

JEEViKA's Satat Jeevikoparjan Yojana (Sustainable Livelihoods Program) Graduation Approach in Bihar, India

Terms of Reference for Ultra-Poor Graduation Initiative Project Advisor

Client:	JEEViKA or the Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (BRLPS), State Government of Bihar, India
Position:	Project Advisor
Location:	Patna, Bihar (or able to travel frequently to Patna)
Dates of Assignment:	Sep 2020 -Sep 2021
	The position is contingent upon contract award.

About BRAC Ultra Poor Graduation Initiative (UPGI)

Beginning in 2002, BRAC pioneered the Ultra-Poor Graduation approach in Bangladesh, a comprehensive, time-bound and sequenced set of interventions designed to enable the most vulnerable and destitute households to progress along a pathway out of extreme poverty. BRAC established the Ultra-Poor Graduation Initiative (UPGI) to deliver technical assistance to agents of scale on how to adapt and implement the Graduation approach and other holistic economic inclusion and social protection strategies. For more than a decade, BRAC has served as a leading provider of global technical assistance and advisory services for the Graduation approach to governments, multilateral institutions, and NGOs worldwide.

Project Background

The Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society, an autonomous body housed within the Department of Rural Development in the Government of Bihar, is spearheading the World Bank aided Bihar Rural Livelihoods Project (BRLP), locally known as JEEViKA. The program aims to strengthen the social and economic empowerment of the rural poor by helping women in rural poor households to improve their livelihoods and enhance household incomes through organizing, training, strengthening and forming self-help groups (SHGs).

JEEViKA is implementing the Satat Jeevikoparjan Yojana (Sustainable Livelihoods Program), modelled on the Graduation approach and targeted at the extreme poor, with the aim to reach 100,000 households across Bihar between 2018-2020. JEEViKA has been working with Bandhan Konnagar to effectively integrate Graduation interventions into their approach, as well as with J-PAL, who will conduct a process evaluation for the program. More broadly, JEEViKA is interested in incorporating elements of the Graduation approach and other BRAC programs into its broader programming outside of SJY. This is a level of scaling that would engage millions of households in Graduation.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be a potential increase in poverty, hunger, and other vulnerabilities that will need to be addressed. Through the scaling of the Graduation

approach, JEEViKA can strengthen the resilience of the poor and vulnerable households to assist in their economic recovery and ensure they are prepared for future shocks.

Description of Assignment

Contingent upon contract award, BRAC UPGI will deliver advisory services as part of a learning and technical assistance partnership with JEEViKA. This is intended to complement the technical support provided by Bandhan Konnagar, the primary technical assistance partner to JEEViKA, and draw on the respective strengths of both organizations to strengthen the scaled Graduation program in Bihar. BRAC UPGI will deliver technical assistance in three key areas: (1) monitoring system refinement, (2) government capacity-building working directly with JEEViKA and current partners, and (3) program adaptation and operational refinement.

Scope of Work

The Project Advisor will oversee project management of the technical assistance partnership in Bihar, acting as a liaison between JEEViKA, UPGI, and other partners such as the World Bank. The Project Advisor will report directly to the UPGI Global Team Lead and will work with a globally integrated team. Specific responsibilities include:

1. Serve as a liaison between JEEViKA staff, UPGI, and the World Bank encouraging their involvement, and ensuring sharing of information and transparency;
2. Oversee technical assistance and ensure successful, timely, and high-quality delivery of support;
3. Supervise field staff and ensure effective coordination and communication across staff members;
4. Lead hiring and recruitment of the appropriate personnel with skill sets apt for supporting technical assistance on Graduation in the field;
5. Define and implement realistic and consistent work plans and provides regular reports and updates to UPGI;
6. Lead delivery of training of trainers (TOT) and capacity building of field and managerial staff on specific Graduation components;
7. Lead training of government and consultant staff on updated digital data collection tools, and oversee the uptake of these tools by implementation staff;
8. Provide inputs in training curriculum for field and managerial staff on specific Graduation components;
9. Provide locally adapted insights on training curricula and market integration;
10. Lead stakeholder mapping and identify potential local partnerships with civil society organizations and private sector;
11. Ensure cross-cutting issues (gender, social protection, health and accountability) are incorporated into technical assistance at the local level.

Qualifications

- At least 6 years' experience of field management in India on rural program delivery, livelihoods, and social work, with experience in Bihar preferred;
- Experience working with government partners on training and capacity building;

- Experience in executing integrated development programs; high preference for experience working with government programs;
- Proven knowledge and technical skills in livelihood development, market integration, and poverty reduction; experience with the Graduation approach is highly desirable;
- Demonstrable experience in program management and team management;
- Demonstrable knowledge and experience with program monitoring and use of digital monitoring tools;
- Strong ability to engage in dialogue and bring together local actors;
- Demonstrable financial management skills;
- Demonstrable understanding of and commitment to gender equity issues;
- Adaptable and flexible;
- Ability to take initiative and make decisions in fast moving environments.

How to Apply

Candidates are encouraged to apply by submitting the following:

- Resume
- Cover letter
- Three references

Please submit all documentation electronically to applications@brac-upgi.org no later than October 20, 2020 with the subject "Application for Project Advisor, JEEViKA - Candidate Name." Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis; early applications are preferred.

Only soft copy applications will be considered, and only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.