

# **Terms of Reference for Research Climate Change and its Impact on Natural Resource Management in Afghanistan**

**Drafted by Economic Justice Program Team, Oxfam in Afghanistan**

## **1. PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

Oxfam is a development agency with a worldwide reputation for excellence and over 70 years of experience with a purpose is to work with others to overcome suffering and find lasting solutions to poverty. Oxfam has been involved in Afghanistan since 1962, with an in-country presence since 1991. As per its Country Operational Plan (2019-2020), Oxfam plans to conduct a research on Integrated Natural Resource Management (NRM). Purpose of the proposed research is to explore potential impact of climate change on food and water security. The overall objective is to identify approaches for reducing or preventing climate change risks on socio-economic conditions of vulnerable groups including women, children, elderly, small scale farmers, wider communities through sustainable and integrated NRM practices.

Land, water and pasture are the main sources of livelihoods for poor communities in Afghanistan. They rely heavily on wood for fuel and heating and walk long distances to find clean water or pasture for livestock. The most likely adverse impacts of climate change on them could be drought, land degradation, floods. It is believed that if appropriate measures are not taken, communities might face consequences such as: low agricultural production, displacement due to more severe natural disasters, desertification of forest, reduction in underground water levels and depleting energy sources that are needed for survival. In general climate change can cause increase in temperature, reduce water levels, bring untimely rain, snow fall and loss of wildlife. There is already evidences of soil erosion and landslide in Badakhshan, Noristan, Balkh and Herat provinces.

Oxfam projects are aiming to reduce adverse impact of climate change through various interventions. For example, activities under the Building Resilient Livelihoods (BRL) project contributes in decreasing the effect of climate change through hillside orchard rehabilitation, pasture rehabilitation and capacity building of communities on NRM, climate change and water and pasture managements. In the short-term we should contribute in improvement in drinking and irrigation water availability. In the long term, pasture rehabilitation interventions in rural areas, water management in cities, recycling of waste water by factories would be useful. We need more renewable energy solutions like solar water pumps, solar cooker, bio gas and wind energy for lighting, cooking, heating and drying.

## **2. STAKEHOLDERS**

The audience of the research will be stakeholders from different categories including: (i) government institutions at different levels, (ii) private sector, (iii) civil society and women's networks, (iv) community groups including women and youth, (v) research organizations, (vi) media, (vii) UN agencies, (viii) international NGOs, (ix) donors. The audience will include Oxfam staff and partners.

The findings will be disseminated at province and national levels for raising awareness and campaign for solutions, and influencing investment and policy decisions on recommendations made by the study. Findings will be used for capacity building and designing program interventions.

### **3. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

Following the country operational plan and learning from earlier studies and projects the proposed research will address following objectives:

- i. Increase awareness on underlying causes of climate risks and build capacity of stakeholders on climate risks towards exploring ways on resilience building and climate change adaptation.
- ii. Suggest a road map to various stakeholders (government, private sector, civil society networks, community groups, research organizations and media) for increasing understanding and establishing links between governance of natural resources and inequality, conflict and fragility.
- iii. Develop practical solutions towards an integrated natural resource management, improving water resources and agricultural and pastureland development in Afghanistan targeting Herat and Daikundi provinces.

Oxfam has a number of rural livelihood programs under implementation in Daikundi and Herat and many of them are based on agricultural value chains. Natural resource management is a key factor for making meaningful changes in lives of poor and vulnerable communities. This research will help in improving the NRM management and governance by bridging knowledge gaps on climate change adaptation (CCA) approaches and highlighting evidences to plan solutions. Government and other stakeholders including donors and private sector will be interested in the findings that can impact thousands of people dependent on agriculture and forest in rural communities. Women are most disadvantaged in accessing these resources. The research will directly support women by making specific recommendations for their well-being and considering their role in use of resources at household and community level. While the focus of the research will be on rural areas the study will consider impact on poor and vulnerable people living in urban areas as well.

In 2017 March Oxfam funded Natural Resources Management Action Research in five provinces of Afghanistan to better understand the drivers of local NRM conflicts and identified three main problems: (i) unsustainable water usage and management; (ii) women cannot meaningfully participate in usage and management of NR to improve their lives and (iii) totally unsustainable pasture usage and management. Oxfam Country Operational Plan 2019/20 outcome (2) aims to achieve: sustainable Natural Resource Management (NRM) and mitigation of conflict over Natural Resources (NRs) by expanding the program and applying terracing and trenching methods, building water saving infrastructures, drought resistance pasture management, establishing protection and green walls; and enhanced climate change adaptation through raising awareness and building capacities of affected people particularly those affected by drought. This is intended through agriculture and pastureland rehabilitation, improving water resources, flood protection and hillside agricultural land development.

### **4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

The research will reflect and find answers to following overarching questions:

What is the impact of climate change on Afghanistan and specifically in Daikundi and Herat provinces in the next decade<sup>1</sup>?

What natural resource management systems will need to adapt to the predicted and evident changes due to climate anomalies?

What socio-economic systems will need to adapt to predicted and evident changes from climate change?

1	How to systematically address inequality and competition to access natural resources in an inclusive and sustainable manner?
1.1	How to avoid and respond to possible increase in conflict emerging out of shrinking resources such land and water?
2	How possible economic effects of climate change can be addressed in the short-term and long term for improving well-being of communities in target provinces of Herat and Daikundi?  How possible solution or economic effects of climate change can be addressed in urban areas for improving wellbeing of urban population <sup>2</sup> and ensure proper usage of NRs
2.1	How to reduce carbon emissions, continue saving energy and using renewable energy solutions increasingly?
2.2	How to increase awareness and improve capacity of stakeholders (government, private sector, civil society and communities) on impact on natural resources particularly change in production, adverse effects on agriculture, water resources, forest and drought?
3	How to increase climate change adaptation capacity against shocks and risks due to effects from natural disaster like flood, change in weather pattern and reduction in food security?
3.1	How to protect vulnerable communities and women from adverse effects of climate change?
4	What policy changes are needed for sustainable, integrated NRM and how to develop, implement them?

The questions will be further during the inception phase of the research.

## 5. FRAMEWORK AND APPROACH

Oxfam resilience framework and gender justice approach to sustainable development together with associated tools on vulnerability, risk and household care will guide the research. It will recognize earlier NRM research, work done in country and lessons for developing a multi-stakeholder plan around: (i) agriculture and pasture land; (ii) water resources in both urban and rural context; (iii) gender equality; (iv) renewable energy in both local and urban; (v) climate change adaptation; and (vi) developing resilient livelihoods for vulnerable communities. A conflict sensitivity and gender lens will be applied and appropriate recommendations would consider local knowledge and traditions. Specific recommendations will be made for each stakeholder and a resource plan will be developed. The research will identify causal relationship with relevant Government bodies and informal structures, identify strategies for building local capacities around equitable access to water for marginalised groups, women & youth, community water management and increasing the resilience

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<sup>1</sup> This information will mainly come from the UN IPCC reports and other predictions. The consultant will need to understand the science enough to infer how the global trends will impact locally, in Herat and Daikundi.

<sup>2</sup> Refer research reports by organizations in Kabul and Herat (DACAAR, UNHabitat) addressing urban aspects of CC to some extent.

of population against shocks and water insecurity. The research must ultimately point to improve NRM practices that are appropriate for local context and required for future that thousands will face.

## 6. GENDER

Addressing gender equality will be the central theme of the research. Views of women farmers, women organisations and women networks will be necessary. Focus group discussions with community members will allow to find gender sensitive interventions. Rapid care analysis will be used as a tool to find new roles that can help women in climate change adaptation and diversifying livelihood opportunities.

## 7. RESEARCH METHODS

Overall the methodology will include quantitative and qualitative methods using survey, FGDs and KII interviews as well as secondary research. Data collection will be carried out in Herat and Daikundi. In rural areas climate audit/ community consultation meetings/FGDs will be conducted to understand underlying causes of problems. In urban areas data will be conducted through KIIs and secondary sources. Survey or individual interview will not be a preferred method unless it is required to find particular gaps. Discussions with stakeholders (government, private sector, CSOs, research organisations and media) will be conducted at local, province and national levels depending on their presence.

Sampling will be purposive to ensure inputs from different groups and communities. Data collection team will have a gender balance to ensure participation of women in the process. An external consultant/team will conduct the research under the guidance and leadership of livelihood department of Oxfam in Afghanistan.

The inception plan will help to find out detailed geographic locations for data collection and community targeting. Only women group interviews and FGDs will allow to consult women. The sampling and detailed methodology will be suggested by the research consultant during the inception phase of the research and will be finalised in consultation with project teams.

Key steps will include:

1	Desk-based/ literature, existing studies review
2	Household Surveys
3	Focus group discussions (FGDs)
4	Key informant interviews (KIIs)
5	Informal interviews and observations

## 8. KEY SOURCES

Oxfam Economic Justice team will be the key contact point for the research. The research team will be responsible for organizing dissemination sessions at Province level and including the consultant in discussions. The livelihood program manager will coordinate with senior program manager, Media

and Communications team, MEAL department, gender coordinator and Oxfam affiliate media team for dissemination planning.

## 9. RESEARCH OUTPUTS

The deliverables of the research consultant will include:

- i. Research plan elaborating on methodology, sampling and work plan to start and end the research
- ii. Inception report
- iii. Research report with clear recommendations for stakeholders including: (i) government institutions at different levels, (ii) private sector, (iii) civil society, (iv) community groups including women and youth, (v) research organizations and, (vi) media, (vii) donors.
- iv. Participate in a high-level round table discussion to present the findings.
- v. A policy paper to present the issues to stakeholders for advocacy purposes.

## 10. TIMETABLE

Total no. of days: 40  
Estimated start date: December 2019

	OUTPUTS
1	Desk and literature review
2	Research tools preparation
3	Production of inception report
5	Fieldwork and consultations
6	Data collection in the target provinces
7	Data analysis
8	First draft of the report
9	Developing the theory of change with consultation of Oxfam staff and approval of the program staff
11	Final approved report and all documentation (organized in appropriate manner)
12	Presentation of findings for Oxfam, partners, government authorities and other stakeholders

This is an indicative list of activities. Detailed timeline should be presented by the research consultant with dates against each deliverable within a period of 40 days.

## 11. DOCUMENTATION

Recommended outline of the research report will consider following format:

1. cover page clearly identifying the report as a research and stating:
  - research title
  - Program title
  - Geographical coverage
  - date that the research report was finalised
  - evaluator(s) name(s) and logo (if available)
  - Oxfam logo

- appropriate recognition of institutional donor support.
  - Clear statement in case this report can NOT be used externally
2. Table of contents
  3. Glossary
  4. List of abbreviations.
  5. Executive summary that can be used as a stand-alone document
  6. Introduction, stating objectives of the research and research questions
  7. The intervention and context (ecological, social, political, geographic, economic)
  8. Methodology, including an indication of any perceived limitations of the research
  9. Presentation of the findings and their analysis
  10. Conclusions
  11. Learning and Recommendations
  12. Appendices:
    - Terms of reference
    - Research program (main features of data and activities carried out).
    - A list of interviewees (name, function and working environment) and places visited. (interview transcripts must be submitted separately)
    - List of documents and bibliography used.
    - Details on composition of research team (names, nationality, expertise, working environment).
    - Link to Methodological appendices:
      - ✓ The research proposal
      - ✓ Research instruments such as questionnaires and interview guides
      - ✓ Data collected

## **12. ETHICS AND RISKS**

All the interviews and data collection will follow a protocol finalized during the inception phase in line with the General Data Protection Regulation. Consent of respondents will be taken before interviews and for taking pictures and video. Respect of local culture and consultation with community leaders, elders and religious heads will be taken to start the data collection. Views of women will be taken in a place where they can be free to express opinions. Considering cultural sensitivity, the consultant will ensure adequate number of male and female, trained data enumerators.

## **13. RESEARCH MANAGEMENT**

**Research Project Manager:** The Consultants will report directly to Mohammad Ali Roshan | BRL & Cashmere Project Manager | Oxfam in Afghanistan, Contact: +93 (0) 70 33 10 358 | Skype: Roshanali\_mohd

**Researcher(s):** Researcher consultant will be selected through a competitive process using standard procurement process.

**Client(s):** Oxfam in Afghanistan will be the primary client of this research. **Oxfam will remain the copy right holder of the research document.**

## 14. BUDGET

The payment of the research will be done in three instalments: 30% upon submission of inception report; 30% on completion of data collection and submission of raw data and preliminary findings; and 40% after submission of final report.

The overall budget is fixed but the researcher is expected to suggest detailed breakdown of consultant fees, travel, field research expenses, etc. in the financial proposal.

## 15. ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES

*[Insert or link to relevant legal, ethical, and other guidelines that researchers should follow. Examples are given below that can be edited as appropriate.]*

Oxfam research guideline on [Undertaking research with ethics](#)

Oxfam [Style guide for notes, references, and bibliographies](#)

These and other Oxfam research guidelines can be accessed here:

<http://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/our-approach/research/research-guidelines>.

## 16. HOW TO APPLY

Individuals/ company/organisations interested in the assignment are requested to submit detailed financial and technical proposal, including experience, skills, brief methodology addressing the terms of reference by email to: [jobs.afghanistan@oxfam.org](mailto:jobs.afghanistan@oxfam.org) and CC [beheshta.rahimy@oxfam.org](mailto:beheshta.rahimy@oxfam.org) [mohammed.ali.roshan@oxfam.org](mailto:mohammed.ali.roshan@oxfam.org) no later than December 24, 2019.