (M-RED) program supports the most vulnerable households in smallholder farming communities. It is an integrated program that looks at both disaster risk reduction and its integration with the market system development promoting livelihood opportunities.

The program has been implemented since 2013 and now, spanning through three countries of Indonesia, Nepal, and Timor Leste, we are in our last year of Phase 4. Aiming to build disaster ready communities for smallholder farmers and in low-attention communities and disaster, our program approaches focus on the following four priorities:

FORECAST BASED EARLY ACTION

Using forecast based early action to help communities and institutions to build their resilience towards future shocks and stresses.

LOCALIZATION

Implementing our program through local partners and working very closely with local governments and stakeholders, building and transferring knowledge, understanding and capacity on disaster preparedness, response, and anticipatory actions as well as livelihoods to better equipped the local community to become disaster ready.

TRANSFORMATION

M-RED is committed to working at a system level to ensure transformational change within the community that we work in, including creating an enabling environment that would sustain DRR efforts in our communities.

NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS

Providing the community with sustainable disaster risk mitigation infrastructure by installing nature-based solutions in addition to the nexus crops.

In this last year of program implementation, we would like to learn from our experience by identifying learnings, attributes, challenges, and key points needed to build disaster ready communities.

Purpose / Project Description:

This project's purpose is to understand lessons learned from M-RED Phase 4 program implementation in addressing disaster preparedness and readiness in low attention communities and disasters. The learning will be captured through a set of questions that are divided into five learning objectives in one impact evaluation document. The information will

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contribute to future program adaptation and design of M-RED and other disaster risk reduction and management programs in the region.

Consultant Objectives:

The consultant will conduct data analysis and research interviews with M-RED program teams, participants, and relevant stakeholders as necessary to capture learning related to building disaster ready communities in three countries of Indonesia, Nepal, and Timor Leste. The document will describe attributes of disaster ready communities, relevancy of system approach in disaster preparedness efforts, and an understanding of Forecast Based Early Actions opportunities and application for disaster preparedness and management.

The interviewees will be the following:

1. M-RED country program managers
2. M-RED country program MEL officers
3. M-RED local partners

The analysis will include analyzing the following data sets:

1. Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment (PDRA) data
2. Disaster Ready Measurement (DRM) data
3. M-RED program Monitoring data

Consultant Activities:

The research and learning consultant will be responsible to:

1. Conduct desk study on M-RED program reports, baseline, and MERL documents.
2. Develop a clear methodology to capture all learning and impacts as per objectives with close consultation with M-RED regional manager and Resilience MERL advisor.
3. Identify learnings from M-RED Phase 4 program implementation based on the following five questions through in depth interviews with M-RED team and analysing existing MERL data.

Learning Objective 1: *Understand appropriate attributes to be considered for promoting a disaster-ready community.*

- a. *Do the attributes of disaster-ready communities (promoted by the project) lead to improved outcomes following a disaster?*
- b. *Does a community need to demonstrate all attributes (promoted by the project) to be disaster-ready?*
- c. *How long does a household take to recover after a disaster? What are the characteristics that enable a household to recover faster?*

Learning Objective 2: *Understand factors contributing to the changes in capacities and behaviors of individuals and communities to respond to recurring shocks and stresses.*

- a. *What socio-economic factors prevent or enable people from taking up behaviors or adopting new practices that will reduce their risk to recurring shocks and stresses?*
- b. *How well does the M-RED model contribute to gender and social inclusion in increasing meaningful participation, access to resources, and access to opportunities to strengthen disaster readiness?*
- c. *How does the program's approach to implementation contribute to the successful and challenging community?*

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Learning Objective 3: *Understanding the added value of a systems approach to sustain community-based DRR interventions and promote sustainability of M-RED's Disaster-Ready Approach.*

This will explore how enabling environments, such as governance, markets, and ecological systems contribute to building disaster-ready communities and whether transformative change in these environments helps to sustain DRR efforts in communities. This research objective will also explore what facilitates crowding in/mainstreaming and replication of M-RED activities by communities and stakeholders not directly involved in M-RED. The following questions will be explored under Objective 3.

- a. *What are the systemic constraints in the enabling environments in different contexts?*
- b. *What are the best strategies to bring systemic or transformational change in enabling environments?*
- c. *Under the five indicators (parameters) in transformation, how is M-RED contributing to enhancing community-level transformation?*
- d. *What type of follow up is required after a five-year program cycle to sustain DRR efforts?*

Learning Objective 4: *Understanding the added advantages and challenges to FBEA (Forecast based Early Action) and how this will help communities and institutions build their resilience for future shocks and stresses. This will explore the potential of creating a scalable model of FBEA.*

- a. *What is required to design and implement full-fledged FBEA, and what are the major challenges that need to be addressed?*
- b. *Does FBEA improve the level of preparedness and confidence to respond to shock events?*
- c. *Does FBEA reduce the humanitarian caseload and promote behaviors that strengthen coping strategies or prevent negative coping strategies?*
- d. *Does FBEA offset investments required for response activities post disasters?*
- e. *Do GESI focused interventions improve the effectiveness of FBEAs?*

Learning Objective 5: *Understanding the framework and principals around localization and the opportunities and challenges in operationalizing localization principles in different contexts.*

This will explore the different frameworks used in disaster and climate change in localization, what needs to be adapted, and the opportunities and challenges underlying the operationalization of localization in three different contexts. The following questions will be explored in Objective 5:

- a. *Does localization enhance community and institutional capacities in disaster management and building resilience?*
- b. *What are the major opportunities and challenges to operationalize localization in our working areas?*
- c. *Does localization build sustainability, ownership, and the capacity for leveraging resources?*

4. Provide an analysis of M-RED Phase 4 program impacts and identify recommendations for future program.
5. Develop research and learning document for M-RED Phase 4 program.

Consultant Deliverables:

M-RED Phase 4 research and learning document that consists of:

1. Learning from M-RED Phase 4 program implementation in Indonesia, Nepal, and Timor Leste based on the five learning objectives.
2. Recommendations for future/follow up research related to building of disaster ready community.

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3. Recommendations for future program design based on the five learning objectives.

Timeframe / Schedule:

30 days between July to December 2024

The Consultant will report to:

Regional manager, M-RED

The Consultant will work closely with:

The research and learning consultant will:

1. Work closely with: Dinee Tamang, MERL Regional Advisor, M-RED
2. Consult and discuss with:
 - a. Program Manager, M-RED Indonesia and team
 - b. Program Manager, M-RED Nepal and team
 - c. Program Manager, M-RED Timor Leste and team

Required Experience & Skills:

The consultant must meet the following skills:

1. Expertise and proven experienced in conducting multi-contexts, multi-governances, and multi-sectors research in Asia.
2. Expertise and proven experienced working with multi-countries in Asia; understanding of Indonesia, Nepal, and Timor Leste context is an advantage.
3. Expertise and proven experienced in conducting development sector-program evaluation.
4. Good understanding of disaster risk reduction and preparedness, and climate change topics.
5. Good understanding of community-based programs related to disaster risk reduction and preparedness.
6. An understanding of economic development/market system development at community level is an advantage.
7. An understanding of community empowerment programs related to disaster risk reduction and economic development is an advantage.
8. Strong analytical and communication skills.
9. Demonstrated proficiency in English (written).

How to Apply

Individual consultants with Indonesian citizenship and institutions/companies, may submit their proposal and CV to procurement@id.mercycorps.org before July 4th, 2024. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Achieving our mission begins with how we build our team and work together. Through our commitment to enriching our organization with people of different origins, beliefs, backgrounds, and ways of thinking, we are better able to leverage the collective power of our teams and solve the world's most complex challenges. We strive for a culture of trust and respect, where everyone contributes their perspectives and authentic selves, reaches their potential as individuals and teams, and collaborates to do the best work of their lives.

We recognize that diversity and inclusion is a journey, and we are committed to learning, listening and evolving to become more diverse, equitable and inclusive than we are today.

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Equal Employment Opportunity

We are committed to providing an environment of respect and psychological safety where equal employment opportunities are available to all. We do not engage in or tolerate discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender identity, gender expression, religion, age, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, disability (including HIV/AIDS status), marital status, military veteran status or any other protected group in the locations where we work.

Safeguarding & Ethics

Mercy Corps team members are expected to support all efforts toward accountability, specifically to our stakeholders and to international standards guiding international relief and development work, while actively engaging communities as equal partners in the design, monitoring and evaluation of our field projects. Team members are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner and respect local laws, customs and MC's policies, procedures, and values at all times and in all in-country venues.