GRC General Secretariat
International Cooperation

German Red Cross

Call for Proposals:

GRC Terms of Reference (ToR) for:

Consultant services for the development of Concept Notes, Proposals and Provision of Services in the area of DRR, CCA, NbS, EbA and donor diversification for GRC in the Asia and Pacific Region 2026-2029

1. Introduction and Context

The Asia Regional Unit of the International Cooperation Division of the German Red Cross (GRC) currently supports its Sister National Societies (SNS) in Bangladesh, Myanmar and the Philippines through in-country offices. In addition, the GRC provides support to its SNS in Nepal, Afghanistan and Pakistan without maintaining a permanent country presence and other countries through IFRC and other PNSs whenever needed.

GRC's support encompasses a range of programmes and projects, with a primary focus on Disaster Risk Management and Reduction (DRM/DRR), Anticipatory Action, and Surge and Emergency Response, including Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA), Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), the provision of non-food items (NFIs), National Society Develop-ment (NSD) and community resilience programming. To a lesser extent, GRC also engages in Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), Nature-based Solutions (NbS), Ecosystem-based Approaches, and Livelihoods, in partnership with the respective sister national societies, as it does not directly implement projects itself. In this regard, GRC can leverage both in-country and regional support through its technical delegates and globally through several forums, including the Livelihoods Centre and Climate Centre.

At both country and regional levels, GRC works in close coordination and collaboration with other Movement partners, including the Spanish, Finnish, Swiss, Belgium, Hongkong, Turk-ish and Danish Red Cross Societies, as well as the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). At the regional level, this engagement is supported by the GRC representative based at the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) in Kuala Lumpur. In parallel, GRC seeks to explore and strengthen partnerships with organisations and stakeholders beyond the Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement, with the aim of broadening its network and accessing complementary expertise and resources.

GRC and its SNS operate in increasingly complex environments characterised by recurrent disasters, as well as settings of fragility, conflict, and violence (FCV). The frequency and intensity of climate-related hazards are expected to increase further as the impacts of cli-mate change intensify, placing additional pressure on already vulnerable communities and humanitarian response capacities. Compounding these vulnerabilities will be the likely im-pacts of the El Nino of 26/27, which is estimated to be one of the strongest on record. Drier conditions, water stresses, crop

losses, wildfires and extreme heat could persist well into 2027, even as the El Nino weakens. At the same time, humanitarian funding for the Asia region has been significantly reduced over the past three years, further constraining the re-sources available to address these growing needs.

In response to these evolving challenges, GRC aims to broaden and strengthen its support to SNS by more systematically integrating climate change considerations into Disaster Risk Reduction and by exploring the potential of Nature-based Solutions, Ecosystem-based Ap-proaches and sustainable livelihood interventions. A key priority is to identify and access relevant German, European and international climate finance mechanisms, while exploring and piloting new technical and strategic partnerships, particularly with actors outside the RCRC Movement. Through these efforts, GRC seeks to mobilise complementary expertise, diversify funding sources and strengthen the capacity of its SNS to address the increasingly complex and interconnected humanitarian and climate-related challenges facing the Asia region.

2. The Consultancy

2.1 The Objective

The overall objective of this consultancy is to support the work of the GRC Regional Units. One focus lies on funding and partnership diversification, with special attention to integrating climate change considerations into Disaster Risk Reduction. Another focus lies on exploring the potential of Nature-based Solutions, Ecosystem-based Approaches and sustainable livelihood interventions as well as supporting the SNS in building their capacities within those areas, adapted to the specific country contexts.

The services are to be provided as part of a framework agreement, which is to be concluded between GRC and the consultant until end of December 2029 and can then be extended once for 12 Months. It will be automatically renewed unless the client terminates the contract in writing three months before the regular contract term. The framework agreement has a financial volume of up to 95.000,00 € net over the period of 36 months. The anticipated work-load is between 40-60 working days annually. The consultancy may be conducted partly remotely, depending on the specific scope of a specific task.

2.2. Scope of Work

The tasks of the consultancy cut across various units in GRC's International Cooperation Division and are to be conducted in coordination with the respective managers. Depending on the tasks, the line management lies with the Head of the Asia Unit.

The consultant is expected to:

A. Project development and resource mobilization

- Support GRC Country team (country representatives, project delegates and national staff) and GRC regional unit in developing concept notes and project proposals, targeting specific donors.

- Coordinate with partners in multi-country consortium applying jointly for funding, including Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Partners and external partners.
- Review existing new funding strategies for GRC and develop new ones, with a focus on climate financing mechanisms.
- Develop donor engagement strategies and related products.

B. Mapping

- Prepare mappings of climate finance mechanisms and donors for GRC and SNS programming priorities in Asia Pacific.
- Provide partner mappings /prepare mapping of potential partners for technical, operational / implementation and funding for potential collaboration (including academia) based on GRC's program priorities.

C. Capacity Strengthening

- Provide trainings/workshops/introductions on Nature-based Solutions, Ecosystem-based Approaches and sustainable livelihood interventions adaptable to the RC context.
- Provide trainings/workshops/introductions on climate-financing-mechanisms
- Support the further development and establishment of DRR, CCA, NbS, EbA, FSL capacity for GRC and SNS

D. Technical Support

- Provide technical backstopping for GRC programs/projects in Asia in DRR, CCA, NbS, EbA, food security/ livelihoods, including fragile, conflict and violence context, NSD and resilience programing.
- Provide need-based support in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects.
- Technical support of GRC respectively the Regional Units at relevant working and coordination meetings (conferences, technical working groups, etc.)
- Support of GRC's external presentation, including the preparation of appropriate public communication on DRR, CCA, NbS, EbA, Livelihoods

All above-mentioned services may be delivered in person, working with GRC's partners including Sister National Societies in the respective countries, or remotely. The modality for each assignment will be agreed in advance with the GRC team.

2.3. Methodology, Deliverables and Timeline

Specific Methodology, Deliverables and Timeline will be agreed on between the selected consultant and GRC upon individual orders under this framework agreement.

2.4. Governance, roles and key stakeholders

The overall line management of the consultancy lies with the Head of the Asia Unit in the International Cooperation Division of the German Red Cross. Specific tasks of the consultancy may cut across various units of the GRC's International Cooperation Division and will be conducted in coordination with respective managers, based on the nature of each individual order. The consultant(s) will generally work in close collaboration with these respective managers. Clear focal points for the consultant(s) will be appointed based on individual orders and they will be responsible for day-to-day coordination, communication, alignment and operational decision-making. Furthermore, focal points will provide overall strategic guidance and support access to relevant staff, partners, documents and resources, where required.

2.5. Quality and Ethical Standards

The consultant should take all reasonable steps to ensure that his/her work and related outputs reflect up-to-date standards, that the approach is evidence-based, and to ensure that the development process is inclusive, participatory, reliable, and legitimate, conducted in a transparent and impartial manner. Any data collected must be safeguarded, respecting existing data security rules, to protect the rights of the individual and organisations.

Final products must be technically sound, well structured, and of high quality.

Responsible managers of each individual order will review the final deliverables based on a set of relevant quality criteria (e.g. coherence, feasibility, relevance, stakeholder feedback). The consultant(s) will be required to address the feedback provided and revise the deliverables accordingly. Final approval, contractual closure and final payment will be subject to the satisfactory incorporation of feedback and acceptance of the revised deliverables by the respective manager.

The consultant(s) will be expected to adhere to the principles and quality standards of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, including its Code of Conduct, and to comply with data regulations and related agreements as specified in the contract. The IFRC Framework for Evaluations[1] (2024) may be applied where relevant to ensure quality, accountability, and stakeholder engagement throughout the process.

2.6. Dissemination of the products

The GRC will retain full rights to the products and all related materials produced under this consultancy. Final products may be made publicly available via the GRC website and communication

[1] IFRC Framework for Evaluations (2024) - https://www.ifrc.org/sites/default/files/2024-06/IFRC%20Framework%20for%20Evaluations%202024.pdf

channels as well as other relevant networks, donor platforms, and public events. Decisions regarding publication and external use lie solely with the GRC.

All deliverables must be submitted in English and in editable format (e.g. Word, PowerPoint), along with PDF versions for distribution.