

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Long-term Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Partnership for Environment and Education Programme in Agar Malwa District (Madhya Pradesh), Bhimashankar (Manarashtra) and Shadnagar (Telangana)

Issuing agency: Centre for Environment Education (CEE), Ahmedabad

RFP Issue Date: 30th Jan 2026

Proposal Submission Deadline: 15th Feb 2026

Project Duration: Long-term engagement initially 3 years, extendable based on performance and funding

Submit your proposal- purchase@ceeindia.org

1. About CEE

CEE was established in 1984 as a Centre of Excellence under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India, to work in the field of Environmental Education and Education for Sustainable Development. CEE is registered as a Society under Societies Registration Act 1860. CEE is headquartered in Ahmedabad and operates through the head office, 7 regional offices and 15+ field/project offices across India.

CEE works on strengthening and promoting environmental education and education for sustainable development among stakeholders including national and state governments to schools, youths and local communities.

CEE has been working across India on **community-centered programmes on climate resilience** while also pioneering innovative field projects on 15 different thematics of sustainable development. CEE works with partners and stakeholders from policy level to grass-root level in various sustainability sectors; and also leads and contributes to a number of global networks on environmental education. With focus on environmental education and sustainability, it strives to bring about behavioural change in the society towards sustainable development and promote informed actions towards pressing global challenges around the same.

With partners including government, multilateral funders, foundations, corporate CSR, CEE has undertaken projects on climate change, rural and urban development, school and higher education, waste management, environment management, circular economy, biodiversity conservation, education quality improvement, marine conservation, water, health and sanitation and others.

2. About the Current Programme

CEE has initiated a **long-term programme to ensure climate resilience and quality education for rural communities in three important regions across India**: Agar-Malwa (Madhya Pradesh), Bhimashankar, Pune (Maharashtra), and Shadnagar, Hyderabad (Telangana). The interventions will be undertaken in 35-40 villages spread in these regions, of which 27 villages will be in Agar Malwa, 5-7 villages in Bhimashankar and 4-5 villages near Shadnagar. Thematic sectors broadly include - (i) Climate resilience and livelihood improvement and (ii) Quality education including improvement in learning outcomes.

The project adopts a holistic approach, integrating ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation, livelihood strengthening, quality education and capacity building to address the vulnerabilities of marginalized rural populations facing climate change impacts. The quality education work will include improvement in learning outcomes, participation in various competitions, focus on STEM, effective pedagogies, and introduction of 21st century skills (4Cs, problem solving and digital literacy).

The programme is unique with its multi-regional, multi-faceted and multi-sectoral approach for addressing community needs and restoring the ecosystem that they live in and depend on, exploring convergence where possible. It adopts a planned approach of a ‘zero plus four year’ implementation. The zero-year (Y0) of the programme will end in March 2026.

A detailed baseline survey in the identified villages and need assessment is being conducted in the zero year, along with some useful community mobilization activities to build trust and goodwill, and strengthen social networks and enable participatory planning.

The targeted beneficiaries of this programme would be local communities in the identified 35-40 villages specifically including small and marginal farmers, tribal groups, women groups, skilled and unskilled workers, youths, students etc.

2.1. Climate Resilience Component

Goal: The goal of the climate resilience component of the programme is to “foster climate-resilient and sustainable communities, in the three target regions, by enhancing adaptive

capacities, promoting climate responsive livelihood practices and interventions, restoring ecosystems and conserving local biodiversity”.

The programme aims to empower vulnerable groups through promoting sustainable livelihoods, inclusive knowledge-sharing, biodiversity conservation, and capacity strengthening of different community groups — thereby ensuring long-term community development, improved income and adaptive capacity, ecological stability and social equity in the regions. At the same time, the programme also fosters community resilience to climate change and environmental risks by promoting adaptive practices and strengthening capacities of local communities for sustainable natural resource management.

Objectives:

- Enhance climate resilience in the rural livelihood sector through promoting sustainable practices and community based collectivization / enterprises.
- Restore degraded ecosystems and conserve local biodiversity to ensure long-term ecological stability.
- Promote climate justice by empowering local and vulnerable groups (including women groups) through knowledge sharing, training and capacity building for climate resilience interventions under the programme.
- Strengthen a trained youth cadre on environmental and sustainable rural development fields, improving biodiversity and green skills for community members, local institutions, and youth leaders.

The potential areas of intervention will include - climate resilient agriculture and animal husbandry, alternative livelihood strengthening, collectivization and enterprising approach, water conservation and recharge, environment and biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, and waste management.

Convergence with government schemes in the Agriculture and Allied Department, SRLM, Forest and Environment Department, Rural Development Department, School and Higher Education Department etc. will be an important aspect of programme implementation. Coordination with District Administration and local authorities will be ensured for smooth implementation of the programme.

This component will be implemented in all the three regions of the programme - Agar-Malwa, Bhimashankar and Shadnagar - and their specific interventions and objectives will be detailed out in the DPR of the programme which will be developed for implementation starting April 2026.

2.2. Education Component

Goal:

The goal of the education component of the programme is to “improve learning environment, outcomes, competitiveness and need based infrastructure in *anganwadies* and schools by providing / upgrading basic learning spaces (FLN and STEM labs, sports and play infrastructure), integrating skill based learning through projects, interactive activities, exposure visits and remedial classes in Science, Mathematics and English, providing digital access to learning, improve performance and competencies, and teacher training on effective and innovative pedagogies to enable learning”.

The programme aims to empower young children, students and youths through holistic and quality education —thereby ensuring access to learning opportunities, enhanced skill development, improved academic outcomes, and lifelong competencies that contribute to their personal growth, socio-economic upliftment, and active participation in sustainable community development.

Objectives:

- Enhance the learning environment in rural schools through need-based infrastructure, better teaching-learning materials, and inclusive access, thereby also promoting the global Greening Education (GEP) concept
- Demonstrate and strengthen learning competencies and academic support, including literacy, numeracy, remedial instructions and required academic support, focussing on STEM, introducing effective pedagogies for school subjects, introducing 21st century skills (4Cs- critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication; english; digital literacy, life skills).
- Promote active learning pedagogies, with focus on science and environment discipline integrating vocation, life skills, scientific temperament, and environmental and biodiversity sensitization for students of schools and colleges.
- Build teacher capacity for quality and inclusive education delivery.

Convergence with government schemes in the State and District Education Department will be an important aspect of programme implementation. Coordination with District Administration and local authorities will be ensured for smooth implementation of the programme.

This component will be implemented specifically in the Agar-Malwa region only and specific interventions and objectives will be detailed out in the DPR of the programme which will be developed for implementation starting April 2026.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation of the Programme

The programme will be implemented in 35-40 villages spread across the three regions- Agar-Malwa, Bhimashankar and Shadnagar, to implement interventions under rural climate resilience and quality education components. The programme adopts a comprehensive, community-wide approach, targeting beneficiaries across different community groups within these villages, including farmers, tribal groups, women, skilled and unskilled workers, youths, students etc.

Dedicated teams have been deployed to run the key thematic components of the programme, including climate resilience (agriculture/ environment/ livelihood) and quality education. The long term M&E Partnership with CEE under this programme is envisaged with the following objectives:

- Track progress of the programme with respect to the progressive annual action plans charted out from the programme DPR
- Systematically compile M&E data and indicators, separately for the three regions and thematic interventions
- To undertake qualitative and quantitative assessment of the on-ground implementation works completed every year as per the p outputs, outcomes and long-term impact
- Capture good practices and constructive recommendations for further improvement

Accordingly, CEE proposes to engage a long-term Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) partner for the aforementioned work.

4. Scope of Work

The purpose of RFP is to invite proposals from qualified agencies / consulting firms with demonstrated experience in Monitoring, Evaluation, and Impact Assessment to serve as the M&E Partner for CEE’s “Integrated Climate Resilience” programme in the three regions and Quality Education in Agar only. The selected partner will support the design and implementation of a robust M&E framework, conduct assessments, ensure data quality, generate insights for program improvement and support donor and internal reporting requirements.

Scope of Work: The M&E Partner will work closely with CEE’s programme and leadership teams to undertake monitoring and evaluation of the programme. The scope includes, but is not limited to, the following:

S.No.	Key roles	Responsibilities
1	Design M&E Framework and Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop/ review the project Logical Framework / Theory of Change for Climate Resilience and Quality Education interventions. ● Define clear outputs, outcomes and impact indicators

		<p>aligned with programme objectives and donor requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Design a comprehensive M&E framework including indicator definitions, data sources, frequency and responsibilities. ● Develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) for data collection, validation, storage and reporting.
2.	Conduct Assessments (Evaluations and Impact Studies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Design study methodologies for assessments (quantitative and qualitative). ● Prepare data collection tools (surveys, checklists, FGD/IDI guides). ● Data collection, data analysis and prepare detailed assessment reports with actionable recommendations. ● Design and conduct thematic evaluations or impact assessments as required. ● Ensure ethical standards and safeguarding principles are followed during all evaluation activities.
3.	Routine Monitoring and Data Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support establishment and strengthening of routine monitoring systems for health and skilling components. ● Develop data collection tools to collate (paper-based and/or digital platforms). ● Ensure timely and accurate data collection from field teams and partners. ● Conduct periodic data quality audits and validation checks. ● Maintain centralized databases and dashboards for program tracking.
4.	Program Learning and Adaptive Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Generate periodic analytical briefs highlighting trends, gaps and best practices. Facilitate learning and reflection workshops with program teams. ● Support adaptive program management by translating data into actionable insights. ● Document success stories and lessons learned from the intervention areas.
5.	Reporting and Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prepare periodic M&E reports (monthly/ quarterly/ annual)

	Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support donor reporting with data, narratives and evidence. ● Provide Half yearly progress report with regards to Half yearly/annual plan for releasing the payment to the Implementing partner CEE ● Develop dashboards, presentations and infographics for internal and external stakeholders.
6.	Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Build M&E capacity of CEE's staff and field teams and continuous mentoring support. ● Develop user-friendly M&E manuals and guiding notes.
7.	Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conduct short research studies to explore possibilities/ opportunities available in and around project domains and recommendations for better outcomes

5. Expected Deliverables

Following will be key deliverables of the assignment:

- Inception report- The inception report will serve as the foundational document for the M&E partnership and will demonstrate the partner's understanding of the programme context, objectives and expectations. The Inception Report should clearly define the detailed methodology, work plan, milestones, communication plan and deployment of human resource/ experts.
- M&E framework and indicator matrix- The M&E partner will develop and/ or refine a comprehensive M&E framework to track output, outcomes and impact.
- Impact assessments (concurrent/ half-yearly/ annual/ midline) study- The M&E partner will design and implement rigorous impact assessment studies to measure programme effectiveness and outcomes over time.
- Periodic M&E reports (quarterly / half-yearly / annual) and dashboards which will support organisation and program team in performance tracking, decision-making and accountability.
- Data quality audit reports- The M&E partner will conduct systematic data quality audits to ensure reliability, validity and integrity of programme data.

- Learning briefs, case studies and impact reports- Based on the assessments, useful thematic knowledge products will be developed to promote learning, evidence use and dissemination of results.
- Research studies- Conduct short research studies to explore possibilities/ opportunities available within and around programme domains and its linkages with other relevant areas that could help programme and recommendations for better outcomes
- Capacity-building of the team on M&E system, formats and training reports- The M&E partner will strengthen internal capacities to ensure sustainability of M&E systems beyond the engagement period.

6. Duration and Location

The engagement is proposed for an initial period of three (3) years, with annual performance reviews. Timeline of the engagement- Starting from the 15th Feb 2026 to 31st Mar 2029.

7. Eligibility and Experience Requirements

Interested agencies should meet the following criteria:

- Minimum 5 years of experience working in monitoring and evaluation for the thematic sectors of rural climate resilience and / or education.
- Demonstrated experience in large-scale, long-term M&E engagements.
- Proven expertise in quantitative and qualitative research methods.
- Experience working with NGOs/ INGOs, CSR-funded projects or institutional donors.
- Availability of a qualified multidisciplinary team, comprising of M&E specialists, statisticians, field coordinators and subject matter experts
- Experience in managing similar socio-economic contexts is preferred.

8. Proposal Submission Guidelines

Interested and qualifying agencies are requested to submit Technical and Financial proposals separately, as per the details mentioned below.

Technical Proposal	Financial Proposal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Legal documents of the Party: Registration certificate, PAN, GST ● Organizational profile and relevant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Detailed budget with year wise cost break up under the following heads: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Professional fees for the

<p>experience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Understanding of the assignment and proposed approach. ● Detailed methodology and work plan. ● Use of technology in M&E ● Team composition and key personnel CVs. ● Samples of similar assignments. 	<p>M&E deliverables covering 35-40 villages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Operational costs (field and travel cost) ○ Applicable taxes
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9. Terms and Conditions

- I. The bidder should self-attest and stamp the photocopies of all the scanned documents mentioned in the bid.
- II. The Tendering Authority herein case CEE, Ahmedabad reserves the right to ask the bidders to submit any other supportive documents/ clarifications if any require.
- III. The Bidder shall have to quote for all the three mentioned locations together and bear all the costs associated with the preparation and submission of its bid, and the Tender Authority and in no case will be responsible or liable for these costs, regardless of conduct or outcome of the bidding process.
- IV. If a party bids for only one location/region it will not be considered for evaluation and will be disqualified.
- V. Any Consortium/JV is not allowed in the bidding.
- VI. The bidding agency should fill the rates inclusive of the items/services mentioned in the product Date Sheet considering all government taxes and transportation costs. No extra cost would be considered later.
- VII. The bid is non-transferable.
- VIII. Only the agency/bidder that passes the technical bid will be eligible for financial bid. Herein, the final authority will be the authority of the Tender Authority.
 - Amendment of Bidding Documents:

- At any time prior to the deadline for submission of bids, the Tendering Authority may, for any reason, modify the bidding documents.
 - In order to allow prospective bidders reasonable time to take into consideration the amendments while preparing their bids the Tendering Authority, at its discretion, may extend the deadline for the submission of bids.
- IX. The Bidder is expected to examine all instructions, terms and specifications in the bidding documents. Failure to furnish all information required by the bidding documents or submission of a bid not substantially responsive to the bidding documents in every respect will be at the Bidder's risk and may result in rejection of its bid.
 - X. All the documents listed in the technical proposal should be submitted as suggested for compliance with the technical bidding conditions.
 - XI. CEE reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals without assigning any reason. The selected M&E Partner will enter into a formal contract with Smile Foundation.
 - XII. All data, reports and intellectual property generated under this assignment will remain the property of CEE.
 - XIII. The M&E Partner shall maintain strict confidentiality of all project-related information.
 - XIV. Payments will be milestone-based, linked to approved deliverables.
 - XV. The M&E Partner must adhere to ethical research standards, safeguarding policies and applicable laws.
 - XVI. CEE reserves the right to terminate the contract with prior written notice in case of non-performance or breach of terms.
 - XVII. Any conflict of interest must be declared at the proposal stage.
 - XVIII. Failure or incompetence to submit even one of the documents listed will result in ineligibility to participate in the financial bid.
 - XIX. The validity of the documents thus uploaded will be thoroughly checked. In the event, if it is found that one or more documents have passed the due date of the expiry, the bid of the said agency will be cancelled.
 - XX. Any and all the decisions pertaining to the tender shall be the final authority will be of the CEE, Ahmedabad. Any decision, authorization or forbiddance will be done as per the hierarchical authority mentioned and will not be subject to providing the reason for their decision.
 - XXI. Under any circumstances, if the decision is delayed or if there is a price fluctuation of the items/services, the bidder shall be bound to work in accordance to the rates mentioned in the tender bid.

- XXII. Only under special circumstances, the timeline for work-order can be altered and the final authority to do so will be that of the Tendering Authority (CEE, Ahmedabad). Completion period may also be extended due to circumstances relating to Force Majeure* by the Tendering Authority.
- *Force Majeure shall mean the following:
- i. War/hostilities
 - ii. Riot or Civil Commotion
 - iii. Earthquakes, floods, tempest, lightning or any other natural disasters/pandemic.
 - iv. Restriction imposed but the government of other statutory bodies which prevents or delays the execution of the order by the bidder.
- XXIII. The jurisdiction of any dispute will be Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- XXIV. The work order will be issued as per the terms of the available grant.
- XXV. During the period of the bidding process or execution, if any dispute/disagreement arises then the decision of the Tender Authority shall be considered final.
- XXVI. The bidder shall have to thoroughly read and pledge to abide by all the terms & conditions mentioned in the tender document.
- XXVII. The agency shall abide by all the rules, terms & conditions of the contract.

I pledge that I have read all the conditions/rules/terms mentioned in the tender document and I agree to abide by them. I approve and agree that the decision of the Tendering Authority is final and I will not complain or dispute their decisions. The rates filled by me are filled after complete understanding and consideration and shall be bound to my heirs in entirety. I approve and abide with all the above stated terms and conditions.