



# Request for Proposal: Rapid Needs Assessment on Gender Integration in BRLPS-JEEVIKA

## BACKGROUND

### SAKSHAMAA

SAKSHAMAA (empowered woman)- Initiative for What Works, Bihar, is an initiative of Centre for Catalyzing Change (C3) addressing the gaps in evidence and granular gender data in Bihar, increasing Bihar-focused evidence on women's economic empowerment, and supporting the strengthening of state institutional capacities for research. The aim is to grow robust evidence to inform policy implementation, drive evidence-based advocacy through a network of researchers, and provide technical support to the Government of Bihar. Sakshamaa is supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

C3-SAKSHAMAA and Women Development Corporation (WDC) have clearly defined terms of engagement. Some of the significant achievements of this collaboration include, publication of the Bihar State Gender Report Card (2018 and 2019), the Gender Dashboard, for the use by policy makers and implementers at district and state level - both complementary trackers for highlighting progress and inequities across districts and state level outcomes across a range of gender issues.

C3-SAKSHAMAA is also collaborating with eminent research partners for studies on child marriage, women's mobility and access to transport, adolescent girls' school to work transitions, etc.

### BRLPS-JEEVIKA

The core strategy of the Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (BRLPS) – JEEVIKA, Government of Bihar is of building a multi-tiered, self-sustaining community based institutions who self-manage their own development process. JEEVIKA mobilizes women from marginalized households (especially from Scheduled Caste and Tribe households) into women's self-help groups (SHGs), which are federated into Village Organizations (VOs) and Cluster Level Federations (CLFs). Once this pyramid of institutions is established in a village, the project delivers targeted funds for micro-credit, food security, insurance against health emergencies, and promotes livelihood opportunities in the community. Additionally, the project supports these institutions to leverage other government programs, and to facilitate collective action to resolve social and service delivery problems at the village level.

In 2016, the National Rural Livelihoods Mission began to take a systemic look at gender integration, prioritizing capacity building of staff and community institutions. While women's collectives have emerged as a promising strategy for their empowerment, especially in the domain of livelihoods, societal, patriarchal barriers have been identified as the key barrier that cross cuts the family, community and institutional domains, limiting the agency-building processes and outcomes. Key to these institutional efforts, therefore, is system level capacities to integrate gender transformative approaches in their strategy and planning, which in turn will unlock pathways towards greater gender equity, agency and progressive norms.

The approach document of NRLM outlines the process of empowering Cluster Level Federations (CLF) to build Social Action Committees and provide facilitation support through village level Gender

Focal Points. The CLF are expected to support VOs in the design and implementation of Gender Action Plans.

C3-SAKSHAMAA and JEEVIKA are embarking on a strategic partnership to build institutional salience on gender and empowerment. C3 will provide technical support to BRLPS-JEEVIKA for the Development of Institutional Capacities to Enable the Creation and Implementation of Gender Integrated Plans at the grassroots and state level.

As this work begins, C3-SAKSHAMAA seeks the services of a research/ consultancy firm to complete a Rapid Needs Assessment to:

1. Understand the level of gender understanding among BRLPS staff,
2. Existing capacities to develop and implement gender integrated plans,
3. The nature and extent of current efforts for gender integration and organizational vision for the same.
4. The needs assessment should also highlight key issues that need to form part of the gender integration at state, cluster and village level, based on experiences of other states (Kerala, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand etc.) from available secondary literature, and primary interviews, where possible.

**Key tasks for Research/Consultancy Firm:**

- Review current BRLPS documents to understand organizational vision and goals regarding gender integration
- Conduct key informant interviews (KIIs) and focus group discussions with BRLPS staff to gauge the level of understanding on gender, and their ideas and vision concerning this process
- Review available documents of livelihoods missions from other states (Kerala, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand etc.) to understand the processes undertaken to integrate a gender understanding in respective geographies
- Conduct KIIs (in person or tele/web based) with select representatives of other state rural livelihood missions and partner NGO's to understand key aspects of their respective gender integration programs
- In collaboration with Technical Expert and C3 team, develop a framework of analysis which will highlight key aspects from the secondary document review and primary work undertaken
- Produce a 10-15 page Report covering findings and key recommendations of from this Needs Assessment
- Produce a PPT summarizing the findings

**Timeline:** April – June 2021

**Technical Proposal**

Interested agencies should provide the following information:

- a. Proposal that draws upon the scope of the work (provided above) outlining the approach and plan to accomplish the assignment.
- b. A statement on organization's capabilities including:
  - Agency profile outlining areas of expertise with samples of select works;
  - Current list of clients;

- Any direct or relevant past experience of undertaking similar initiatives
- c. Names and CVs of the professionals who will be the lead and associated with the study and how the study will be managed. A brief CV of the staff to be assigned to the study must be enclosed.
- d. A proposed timelines indicating activities/sub-activities to be undertaken

### Financial Proposal

Depending on the technical approach and the roadmap, the financial costs should be worked out and should be in line with the proposed design of the study. It is to be noted that this is a rapid assessment and there is limited budget provisions.

### Financial Proposal Should Include the Following:

Item	Description	Total Amount
<b><i>Suggestive line items for cost proposal are as below –</i></b>		
1. Professional fee		
2. Training cost		
3. Field Cost for data collection (please provide detailed breakup of field cost)		
4. Printing, stationery and communication		
5. Data processing and analysis		
6. Report writing		
7. Any other (please specify and justify the cost line item)		

Interested agencies can send their proposals to [sakshamaa@c3india.org](mailto:sakshamaa@c3india.org) with Madhuparna Das Joshi ([mjoshi@c3india.org](mailto:mjoshi@c3india.org)) and Devaki Singh ([dsingh@c3india.org](mailto:dsingh@c3india.org)) in cc.