

**REQUEST FOR EOI FOR EVALUATION OF PROJECT- EARLY
(Enhanced Awareness and Rural Livelihood of Youth), a
project on Prevention of Human Trafficking and Promotion of Safe Migration
through community mobilization and participation for Livelihood opportunities
in Tea Gardens of Assam.**

Centre for Development Initiatives (CDI), based in Guwahati, Assam invites EOI (Expression of Interest) from research consultants/agencies/ organizations/ individuals to design and execute a end term evaluation study of Project EARLY (Enhanced Awareness and Rural Livelihood of Youth), a project on Prevention of Human Trafficking and Promotion of Safe Migration through community mobilization and participation for Livelihood opportunities in Tea Gardens of Assam – Phase II scheduled between 15/06/2026 to 14/07/2026. Interested research consultants/ agencies / organizations/ individuals are requested to apply by 05/06/2026 along with their CV/ Profiles in the prescribed EOI form.

1. Introduction

The Centre for Development Initiatives (CDI) is the development wing of the Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians (MSMHC). It is an organization dedicated to the service of marginalized communities, especially women, girls and children. The organization coordinates the development programs being carried out in six Provinces of MSMHC covering 19 states of India and wherever MSMHC is present.

CDI is actively engaged in the work of rural development, public health care, and empowerment of women and education of rural poor. Reading the signs of the time and needs of the hour, CDI also took up the work among the most neglected, invisible and deprived of their rights for a decent living. One of the key focus areas is Human trafficking prevention and promotion of Safe migration in the tea gardens of Assam. The congregation through CDI has the experience of working in 75 villages of Assam for the same.

2. About the Project

Project EARLY (Enhanced Awareness and Rural Livelihood of Youth) focuses on preventing human trafficking and promoting safe migration through community mobilization and participation, while expanding livelihood opportunities in the tea gardens of Assam. It builds on an earlier initiative, "Prevention of Potential Migrant Workers from Unsafe Migration and Human Trafficking in 50 villages of Kokrajhar, Chirang, Dhubri, Baksa and Udalguri districts of Assam," which was implemented from August 2019 to July 2023. The current phase has expanded the project's reach from 50 to 75 villages in the same region.

Human trafficking and unsafe migration in the project area are driven by multiple interrelated factors, including extreme poverty, social unrest, limited livelihood opportunities, and low levels of awareness and literacy. In response, the project aims to strengthen the ability of target communities to pursue safer, more sustainable livelihood options and improve household incomes.

The project also mobilizes communities to increase children's access to quality education and encourage them to become agents of social change. By strengthening community participation and promoting inclusive development, the project seeks to support the overall development of tea tribe communities, reduce incidents of human trafficking, and enable safer, better-informed migration.

The project areas are basically both the tea gardens and the villages inhabited by the tea tribe community in the lower Assam alongside the Brahmaputra River covering the 75 villages in 5 districts for a population of about 7500 households. The project serves approximately 37500 individuals directly through various programs and activities.

Goal

Adivasis of Assam managing their economic and social wellbeing having sustainable community structures through facilitative role of the Youth, Women and Children

Objectives

3.8.2.1. Strengthen, through community assistance, structures managed and monitored by the trained Youth Volunteers of Youth Forum and CBOs (Village Vigilant Group and Women Group) to undertake developmental activities in their respective areas converging at district level

3.8.2.2. Enhancing livelihood opportunities economic empowerment at the community level through judicious use of natural resources and existing market opportunities

3.8.2.3. Promoting local leadership amongst the youth force, assistance through knowledge empowerment, continued education and skilling contributing to no migration or safe migration

3.8.2.4. Establish child friendly villages in each colony/ village through mentoring/ coaching and remedial classes for continued education and learning

3. Beneficiary Profile

The project is being implemented across 75 villages in five districts of lower Assam—Udalguri, Baksa, Chirang, Kokrajhar, and Dhubri. Each district covers 15 villages and approximately 1,500 households in each district, reaching a total of about 37,500 individuals directly. The primary direct participants include the youth, members of community-based organizations (CBOs), women's collectives, children enrolled in elementary school, and school dropouts.

The project is also expected to benefit approximately 187,500 people indirectly. This group includes project functionaries and key stakeholders such as schoolteachers, health and child development functionaries, tea garden officials, labour officers, and social welfare officers.

4. Scope of the Evaluation Study

The consultancy work will focus on determining the extent to which the project conforms to the stated issue/rights /process-based approach and objectives of the project; review the experience, opportunities and constraints in applying the stated approach of the project, evaluate the relevance of projects to local needs, examine the extent to which projects have deployed innovative approaches and strategies to address developmental problems concerning the community in tea garden areas of lower Assam.

Through dialogues, it will review and analyse the comprehensiveness/ actuality of the underlying theory-of-change/ impact-hypothesis/matrix, the extent to which the project has achieved the planned results; identify factors that have enabled or hindered the achievement of planned results; assess the extent of client (beneficiary) involvement in project decision-making and their sense of ownership of the development process being supported and facilitated through the project; assess the strength of the various groups and CBOs formed by projects; assess the level of women's participation in and the extent to which women benefit from projects; assess the main achievements, outcomes and impacts of projects; assess the sustainability of these achievements and impacts and identify factors that contribute to enhancing sustainability.

Assess the quality of project cycle management and contribution of CDI in the capacity building and institutional development along with the financial systems followed at CDI level.

Timely Scope – the evaluation shall analyse the period from August 2023 to June 2026

Geographical Scope – Effects of the project in all the 5 districts shall be evaluated.

5. Objectives of the Evaluation

As per the policy of Centre for Development Initiatives (CDI) and as envisaged in the project there is a demand for an independent external evaluation to assess the various aspects of the project.

The objectives of the evaluation are:

- Provide Centre for Development Initiatives (CDI) with an independent, evidence-based assessment of how the strategies adopted under Project EARLY (Enhanced Awareness and Rural Livelihood of Youth), a project on Prevention of Human Trafficking and Promotion of Safe Migration through community mobilization and participation for Livelihood opportunities in Tea Gardens of Assam – Phase II, have contributed to improving the living conditions of tea tribe

communities across the 75 villages and to reducing human trafficking while promoting safe migration.

- Strengthen the Project through evidence-based recommendations to improve the performance.

The results of the evaluation should also provide information to:

- Help CDI optimize ongoing activities in the project area and strengthen the planning and implementation of future development projects.
- Inform local stakeholders and target groups about the effectiveness of the self-help approach in improving quality of life.
- Enable the funding agency to better advise on, prepare, and monitor similar projects for marginalized populations, and to demonstrate accountable use of funds to private and institutional benefactors.
- Keep the funding agency informed about the status and progress of the project.

6. Key Issues of study

Keeping the stated objective the evaluation will focus of the following areas – relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, coherence and sustainability based on the OECD-DAC Criteria

To this end following questions will be answered. The list presented here is not exhaustive and the evaluation team may add to it to make it more meaningful to facilitate the evaluation process.

Relevance – Are we doing the right thing?

The extent to which the aid activity is suited to the priorities and policies of the target group, recipient and donor. In evaluating the relevance of a programme or a project, it is useful to consider the following questions:

- To what extent are the objectives of the programme still valid?
- Are the activities and outputs of the programme consistent with the overall goal and the attainment of its objectives?
- Are the activities and outputs of the programme consistent with the intended impacts and effects

Effectiveness – Are we doing the things right?

A measure of the extent to which an aid activity attains its objectives.

In evaluating the effectiveness of a programme or a project, it is useful to consider the following questions:

- To what extent were the objectives achieved / are likely to be achieved?
- What were the major factors influencing the achievement or non-achievement of the objectives?

Efficiency – Are our actions cost effective?

Efficiency measures the outputs -- qualitative and quantitative -- in relation to the inputs. It is an economic term which signifies that the aid uses the least costly resources possible in order to achieve the desired results. This generally requires comparing alternative approaches to achieving the same outputs, to see whether the most efficient process has been adopted.

When evaluating the efficiency of a programme or a project, it is useful to consider the following questions:

- Were activities cost-efficient?
- Were objectives achieved on time?
- Was the program or project implemented in the most efficient way compared to alternatives?

Impact – Are we contributing to the achievement of overarching development objectives and results?

The positive and negative changes produced by a development intervention, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended. This involves the main impacts and effects resulting from the activity on the local social, economic, environmental and other development indicators. The examination should

be concerned with both intended and unintended results and must also include the positive and negative impact of external factors, such as changes in terms of trade and financial conditions.

When evaluating the impact of a programme or a project, it is useful to consider the following questions:

- What has happened as a result of the programme or project?
- What real difference has the activity made to the beneficiaries?
- How many people have been affected?

Coherence – How well does the intervention fit? (internal – external)

- Does the project create synergies with other projects supported by the Donor? Are there any duplications, which could have been avoided?
- What other projects by (international) donors/agencies exist in the sphere of the project and what relationships exist so far?
- Recommendations for further collaboration with any of the identified projects/institutions

Sustainability – Are the results durable?

Sustainability is concerned with measuring whether the benefits of an activity are likely to continue after donor funding has been withdrawn. Projects need to be environmentally as well as financially sustainable.

When evaluating the sustainability of a programme or a project, it is useful to consider the following questions:

- To what extent did the benefits of a programme or project continue after donor funding ceased?
- What were the major factors which influenced the achievement or non-achievement of sustainability of the programme or project?

7. Methodology

For the evaluation, a cross-sectional evaluation design is proposed wherein both quantitative and qualitative components will be used to assess the outputs and outcomes. Lead Consultant of the study will finalise the design and tools with a core team from CDI Centre for Development Initiatives (CDI).

- The consultant/ agency will be responsible for overall management of the assignment including facilitation of discussion with its partner, beneficiaries, CBOs as per the need for discussion, ideas and suggestion during the analysis period and deeper analysis.
- Collecting data from the Households and direct participants of the existing project and various stakeholders through a standard questionnaire, using a suitable sampling method.
- Conducting Focus Group Discussions with different groups, institutions at the community level involved in the project implementation
- Conducting qualitative interviews with staff of Centre for Development Initiatives (CDI) and MON to understand their perspectives, challenges and vision of the project
- The consultant/ agency will use tools but not limit only to the following: (a) secondary literature review, (b) key informant interviews. Detailed methodology, including the design of data-collection tools and formulation of specific questions will be developed by the consultant in consultation with the Core team of Centre for Development Initiatives (CDI)
- Use of Participatory tools for evaluation will be encouraged adhering to objectives of the Evaluation Study

8. Minimum requirements for qualification and application from consultant/agency

- Please note that Individuals / organizations / consortiums can apply for the assignment.
- The minimum requirements for qualification and application are the following:
 - Organizations or consortiums to be registered with PAN and other legal/ statutory requirements
 - CVs of the Leads / Research Coordinators (Maximum 2)

- Past experience of research/ completion studies/ evaluation on similar issues of tea garden and specifically that of tea tribes
- Additional requirements for Leads/ Research Coordinators
 - Post-Graduation or PhD
 - Should have at least two publications/ studies on related issues
 - Experience in compiling good practices documents on developmental issues
 - Good knowledge of tea garden and specifically that of tea tribes
 - Good writing and analytical skills.
 - Excellent interpersonal skills, and ability to promote collaboration and consensus building

9. Expected period of assignment to consultant/ agency

The assignment will commence from **15/06/2026** onwards and is expected to take around 4 weeks for completion. The probable completion date is **14/07/2026**

The consultant / agency is expected to share a tentative timeframe for the evaluation study in EOI (These dates will be finalized once the EOI is accepted, Proposal developed, and agreement signed)

- Duration of Preparatory Activities
- Dates of evaluation
- Debriefing Date
- Submission of Draft and Final Report

10. How to apply

- Qualified individuals/ agencies/ consortiums are requested to submit a cover letter, CV of Lead Researchers (max 2) along with filled in Strategic Questions for End Evaluation of Early Project in the prescribed format emailed to cdimsmhc@gmail.com, missiocdi@gmail.com by **June 5th, 2026**. Interested individuals/ agencies/ consortiums can request for the format for Strategic Questions through email by **01/06/2026**
- Incomplete applications without cover letter, CV of Lead Researchers (max 2) along with filled in Strategic Questions will not be considered.
- EOIs will be screened by a committee formed by CDI. Decision of Screening Committee of CDI will be final. First round of shortlisting will be done by **08/06/2026**. Shortlisted individuals/ agencies/ consortiums will be then asked to make an online presentation (12 slides maximum) by **10/06/2026**
- Finalization of the individual/ agency/ consortium will be done by **11/06/2026** followed by signing of the agreement on **12/06/2026**
- Submission of EOI does not guarantee that the EOI will be accepted.
- CDI is no way obliged to respond to the rejection of the EOIs.
- CDI also reserves the right to accept or reject any EOI, and to annul the call for EOI process and reject all EOI at any time prior to screening and selection procedure.
- Personal canvassing is strictly prohibited.

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For further queries and clarifications get in touch with Mr. Charles Tudu through email: cdimsmhc@gmail.com, missiocdi@gmail.com or over phone: **7896907029** by or before **26/05/2026**

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