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**Terms of Reference for Consultant**

**Assessing the impact of earthquake on older people and persons with disabilities and how, gender and ethnicity factor into the impact.**

**Background**

In emergencies, older people and persons with disabilities are among the most at risk to be disproportionately affected because they experience increased difficulties due to separation from family, loss of assistive and mobility devices, and difficulties with accessing information and humanitarian relief. The situation is compounded by pre-existing cultural and social discrimination.

Reduced mobility, strength and health of persons with disability and older people, their functional limitation and possible greater vulnerabilities to heat and cold can restrict their abilities to flee from and cope with potential harm1 Research and evidence from emergency responses have shown that older persons and persons with disabilities are generally overlooked by the humanitarian system. In the initial response phase post-earthquake the needs of pregnant women and children were the focus of relief and rescue works. It is generally assumed by international humanitarian agencies that older persons and persons with disability will be covered by specialized agencies focusing on older persons or on disability or through the general umbrella response for vulnerable persons. Lack of experience and expertise was a basis for not including older people and persons with disability as part of their relief interventions2.

Gender, age, disability, ethnicity and culture are five aspects that are likely to exacerbate a person’s vulnerability to the effects of disasters. An estimated 15 % (one billion) of the world’s population live with some form of disability3.People with disabilities may be more dependent on the family or community members to fulfill their basic needs. Therefore, their vulnerabilities become more explicit when the social relationships or safety net are limited. Further to that the intersection between age, disabilities and gender also exacerbate vulnerabilities. For instance older women with disability are more likely to suffer disproportionately from the effects of disaster than older men with disability. Gender based discrimination, social responsibilities, social restrictions and discriminatory political systems intensifies their vulnerabilities and limit their social protection.

Older people and persons with disabilities should be innately included in all response and recovery initiatives by, where feasible, utilizing the skills and knowledge of local/national/international Older People Associations (OPAs) and

1HelpAge International (2012)-*‘Strategies for an ageing world under a changing time’.* Discussion paper. London: HelpAge International

HelpAge International (2013)-*Displacement and older people: the case of the Great East Japan Earthquake and* *Tsunami of 2011.* Thailand: HelpAge International East Asia/Pacific Regional Office

2 See ACAPS/UNOCHA sitreps for the period 25th April – 2nd May http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=18

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Disable People Organizations (DPOs) and older people and disability-specific NGOs. Unfortunately, most of the relief operations look at older people and persons with disabilities as victims and therefore, if at all, passive recipients of aid.

HelpAge International (HelpAge) and CBM International are part of a global consortium (the Age and Disability Consortium4) that promotes inclusion of older people and persons with disability in humanitarian policy and Programmes. As part of this global commitment, both organizations are collaborating in Nepal through a joint inclusion advocacy and community based protection programme in seven (*Kathmandu, Kavre, Sindupalchowk, Makwanpur, Bhaktapur, Nuwakot and Gorkha*) of the worst earthquake affected districts.

**2. Rationale of the Research**

Lack of evidence and data on exclusion of older people and people with disabilities is a challenge that often results in these most at risk groups made invisible in the humanitarian response to disasters. Nepal lacks a pre-disaster profile of older people and people with disabilities, with reference to districts affected most by the earthquake. This evidence void creates challenge in terms of claiming exclusion of the vulnerable groups such as older people and people with disabilities from the wider humanitarian response. Lack of statistical data disaggregated by age, gender disabilities and ethnicity prevents an accurate assessment of the numbers of people affected by the earthquake5.It also provides inadequate information about the risks faced by the vulnerable groups and tends to overlook the different needs of those disproportionately affected.

Women, the elderly, children or people with disabilities are often considered and portrayed in the media as weak and helpless. In other words, primarily as victims as opposed to equals who have their own resources and capacity to deal with disasters 6 .However, older people and persons with disabilities have abundant experience, knowledge and skills that are vital to understanding local environmental hazards and their impacts. If their capacities are recognized they can make significant contribution from risk assessments through to operational response and recovery.

Hence, to address this gap HelpAge International Nepal and CBM International are jointly undertaking this research by utilizing field operations implemented by their partners namely Community Self Reliance Centre (CSRC), Community Support Group (CSG), Nepal Participatory Action Networks (NEPAN) and Women for Human

4 Consortium members include CBM International, Handicap International, RedR UK, DIsasterready.org, IFRC, Oxford Brookes University and HelpAge International as the lead agency.

5Kettet.al., 2005 . *Practice, Process and Possibilities:* Disaster and Public Shelter in Emergencies.

6Back,E., Cameron,C. And Tanner,T. (2009).*Children and disaster risk reduction: taking stock and moving forward,* *Brighton , UK*: Children in a changing climate.

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Rights (WHR) for HAI and the National Association of the Disabled Nepal – NFDN, for CBM in the seven districts. The research aims to understand specific needs and factors leading to exclusion of older people and people with disabilities in humanitarian action, barriers to their inclusion, extent of utilization of their skills and knowledge towards inclusive humanitarian action and based on this, formulate key set of recommendations for inclusion. These recommendations will be used to sensitize the broader humanitarian community for inclusive disaster risk management practices for future response that pays attention to the social factors such as gender, age, disability, ethnicity, differential needs and builds upon the capacities of these most at risk groups.

**3. Scope of the Research**

In order to get an in depth understanding of impact of earthquake on older persons and persons with disabilities in the seven worst earthquake affected districts (*Kathmandu, Kavre, Sindupalchowk, Makwanpur, Bhaktapur, Nuwakot and* *Gorkha),* the impact assessment will be guided by the following key questions:

* What is the impact of the earthquake on older people and persons with disabilities?
* What is the role of gender, age, disability and ethnicity in relation to the impact of the disaster?
* What are the coping capacities of Older People and Persons with Disabilities during emergencies?
* What are the factors that restrict older people and people with disabilities from *accessing humanitarian aid*?
* To what degree do humanitarian actors address the needs of older people and people with disabilities in disaster?
* What are the institutional barriers for inclusion, and documentation of good practice?

The geographical coverage of the assignment will be limited to sample VDC’s of7 worst earthquake hit districts. The sample VDCs will be selected from the operational districts where both CBM and HAI have ageing and disabilities inclusion program. In consultation and agreement with HelpAge staff, the Consultant will prepare a detailed work plan and methodology for the impact assessment.

**4. Objective**

The Specific objectives of the assignment are

* To assess the impact of the earthquake on older people and persons with disabilities.
* To understand how age, disability, ethnicity and gender dimensions factor into the impact thereof.
* To find evidence which underlines the exclusion of older people and persons with disabilities in order to claim for more inclusive humanitarian action

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* Collect and write up case studies which illustrate the challenges faced by older people and persons with disabilities as a result of the earthquake.
* To document good practices for inclusion of older people and persons with disability.

The active engagement of OPAs, DPOs, older people and persons with disability will allow formulation of key set of recommendations for age and disability inclusive practices in humanitarian response and recovery activities. The assignment will also identify gaps, key challenges and opportunities in terms of strengthening the capacity of humanitarian actors to engage in age and disability humanitarian action.

**5. Key Tasks**

**Primary Data Collection**

* Design sampling methodology for the collection of primary data from statistically representative sample of Older People and persons living with disabilities
* Identify data collection sites (VDC’s) from the 7 program districts
* Design a questionnaire to conduct semi-structured interviews
* Conduct a pilot test of the questionnaire-interview questions for accuracy of translation into the Nepali language and accuracy of answers
* Design a database and provide training to the local data clerks; and ensure quality check while data entry and facilitate data cleaning process. In addition, to providing support for data analysis

**Secondary Data Collection**

* Conduct desk review and analysis of existing qualitative and quantitative information regarding the impacts of disaster on older people and people with disabilities at the national level. In addition, official documents include national legislation and policy documents and different types of regulations and guidance notes.
* Conduct key informants interviews including focussed group discussion with related stakeholders.

**Analysis and Report Writing**

* The Consultant will present a detail report after analysis of both primary and secondary data in English language, with recommendations on development of a policy recommendation for strengthening the national and international protection structures including mechanisms for identification, registration, referral, intervention and prevention of negative consequence of disaster on older people and persons with disabilities, making sure that their skills and knowledge is utilised as much as possible.

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* + The consultant will prepare presentations and present research findings with relevant Government authorities and other international and nongovernmental organizations.
1. **Deliverables**

The Consultant is expected to deliver the followings:

1. Research implementation proposal: The proposal must provide detailed research framework, methodologies and details of key issues to be studied and a list of any documentation, information and surveys required.
2. Presentations, questionnaires and other study technique guidance prepared for the training of local team of researchers.
3. Draft Final Report: The Draft Final Report in English has to synthesize all findings, conclusions, and recommendations.
4. The Final Report: The Final Report in English language has to synthesize all findings, conclusions, recommendations (with account of comments and additions from HAI and CBM, if any that will be shared following submission of the Draft Final Report).
5. Presentation of the findings of the assignment at national level at a Conference that brings together government representatives, NGOs, UN Agencies and other development partners.
6. Report on the outcome discussions of the presentation to be included in the Final report.
7. **Timeframe**

Task deliverable timeline: 60 working days.

The research will commence from first week of October; with the field work, data collection concluded by 31st of November, data cleaning and analysis by Second week of December and research dissemination on second week of January.

**8. Technical and Financial Management of the Assignment**

The Consultant will be assisted by HelpAge International Nepal’s Inclusion and Protection team. HelpAge’s Inclusion Coordinator and Advocacy and Protection Officer and CBM’s Disability Inclusion advisor will support the Consultant to familiarize with the local staff of HelpAge and CBM’s implementing partners’ organizations and the project sites. The Consultant will receive 20 percent of the total contract amount immediately after signing the contract, 40 percent will be paid after submission of first draft report and the final 40 percent will be paid after accomplishment of the full assignment.

The Inclusion Programme Coordinator will be the focal person for the Consultant.

hr.np@helpagesa.org

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**9. Qualifications and Eligibility**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Academic Qualification** |  |  | Master’s Degree in social sciences , disaster risk |  |
|  |  |  | management or any other subject relevant to |  |
|  |  |  | the topic of the study |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Years of Experience** |  |  | At least 10years of relevant professional |  |
|  |  |  | experience in Human Rights Based Approach |  |
|  |  |  | (HRBA) and protection and relevant experience |  |
|  |  |  | on impact assessment of most at risk groups in |  |
|  |  |  | disasters. | Proven | experience | on conducting |  |
|  |  |  | research on similar, related topics, including |  |
|  |  |  | research for use in policy development will be an |  |
|  |  |  | added advantage. |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Language Skills** |  |  | Demonstrate good speaking and writing skills in |  |
|  |  |  | Nepali and English |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Competencies** |  |  | Proven experience and knowledge of ageing and |  |
|  |  |  | disability issues especially in disaster risk |  |
|  |  |  | management context |  |  |
|  |  |  Excellent skills in computer application such as |  |
|  |  |  | windows office including SPSS, Excel and Power |  |
|  |  |  | Point |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Demonstrate | strong | interpersonal, |  |
|  |  |  | communication skills, and ability to address |  |
|  |  |  | difficult topics with vulnerable populations and |  |
|  |  |  | especially conducting qualitative research with |  |
|  |  |  | older persons and persons with disabilities. |  |
|  |  | Prior experience in working with government, |  |
|  |  |  | UN, INGO and/or inter-agency projects would be |  |
|  |  |  | preferable**.** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  Good communication and negotiation skills |  |
| **10. Instructions for Applying** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Interested Applicants should | send a cover | letter, | full CV and | proposal with |  |

suggested approach for the consultancy, financial offer, updated organizational

profile and timeline) in English stating the position title to:

With the subject line: Expression of Interest-Impact Assessment Consultant

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Closing date to apply for this position is 30th of September 2015.

*Note: Email or telephone queries will not be entertained. Applications received after the closure of the submission deadline and/or compiled/written without adherence to the stated requirements will be considered ineligible. HelpAge International reserves the right to reject any or all application.*