

Terms of reference (ToRs) for the procurement of services below the EU threshold

Enhancing Rural Resilience through Appropriate
Development Actions (ERADA) – Scoping Assessment

Project number/ cost centre:
20.2263.0-001.00

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0. List of abbreviations

BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
ECNRM	Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resource Management
GIS	Geographic Information System
MGNREGA	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
MGNREGS	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
MoRD	Ministry of Rural Development
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals

1. Context

ERADA project:

Project ERADA (Enhancing Rural Resilience through Appropriate Development Actions) is an upcoming Indo-German bi-lateral project under the Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resource Management (ECNRM) programme of GIZ India. It is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in partnership with the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) in India for three years, September 2021 – August 2024.

The project will be implemented by GIZ India at national level and in four states namely, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. The project is under BMZ's Corona Immediate Programme and aims at strengthening the livelihoods of vulnerable communities in selected rural areas, based on locally available natural resources and development programmes. The project will leverage the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) for augmenting natural resources and increasing wage work for vulnerable communities. Secondly, the project will develop innovative green livelihood opportunities. Thirdly, it will create GIS (Geographic Information System) based action plans and other digital solutions for improving convergence of development programmes, and their access to vulnerable communities including women, migrant households etc.

Scoping Assessment:

The project aims to support MoRD and state governments in their ongoing efforts towards poverty alleviation, income augmentation and sustainable livelihood development. The project demonstration locations will primarily include 8 blocks across 8 aspirational districts in 4 states namely, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. The four states are among the six focus states identified by the Government of India for implementing the Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan aimed at developing employment and livelihood opportunities for migrant workers, who returned to villages in the wake of Covid-19¹.

The identification of pilot blocks and districts is the first step in project initiation, and this is the main task of this assignment.

2. Tasks to be performed by the contractor

A. The main objectives of the assignment are:

The agency is responsible for providing the following services:

- Based on the project conceptualization document and the key output/ outcome indicators provided, develop a framework for the scoping assessment, outlining the key parameters to be assessed, key stakeholders to be interviewed, secondary data

¹ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1632861>

and literature to be reviewed and analysed, and developing a priority ranking matrix for evaluation.

- Mapping, synthesis and analysis of information on the key indicators at district and block level.

Scope

The following indicators may be considered for identifying the pilot districts and blocks

- The Aspirational District list and parameters
- The Blocks with the Cluster Facilitation Programme, MGNREGA
- Migration situation, especially in the Covid-19 scenario
- Demographic and socio-economic factors
- Critical analysis of women and gender empowerment indicators, and vulnerable communities including SC/ST sections, persons with disabilities, landless laborer etc.
- Analysing the status and uptake of farm and non-farm livelihoods
- Natural Resource Base including water, soil, vegetation etc. in terms of availability and use
- Climate and disaster resilience indicators
- Analysis of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Indicators of NITI Aayog
- Rural development programme implementation including MGNREGA, National and State Rural Livelihood Mission, Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme and other key programmes, with focus on
 - i. Status of existing convergence mechanisms and platforms
 - ii. Status of community cadres for programme implementation
 - iii. Status of GIS based planning approach in MGNREGA
- Implementation of Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyan and Atmanirbhar Abhiyan Programmes
- Use of GIS based and other digital solutions by government and other programmes in the rural development and environment sectors
- Quantitative and qualitative information on the status of women Self-Help Groups, Farmer Producer Organisations and other community-based organizations

Further information requirements in the identified districts and blocks:

- Private sector presence
- Key NGOs, Civil Society Organisations, Technical Agencies and other multilateral donor agencies and projects in the similar field
- Local governance mechanisms, the Panchayati Raj System and community participation in rural development
- The living income situation in the particular area
- Opportunities for promoting farm and non-farm entrepreneurship – current status of village industries within block and district
 - i. Value-chain related interventions can be focused – processing interventions and rural markets can be assessed (Determining location of industries framework)

Deliverables

1. Prioritised list of districts (top 4), and blocks within districts (top 4) for project pilots, based on pre-decided framework criteria
2. List and brief description of key activities to be undertaken for each project output including demonstrations, technical studies, policy advocacy, digital solutions etc. in each pilot location
3. List of potential cooperation partners in the government, NGO and private sector at the block, district and state levels in each pilot location
4. Presentation of findings at national level workshop for report review and finalisation with Ministry, state governments and GIZ

Suggested methodology includes:

- Secondary data and research, including use of GIS and remote sensing data
- Detailed discussions with project team
- Interviews with select subject-matter experts and institutions
- Field visits to the project states
 - i. Meetings with key government officials and potential stakeholders.
 - ii. Focus Group Discussions/ Interviews at district and block level (as feasible)

Considering the current COVID-19 pandemic, all field visits may or may not be possible. Hence, the team must be prepared for virtual meetings and discussions, if necessary. The contractor shall specifically provide a proposal in his/her methodology to design the contract implementation in a way that is as participatory as possible, despite the remote working scenario, if need be.

Certain milestones, as laid out in the table below, are to be achieved by certain dates during the contract term, and at particular locations:

Period of assignment: From 22nd October 2021 to 31 January 2022.

S.N.	Milestone	Timeline
1	Inception Meeting and scoping assessment framework	7 days of contract
2	Literature review presentation, interview/ field visits schedule with draft questionnaires	November, 2021
3	Field visits, meetings in the states (The key team members are expected to travel to the states (depending on the COVID-19 situation) to meet with the government officials and other stakeholders)	November 2021
4	Draft report to GIZ	First week of December , 2021
5	Workshop (at national level) for report review with Ministry, state governments and GIZ	January 2022
6	Final report submission	January 2022

Note:

- The final reports need to be submitted in word version to GIZ
- All reports need to include an executive summary, content page, list of acronyms used, figures, maps and tables. All figures, maps, tables and images need to be captioned.
- GIZ language and communication guidelines shall be followed in the report.
- The reports shall be technically reviewed by GIZ and other parties as desired by GIZ.
- The final editing, designing and publication of the report shall be undertaken by GIZ.
- The authors and the organisation involved will be duly credited in the publication.
- The copyrights of the publication will remain with GIZ.

3. Concept

In the bid, the bidder is required to show how the objectives defined in Chapter 0 are to be achieved, if applicable under consideration of further specific method-related requirements (technical-methodological concept). In addition, the bidder must describe the project management system for service provision.

Technical-methodological concept

Strategy: The bidder is required to consider the tasks to be performed with reference to the objectives of the services put out to tender (see Chapter 1). Following this, the bidder presents and justifies the strategy with which it intends to provide the services for which it is responsible (see Chapter 0). (Point 1.1.- TAG)

The bidder is required to present the actors relevant for the services for which it is responsible and describe the **cooperation** with them. (Point 1.2 – TAG)

The bidder is required to present and explain its approach to **steering** the measures with the project partners and its contribution to the results-based monitoring system. (Point 1.3 - TAG)

The bidder is required to describe the key **processes** for the services for which it is responsible and create a schedule that describes how the services according to Chapter 0 are to be provided. In particular, the bidder is required to describe the necessary work steps and, if applicable, take account of the milestones and contributions of other actors in accordance with Chapter 0. (Point 1.4 - TAG)

The bidder is required to describe its contribution to knowledge management for the partner and GIZ and promote scaling-up effects (**learning and innovation**). (Point 1.5 - TAG)

Project management of the contractor (Point 1.6 - TAG)

The bidder is required to explain its approach for coordination with the GIZ project.

- The contractor is responsible for selecting, preparing, training and steering the experts (international and national, short and long term) assigned to perform the advisory tasks.

- The contractor makes available equipment and supplies (consumables) and assumes the associated operating and administrative costs.
- The contractor manages costs and expenditures, accounting processes and invoicing in line with the requirements of GIZ.

The contractor reports regularly to GIZ in accordance with the AVB of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH from 2017

The bidder is required to draw up a **personnel assignment plan** with explanatory notes that lists all the experts proposed in the bid; the plan includes information on assignment dates (duration and expert days) and locations of the individual members of the team complete with the allocation of work steps as set out in the schedule.

The bidder is required to describe its backstopping concept. The following services are part of the standard backstopping package, which (like ancillary personnel costs) must be factored into the fee schedules of the staff listed in the bid in accordance with section 10.2 of the AVB:

- Service-delivery control
- Managing adaptations to changing conditions
- Ensuring the flow of information between GIZ and field staff
- Contractor's responsibility for seconded personnel
- Process-oriented technical-conceptual steering of the consultancy inputs
- Securing the administrative conclusion of the project
- Ensuring compliance with reporting requirements
- Providing specialist support for the on-site team by staff at company headquarters
- Sharing the lessons learned by the contractor and leveraging the value of lessons learned on site

4. Criteria for Eligibility of firms

The bidder needs to submit documentary evidence for the below :

- Be a registered as national organization or entity
- Average annual turnover for the last three financial years should be at least 80,000 Euros
- The agency should have minimum 15 employees as on previous year
- The agency must have handled at least 2 reference projects on livelihood development in rural development and agriculture sector and 1 reference projects in India in the last three years with minimum commission value of Euro 20,000.
- The agency should have 8 years of experience and technical expertise in scoping assessments for livelihoods and rural development projects
- The agency should have 10 years of experience in NRM, agriculture, farm and non-farm livelihoods sector, RD programmes like MGNREGA and NRLM
- The agency should have 5 years of experience in qualitative and quantitative research, data analysis, compilation of excellent reports for government, bi-lateral agencies and others.
- The agency should have 8 years of experience in providing consulting services / implementation and excellent track record
- The agency should have regional experience in India
- The agency should have experience in Official Development Assistance.

5. Personnel Concept

The bidder is required to provide personnel who are suited to filling the positions described, on the basis of their CVs (see Chapter 8), the range of tasks involved and the required qualifications.

The below specified qualifications represent the requirements to reach the maximum number of points.

Team leader

Tasks of the team leader

- Overall responsibility for the advisory packages of the contractor (quality and deadlines)
- Coordinating and ensuring communication with GIZ, partners and others involved in the project
- Personnel management, in particular identifying the need for short-term assignments within the available budget, as well as planning and steering assignments and supporting local and international short-term experts
- Regular reporting in accordance with deadlines
- Technical lead for designing & customising tools for assessment
- Coordination with national and district/basin teams for field visits and expert inputs
- Coordinating the assessment and planning aspects of the assignment
- Technical backstopping support for assessment and planning teams

Qualifications of the team leader

- Education/training (2.1.1): Postgraduate with professional experience on planning, monitoring and evaluation on agriculture / natural resource management / rural livelihoods/ social protection
- Language (2.1.2): Good business language skills in Hindi (regional language) and English
- General professional experience (2.1.3): 10-15 years of professional experience on rural development, livelihoods, agriculture and NRM
- Specific professional experience (2.1.4): 8 years in monitoring and evaluation, planning and project management, policy advocacy at national level
- Leadership/management experience (2.1.5): 5 years of management/leadership experience as project team leader or manager in a company
- Regional experience (2.1.6): 5 years of experience at national & regional level

Expert 1: Social and Economic Development Expert (2.2)

Tasks of expert

- Support the literature review, desk research and field visits.
- Designing & customising tools for the scoping assessment framework development in the respective areas.
- Support in identifying and connecting with local stakeholders active in NRM and livelihoods sector
- Handholding support to assessment and planning teams in select project locations
- Analyse and synthesize the outcomes of the assessment and planning exercises and extract key results regarding social and economic development possibilities

Qualifications of expert

- Qualifications (2.2.1): Master/ Diploma in Social Sciences, Social Development, Economics or a related field
- Language (2.2.2): English and Hindi

- General professional experience (2.2.3): 8 years of experience in social and economic development in rural areas.
- Specific professional experience (2.2.4): 8 years of professional experience in research/ impact assessments, monitoring and evaluation activities in rural areas with a focus on NRM/ livelihoods/ agriculture; Focus on gender and vulnerable communities is an asset.
- Leadership/management experience (2.2.5): 2-3 years of management experience as project manager in a company
- Regional experience (2.2.6): 2 years of experience at national & regional level

Expert 2: Farm and Non-farm Livelihood Development Expert (2.3)

Tasks of expert

- Support the literature review, desk research and field visits.
- Designing & customising tools for assessment of farm/ non-farm development
- Handholding support to assessment and planning teams in select project locations
- Analyse and synthesize the outcomes of the assessment and planning exercises and extract key results regarding livelihood development

Qualifications of experts

- Qualifications (2.3.1): Master/ Diploma in Agronomy, Agricultural Economics or any related field
- Language (2.3.2): English and Regional languages
- General professional experience (2.3.3): Minimum 8 years of experience in livelihood sector in rural areas.
- Specific professional experience (2.3.4): Minimum 5 years of experience in farm and non-farm livelihood development activities, with a special focus on women and vulnerable sections.
- Regional experience (2.3.6): 2 years of experience at national & regional level

Expert 3: Knowledge Management Expert (2.4)

Tasks of expert

- Ensuring the information compilation
- Analysing and quality assurance of the written reports
- Internal knowledge management and securing of relevant data
- Coordination of internal and external technical knowledge output and input

Qualifications of experts

- Qualifications (2.4.1): Master/ Diploma and technical qualification on knowledge management (services and tools)
- Language (2.4.2): English and Regional languages
- General professional experience (2.4.3): Minimum 5 years of experience in knowledge management within the area of development cooperation; knowledge on NRM, livelihoods and agriculture is an asset
- Specific professional experience (2.4.4): Minimum 5 years of experience on knowledge management in livelihood development on agriculture/ natural resource management and micro-enterprise development;

Expert 4: Geographical Information System and digital Technologies Expert (2.5)

Tasks of expert 1

- Support the literature review, desk research and field visits to assess the existing solutions and scope for use of GIS and digital solutions in the pilot locations.

- Handholding support to assessment and planning teams in select project locations
- Analyse and synthesize the outcomes of the assessment and planning exercises and extract key results regarding GIS and digital solutions

Qualifications of expert 1

- Qualifications (2.5.1): Master/ Diploma in Geography, IT-Technologies, GIS or related field
- Language (2.5.2): English, Hindi and other regional languages is advantage
- General professional experience (2.5.3): Minimum 5 years of experience in working on digital solutions for Rural Development, livelihoods and Agriculture sectors
- Specific professional experience (2.5.4): Minimum 3 years of experience in using Geo-Informatic and remote sensing based Tools for rural development programmes.

Short term Expert Pool 1: Four Junior professionals to support data collection and analysis on field

Tasks of expert

- Drafting questionnaires, and designing research-based tools.
- Data collection, compilation and analysis
- Field level liasoning with various departments for meetings, inputs etc.
- Assisting the other key experts on the team
- Provide regional expertise as required

Qualifications of experts

- Qualifications (2.4.1): Master/ Diploma and technical qualification on development studies/ environment/ agriculture
- Language (2.4.2): English and Regional languages
- General professional experience (2.4.3): Minimum 3 years of experience in data collection, quantitative and qualitative research; knowledge on NRM and agriculture is an asset
- Work experience (2.4.4): in any of the four states namely, Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh is beneficial

Soft skills of team members

In addition to their specialist qualifications, the following qualifications are required of team members:

- Team skills
- Initiative
- Communication skills
- Sociocultural competence
- Efficient, partner- and client-focused working methods
- Interdisciplinary thinking

6. Costing requirements

Assignment of personnel

Team leader: On-site assignment for 30 expert days

Expert 1: Assignment in country of assignment for 50 expert days

Expert 2: Assignment in country of assignment for 50 expert days

Expert 3: Assignment in country of assignment for 50 expert days

Expert 4: Assignment in country of assignment for 30 expert days

Short term Expert Pool 1: Assignment in country of assignment for 80 expert days (20 days for each expert)

Total proposed person days: 290 expert days

Travel

The bidder is required to calculate the travel by the specified experts and the experts it has proposed based on the places of performance in the pilot-states as stipulated in Chapter 0 and list the expenses separately by daily allowance, accommodation expenses, flight costs and other travel expenses. Five round trips for three experts each are anticipated to travel sectors Delhi, Bhopal, Patna, Ranchi and Jaipur (So total 15 round trips). Each trip to be anticipated for 3 days each. Local travel, per diem and accommodation to be budgeted accordingly.

7. Inputs of GIZ or other actors

GIZ and/ or other actors are expected to make the following available:

- Introduce the agency to the government administration at the start of the project.
- Suggest additional participants for any meetings, trainings, and workshops
- Any technical support required for the success of this initiative
- Support in the field visit of the participants
- Technical input for finalising scoping framework, periodic review and finalisation of report.

8. Requirements on the format of the bid

The structure of the bid must correspond to the structure of the ToRs. In particular, the detailed structure of the concept (Chapter 3) is to be organised in accordance with the positively weighted criteria in the assessment grid (not with zero). It must be legible (font size 11 or larger) and clearly formulated. The bid is drawn up in English (language).

The complete bid shall not exceed 30 pages (excluding CVs and other supporting company documents).

The CVs of the personnel proposed in accordance with **Chapter 5** of the ToRs. The CVs shall not exceed 4 pages. The CVs must clearly show the position and job the proposed person held in the reference project and for how long. The CVs can also be submitted in English (language). If one of the maximum page lengths is exceeded, the content appearing after the cut-off point will not be included in the assessment.

Please calculate your price bid based exactly on the aforementioned costing requirements. In the contract the contractor has no claim to fully exhaust the days/travel/workshops/ budgets. The number of days/travel/workshops and the budget amount shall be agreed in the contract as 'up to' amounts. The specifications for pricing are defined in the price schedule.

9. Annexes 1

Specific Conditions pertain to Covid- 19 Measures

The specific conditions pertain to Covid- 19 measures are integral part of contract and shall act as binding under special agreement and interpreted along with GTCC.

In addition to the provisions as detailed in clause 09 of The General Terms of Contract governing the delivery of works and services commissioned by **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH (local)**, the Consultant confirms that he/she

accepts the Consulting engagement with full knowledge and understanding of the travel and other requirements of the engagement including specifically the need, on the part of the Consultant, to take all required precautions (including prevention and risk mitigation measures) against the risks arising from the ongoing Novel Corona Virus (CoVid - 19) Pandemic

The Consultant shall provide to the GIZ an RT-PCR Negative Test Report for Novel Corona Virus (CoVid - 19) prior to starting the Consulting Engagement and shall additionally comply with the following at all times in the course of the Consulting Engagement:

1. Obtain Medical and other Insurance Cover in respect of the Novel Corona Virus (CoVid - 19) Infection/Disease and consequences thereof – (GIZ will reimburse the insurance cover up to 5000 Indian Rupees on actual basis)
2. Strictly follow and comply with the prescribed Mask, Hand Washing/Sanitization and Social Distancing Protocols.
3. Take safe and secure mode of transportation.
4. Observe all local restrictions/precautions as applicable for the specific areas of travel covered by the Consulting Engagement.
5. If eligible, get vaccinated against the Novel Corona Virus (CoVid - 19).
6. Install and maintain as active at all times the Government of India's Arogya Setu App.
7. If exposed to any active case of Novel Corona Virus (CoVid - 19) to take all steps as advised by the Government of India's advisories in such case.
8. If feeling unwell and experiencing any of the symptoms of Novel Corona Virus (CoVid - 19) infection - to take all steps as advised by the Government of India's advisories in such cases including but not limited to getting an RT-PCR Test for Novel Corona Virus (CoVid - 19), self-isolation, notifying the GIZ and also the concerned local Novel Corona Virus (CoVid - 19) isolation/treatment facility.
9. Other compliance as may be notified by the GIZ and the Government of India from time to time in relation to Novel Corona Virus (CoVid - 19) infection/disease.

Furthermore, The Consultant accepts the Consulting Engagement on a best and informed judgement basis with full knowledge of the tasks to be performed, the place of performance and the precautions and safeguards to be reasonably taken try the Consultant to mitigate all types of risks associated with the said Consulting Engagement. The Consultant undertakes the Consulting Engagement at his/her own risk and responsibility and shall not, under any circumstances, and at any time, be entitled to assert any liability or other claims whatsoever against the GIZ, its Management, Officers and Employees for any consequences or risks or harm that may arise to the Consultant in the course of or as a consequence of

undertaking the Consulting Engagement or any actions or consequences arising in relation to such Consulting Engagement.

10. Annexes 2

Brief concept note on project

Indo-German Technical Cooperation Project on Enhancing Rural Resilience through Appropriate Development Actions (ERADA)

Name of Project	Enhancing Rural Resilience through Appropriate Development Actions (ERADA)
Duration	September 2021 – August 2024 (3 years)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Partner Ministry in India	Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India
Nodal department	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA)
Implemented by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Project objective	Strengthen the livelihoods of vulnerable households in selected rural areas, based on locally available natural resources and developmental programmes.
Project states	Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan
Project value	EUR 3 million; ~INR 26.47 crore

CONCEPT NOTE

1. Context

The first wave of Covid-19 in India in the early months of 2020, followed by nationwide lockdown in March to minimise the spread of the pandemic disrupted the economic and social well-being of the entire population across urban and rural areas. One of the severely affected groups were the migrant workers in urban areas, who survived on daily wages working in India's large informal sector. More than million migrant workers² made their way back to their home villages. These are mainly located in 6 Indian states, namely Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, where about one in three inhabitants live

² Ministry of Labour, Statement referred to Part (d) of Lok Sabha USQ NO. 138 due for reply on 14 September 2020

below the poverty line (SDG Index 2020). This additional population back in the villages has increased the pressure on limited and depleting natural resources especially water, impacted the already volatile agriculture incomes due to climate change and other factors, and economic situation of rural pockets in general, due to lack of sufficient alternative and sustainable livelihoods.

The Mahatma Gandhi NREGA programme was one of the key income generation opportunities that was readily available to the return migrants, as well as other vulnerable households in the rural areas. As part of the Indian Government's Covid-19 response package, Mahatma Gandhi NREGA received an additional allocation of Rs. 40,000 crore for the financial year (FY) 2020-21 alone, making the total allocation Rs.1,05,000 crore for the first time in the history of the programme. The total number of person-days of employment generated went up from 227.6 crore in FY 2019-20 to 373 crore in FY 2020-21. The number of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA workers went up from 7.89 crore to 14.78 crore in the same period.³

While many migrants may move back to urban areas, the economic situation is unpredictable. For those of them who choose to stay back in rural areas, the poverty and vulnerable conditions are worse than ever, and many years of rural growth has been reversed. There is a need to develop sustainable livelihood activity for the vulnerable communities in rural areas, to give them an opportunity to choose to stay back, and not migrate due to the distress conditions.

2. Project ERADA – Design

Project ERADA (Enhancing Rural Resilience through Appropriate Development Actions) is an upcoming Covid-19 response project, as part of BMZ's Corona Immediate Programme. It aims to support the Ministry of Rural Development in its ongoing efforts towards poverty alleviation, income augmentation and sustainable livelihood development. The project will be implemented from September 2021 to August 2024.

Project locations: The demonstration locations will primarily include 8 blocks across 8 aspirational districts in 4 states namely, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. The four states are among the six focus states identified by the Government of India for implementing the Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan aimed at developing employment and livelihood opportunities for migrant workers, who returned to villages in the wake of Covid-19⁴. The blocks for pilot demonstration will be selected from among the Aspirational Districts in the states, based on an initial feasibility analysis by the project, and in discussion with the respective State Rural Development Departments.

³ Mahatma Gandhi NREGA MIS Reports

⁴ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1632861>

Project objective: Strengthen the livelihoods of vulnerable households in selected rural areas, based on locally available natural resources and developmental programmes.

The project will provide technical support in improving the livelihood conditions of vulnerable households including return migrants, women headed households, schedule caste/ schedule tribe families among others.

The objective will be achieved through three key output areas, as detailed below:

Output 1: To improve wage work potential and sustainably increase the natural resource base (water, soil, forests, pastures, irrigation areas, etc.) in selected blocks.

Action: Technical support in the form of capacity building, digital solutions and advisory support will be provided to improve the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA planning processes and work identification, thus supporting at least 50% of the vulnerable households in every selected block to receive wage work up to 100 days in a year⁵.

Further, the Government's efforts in ensuring that at least 65% of the works undertaken under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA are related to natural resource management will be complemented through innovative planning, implementation, and monitoring mechanisms.

Output 2: To promote long-term livelihood development.

Action: The focus will be to pilot innovative approaches to utilise the assets developed through Mahatma Gandhi NREGA for providing sustainable livelihood generation opportunities to at least 40,000 vulnerable households in the pilot locations. Activities will range from plantations, horticulture gardens, fish cultivation, goat and cattle rearing, vermi-composting among others. The sustainable use of the natural resource base strengthened by output 1 will be a core area to develop NRM asset-based livelihoods. Pilot activities in cooperation with other government programmes at state level, such as Project UNNATI, National Rural Livelihoods Mission, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, skill development programmes, non-governmental organisations and the private sector will be explored, based on the opportunities available in each block and district.

Need-based capacity building support for augmenting livelihood generation and promoting green enterprises will be provided to at least 8,000 beneficiaries from vulnerable households, especially women and the youth (e.g. training electricians specialising in solar-based refrigeration technology for cold stores, construction workers for building advanced storage facilities for agricultural products, etc.). The focus will be to make the households less dependent on migration income and more resilient to future pandemics and crises.

⁵ the average days of employment provided per Household currently is around 51.52 days/ year (2020-21)

Output 3: To promote convergence and multi-stakeholder platforms.

Action: There are several programmes on rural development from MoRD, State Governments as well as non-government actors. Often, the work is done in parallel, and results are duplicated. GIS-based action plans for livelihood development will be deployed to enhance convergence of rural development programmes in all the 8 pilot blocks. Further, digital solutions such as a single window platform for the beneficiaries to improve their awareness, understand about various developmental programmes available to them, application processes, mechanisms to facilitate their participation, etc. will be deployed for facilitating better access to vulnerable groups and arriving at faster impacts.

As the project will end in three years, it is important to establish sustainable mechanisms for ensuring continuity of project activities. Multi-stake coordination platforms such as district and state level steering committees will be created in coordination with the rural development departments, for better integration and efficient performance in reaching the targeted vulnerable households.

Baseline assessment and action plan for the three outputs will be elaborated at the start of the project.

Key Outcomes and expected impacts

While some results may be achieved during the project period, impacts may materialise only later, after successful mainstreaming of the innovations piloted in the project.

1. Improved economic conditions of vulnerable households, through maximising wage work under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA and developing sustainable livelihood generation opportunities:

- Increased annual income of 100,000 vulnerable households by at least Rs. 20,000 through Mahatma Gandhi NREGA and sustainable livelihood activities promoted by the project. At least 10% of the households will be headed/ led by women.
- The economic impact supports the vulnerable households in not just meeting the basic needs but provides a 'living income' to afford a decent standard of living.⁶
- Households become less dependent on migration income and more resilient to future pandemics and crises.
- Lesser number of households are forced into distress migration due to lack of alternate income generating activities in rural areas.

2. Improved coordination and better leveraging of development programmes:

- An integrated GIS based livelihood development plan for every supported block, for converging technical and financial resources of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA and other rural development programmes.

⁶ Living Income is the net annual income required for a household in a particular place to afford a decent standard of living for all members of that household. (<https://www.living-income.com/>).

- Establishing digital mechanisms, thus ensuring quicker access and faster benefits to vulnerable families including enhanced access to information, improved awareness among beneficiaries about the schemes and projects implemented by government, CSOs, private sector organisations etc., and facilitating better participation of these households.
 - Convergence with ongoing Cluster Facilitation Project (CFP) and effective implementation on ground.
 - Technical backstopping to functionaries of eight pilot districts for integrating resilience aspects in planning, implementation, and service delivery
- 3. Capacity development for enabling Rural Development and Panchayati Raj departments at state, district and local levels to improve service delivery through frontline functionaries**
- Online and offline capacity building measures for the implementation cadre
 - IEC materials including audio-visual content for mass awareness
 - Guidelines and learning materials in regional languages, as required for streamlining planning and implementation processes.
- 4. Documentation of successful approaches and models for mainstreaming:**
- Success stories, best practices and case studies for wider dissemination.
 - Process documentation about innovative approaches.

Key innovations

- The project will work in close collaboration with the Cluster Facilitation Programme (CFP) under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, as CFP technical expertise will be available in the aspirational blocks.
- The project will built on existing experiences from other Indo-German projects such as the GIS based planning approach from the Environmental Benefits through Mahatma Gandhi NREGA project; and CWRM (Composite Water Resource Management) framework from the WASCA (Water Security and climate adaptation in rural India) project.
- The project will bring in innovative ideas and best practices in social protection, public employment programmes and livelihood development from other countries, and GIZ implemented projects abroad.
- The project will involve civil society organisations, research institutions, technical support agencies and academia in designing and implementing the project activities on ground.
- Technical expertise will be deployed at national and state levels for project implementation.
- The project will ensure cross-learning among the four states, as well as documentation and knowledge creation to support policy advocacy and mainstreaming processes at state and national levels.
- The project will facilitate knowledge sharing from the project as well as MoRD and the states, on international platforms, conferences and webinars.