

# Terms of Reference: Evaluation of icddr,b's core support and Sida research support

## Introduction

icddr,b is an international public health research centre dedicated to tackling major health challenges facing people living in poverty in its host country, Bangladesh, and other low-income countries around the world. Originally icddr,b was established to develop realistic and scalable interventions for cholera and other diarrheal diseases. Over the last four decades, icddr,b's discovery and development of oral rehydration solution (ORS) and zinc therapy alone have saved an estimated 50 million lives worldwide – the majority of them children under five. Over time, icddr,b's research agenda has evolved to encompass maternal and child health, nutrition, vaccine sciences, other communicable diseases including HIV & AIDS, the health consequences of climate change and the control of chronic diseases. Currently, icddr,b is one of the leading centres of public health research excellence and innovation in the global South.

icddr,b's Board of Trustees comprises 16 health professionals and researchers representing both developed and developing countries. It is the only international health research institution based in a developing country. The centre's vision and programmatic priorities are set out in the new Strategic Plan that expires in 2022.

([https://www.icddrb.org/dmdocuments/icddr,b%20strategic%20plan%202019-2022\\_16June19.pdf](https://www.icddrb.org/dmdocuments/icddr,b%20strategic%20plan%202019-2022_16June19.pdf))

icddr,b receives core support from the governments of Bangladesh, Canada (GAC), Sweden (Sida) and the UK (DFID). These funds enable icddr,b to focus on and pursue strategic research objectives, aligned with the new global development agenda, including increased capacity building, advocacy and policy development activities. The core support we receive from our core donors enhances our financial stability, reducing our vulnerability to changes in the volatile research-funding environment, giving us more independence to prioritise our research agenda and to support worthwhile activities that are not funded by other donors.

## Background

For almost 30 years, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) has been one of the few donors to provide consistent financial support for both core and project activities of icddr,b. Sida seeks to reduce poverty, improve public health, and address gender issues by working with partner organizations around the world.

In addition to contributing to icddr,b's institutional development, Sida has supported a wide variety of research and research capacity building programmes, including disease investigation, prevention and control, healthcare

enhancement, reproductive health systems, gender issues and other public health issues of importance.

Currently, the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) has under the Results strategy for Bangladesh 2014-2020 ([www.government.se/country-and-regional-strategies/2018/06/results-strategy-for-bangladesh-20142020/](http://www.government.se/country-and-regional-strategies/2018/06/results-strategy-for-bangladesh-20142020/);) allocated a “phase out” core grant in the amount of \$2.3m (20m SEK) to be disbursed over a period from 1 July 2017 till 31 July 2019 to icddr,b.

Under the agreement to finance the implementation of the programme through a grant: “*Capacity Development of Young and Mid-level icddr,b Researchers and Enhancing the Institution’s Capacity to Collaborate both Nationally and Internationally on Genomics Research (2016-2019)*”, Sida has allocated 30 500 000 SEK over a period of 1 July 2016 till 31 December 2020 under the Strategy for research cooperation and research in development cooperation 2015-2021 ([www.regeringen.se/49f23e/contentassets/35640f803c554f5abe17800242c5bc b3/strategi-for-forskningssamarbete-pdf-for-webb-eng-2.pdf](http://www.regeringen.se/49f23e/contentassets/35640f803c554f5abe17800242c5bc b3/strategi-for-forskningssamarbete-pdf-for-webb-eng-2.pdf)).

Previously a “Review of internal management and control of icddr,b” was conducted by Sida in November 2013 commissioning Ernst & Young, which has been thoroughly followed up by the BoT and core donors and recommendations are now fully implemented.

## **Evaluation Purpose and Scope**

The purpose or the intended use of the evaluation is to guide icddr,b in future activities and highlight impact of icddr,b’s work.

The primary intended users of the evaluation are icddr,b, the Swedish Embassy and Sida, although the report shall also be useful for other stakeholders and potential partners.

The evaluation is to be designed, conducted and reported to meet the needs of the intended users and tenderers shall elaborate in the tender how this will be ensured during the evaluation process. Other stakeholders that should be kept informed about the evaluation include governments of Bangladesh, Canada (GAC) and the UK (DFID).

The scope of the Evaluation is primarily a cumulative assessment of impact of Sida’s core funding and research support over the period of 2010-2019.

## **Evaluation objective: criteria and questions**

The External Evaluation has two main objectives:

The primary objective is to evaluate the *Core Activities* undertaken by icddr,b, in relation to the “Agreement on core support to icddr,b, exit phase 2017-2019”

utilising the data made available by icddr,b where relevant. But also to give an account for the impact of icddr,b innovations and research results of core support over the period of 2010-2019.

A secondary and related objective is to assess the *Intervention* in relation to the programme through the grant, “Capacity Development of Young and Mid-level icddr,b Researchers and Enhancing the Institution’s Capacity to Collaborate both Nationally and Internationally on Genomics Research (2016-2020)”, funded through Sida Research Cooperation.

The evaluation is expected to address the following questions/areas –

### *Impact*

- Life-saving impact of icddr,b’s research and innovations in national, regional and international policy and public health practices (How icddr,b’s research is connected to policy change/influencing policy as well as public health practices)
- Impact from icddr,b as a global player, involved in international research collaborations as well as international committees
- icddr,b’s humanitarian impact
- Career development impact via Sida’s support for fellowships for junior scientists
- Impact of icddr,b’s research training programs
- Impact of icddr,b’s innovations from two perspectives:
  - i. Novel products and novel approaches creating a societal impact
  - ii. Impact from investments in icddr,b’s infrastructure
- Impact of icddr,b’s work on the life of the poor
- Has the support to icddr,b had any positive or negative effects on gender equality? Could gender mainstreaming have been improved in planning, implementation or follow up?

### *Effectiveness*

- Assess icddr,b performance in meeting the goals of its previous Strategic Plan (icddr,b Strategic Plan 2015-18) i.e. the extent to which the plan has been transformed into results and reflect the priorities set out in the icddr,b Strategic Plan 2015-18.
- Assess how support from Sida on research and Swedish Embassy core support have complemented each other

### *Relevance*

- Potential of icddr,b to address national as well as international health needs, both in terms of funding and competence.
- To what extent has the connection between health and environment/climate been taken into consideration
- To what extent has a poverty perspective been taken into consideration

## **Methodology for Evaluation**

It is expected that the evaluator describes and justifies an appropriate evaluation approach/methodology and methods for data collection in the tender. The evaluation design, methodology and methods for data collection and analysis are expected to be fully developed and presented in the inception report. Limitations to the methodology and methods shall be made explicit and the consequences of these limitations discussed. A *gender responsive* methodology, methods and tools and data analysis techniques should be used. A clear distinction is to be made between evaluation approach/methodology and methods. The evaluator should also identify limitations and constraints with the chosen approach and method and to the extent possible, present mitigation measures to address them.

The evaluator should facilitate the *entire evaluation process* with careful consideration of how everything that is done will affect the use of the evaluation. It is therefore expected that the evaluators, in their tender, present i) how intended users are to participate in and contribute to the evaluation process and ii) methodology and methods for data collection that create space for reflection, discussion and learning between the intended users of the evaluation.

The consultant is expected to analyse and interpret data from 2010-2019 produced by icddr,b on Core Activities conducted, as well as review all relevant core documents, e.g. icddr,b Strategic Plan, Implementation Plan, etc. The consultant is also expected to analyse and interpret data from 2016-2019 produced by icddr,b on the Sida supported Research program. The consultant will seek secondary data as required. The consultant will work closely with the centre to verify data and develop an understanding of relevant processes. The consultant will meet with the steering committee of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) of icddr,b and Sida for inputs.

## **Organization of evaluation management**

As agreed between icddr,b and Sida, this review will be financed by Sida through icddr,b. The reviewer will report to the the Embassy of Sweden in Dhaka and to Sida Research Cooperation and to the Executive Director of icddr,b. The members of the SLT and Sida will assist and facilitate the review as required.

## **Evaluation quality**

The consultant shall use the *OECD/DAC Glossary of Key Terms in Evaluation* and specify how quality assurance, in accordance with DAC's quality standards, will be handled during the evaluation process.

## **Time schedule and deliverables**

The assignment is envisioned to take place from October to November 2019. In total the assignment may include no more than 8 weeks.

The consultant is expected to deliver the following:

- **Proposal**

A proposal for the outline of the assignment should be received by 19 September 2019.

The proposal must include:

- a) A description in the form of Curriculum Vitae for the personnel who is/are to participate in the performance of the project. The CV must contain a full description of the person's or persons' theoretical qualifications and professional work experience.
- b) The working methods employed to complete the assignment and secure the quality of the completed work and use a participatory approach.
- c) State the total cost of the assignment, specified as fee per hour for each category of personnel, any reimbursable costs, any other costs and any discounts
- d) A proposal for time and working schedules according to the Assignment.

- **Inception Report**

An Inception Report is to be prepared and shared with all stakeholders after an initial review of relevant documentation by 14 October 2019.

- **Aide Memoire**

The consultant is to send an aide memoire to the icddr,b at least two days before the meeting to present the initial findings of the consultation.

- **Presentation of Initial Findings**

The initial findings of the evaluation are to be shared with all the stakeholders by 18 November 2019.

- **Final Evaluation Report**

Once feedback has been received, the final report is to be sent to icddr,b for approval within 10 working days before/on 30 November 2019.

## **Evaluation consultant qualifications**

The ideal candidate shall have at least a post graduate degree in public health. The person should have at least 7 years of relevant experience in evaluating actors within the health sector. The consultant shall have experience from doing research and/or from working at a research organization.