



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Mid-Term Evaluation of EU-funded Programme

Programme duration: January 2025 – December 2027

Evaluation period: Mid-Term (2026)

Issued by: Responsible Mica Initiative (RMI)

(A) BACKGROUND

The Responsible Mica Initiative (RMI) is a multi-stakeholder coalition working to establish a fair, responsible, and sustainable mica supply chain in India, while contributing to the eradication of child labour and the improvement of livelihoods in mica-dependent communities.

RMI's strategy is structured around three pillars:

- Responsible workplace practices and supply chain transparency
- Empowerment of mica-dependent communities for long-lasting change
- Strengthening the legal and governance framework of the mica sector

Since January 2025, RMI has been implementing a three-year integrated action partly funded by the European Union across Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh. The programme is delivered through a consortium of local civil society partners and adopts a holistic approach addressing both community-level vulnerabilities and structural supply chain risks.

The action includes:

- A Community Empowerment Programme (CEP) in 50 mica-dependent villages focused on livelihoods, education, health and nutrition, and access to government schemes
- Support for improved workplace standards in selected mica mines and processing units through training, corrective action plans, and audits
- Engagement with government authorities to strengthen sector governance and advance formalisation efforts, including implementation of Jharkhand's Dhibra Policy
- Supply chain transparency and private sector due diligence support through traceability tools and responsible sourcing standards

The mid-term evaluation in 2026 will assess progress across these interconnected interventions and provide recommendations to strengthen implementation during the remaining programme period (2026–2027).



(B) PURPOSE OF THIS RFP

RMI is seeking an independent external evaluator to conduct a mid-term evaluation of the integrated programme implemented in Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh.

The evaluation will provide an objective assessment of progress and early outcomes across:

- Community empowerment activities in 50 villages
- Workplace standards implementation in selected mines and processing units
- Policy and governance engagement to support formalisation of the mica sector
- Supply chain transparency and private sector due diligence efforts

The evaluation is intended to generate practical recommendations to strengthen implementation during the remaining programme period (2026–2027), complementing RMI’s internal MEAL system.

(C) EVALUATION OBJECTIVES

The mid-term evaluation is expected to:

1. Assess progress toward intended results

- Review progress against programme targets and baseline data across all components
- Analyse early outcomes in the 50 CEP villages as well as in workplace standards, governance activities and private sector engagement.

2. Examine implementation effectiveness and relevance

- Assess whether programme strategies remain relevant to community needs and to the broader objectives of responsible mica supply chains
- Analyse quality of delivery across partners, including community participation, coordination with supply chain actors, and engagement with government stakeholders
- Identify operational and structural challenges affecting performance across villages, mines, processing units, and advocacy work

3. Support evidence-based programme refinement

- Highlight good practices and promising approaches emerging from community interventions, workplace standards implementation, traceability efforts, and policy engagement
- Provide actionable recommendations to improve implementation in the second half of the programme (2026–2027)
- Support refinement of the “model village” approach and its linkages with supply chain and governance efforts

4. Identify how to better strengthen the economic empowerment of mica picking communities



- Assess the effectiveness of livelihood strategies, income diversification, and living income approaches for mica-dependent households
- Identify levers within both community programming and supply chain interventions (e.g., fair pricing, safer work opportunities) that could be strengthened
- Spot potential new models to enhance sustainable economic development for mica pickers and their families

5. Review sustainability and institutional linkages

- Assess whether programme outcomes show potential for sustainability beyond 2027 across communities, workplaces, and governance structures
- Analyse community ownership, capacity building, linkages with government schemes, and progress toward formalisation mechanisms (such as cooperatives)
- Provide guidance on strengthening long-term impact through institutionalisation, private sector accountability, and durable policy implementation

6. Review financial implementation and use of resources

- Assess expenditure patterns against approved budgets and workplans
- Analyse the extent to which resources are being used efficiently across all components of the programme
- Identify key discrepancies between planned and actual spending, and explain underlying reasons (e.g., delays, operational constraints, contextual changes)
- Provide recommendations to improve financial planning, cost-effectiveness, and resource allocation for the rest of the programme

(D) KEY TASKS AND SCOPE OF WORK

The evaluator will be expected to:

- Conduct a desk review of programme documents, including the full proposal, logical framework, baseline data (villages, mines, processing units), monitoring reports, workplace standards assessments, advocacy documents, and partner reports
- Develop an evaluation framework and mixed-method methodology (quantitative and qualitative), covering community, supply chain, and governance components
- Undertake fieldwork in a representative sample of the 50 programme villages, as well as selected mines and processing units engaged in workplace standards implementation
- Consult with key stakeholders, including:
 - Community members (women, youth, vulnerable households)



- Village volunteers and community-based structures
- Local implementing partners (co-applicant NGOs)
- Mine and processing unit managers and workers
- RMI staff and member companies

- Assess progress on governance and formalisation efforts, including engagement around sector policy implementation

- Facilitate validation of preliminary findings with RMI, implementing partners, and relevant stakeholders
- Ensure ethical standards, safeguarding, informed consent, and confidentiality throughout the evaluation process

(E) EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

1. Inception Report (after contract signature), including:
 - Refined evaluation questions covering all programme pillars
 - Detailed methodology and tools
 - Sampling strategy (villages, mines, processing units, and institutional stakeholders)
 - Workplan and timeline for the evaluation process
2. Mid-Term Evaluation Report, including:
 - Findings
 - Across the full programme scope
 - Analysis of implementation strengths and gaps
 - Early outcomes and lessons learned
 - Actionable recommendations for programme adaptation (2026–2027)
 - Sustainability considerations
3. Executive Summary (stand-alone)
4. Stakeholder Presentation / Workshop
 - Presentation of key findings and recommendations to RMI, partners, and members
5. Data Package
 - Clean datasets, tools, and supporting annexes (interview guides, sampling details, documentation)

(F) PROPOSAL FORMAT

Bidders should submit a proposal including:

1. Cover letter
2. Organisational profile and relevant experience
3. Understanding of the assignment and context
4. Proposed sampling and methodology for a mid-term evaluation
5. Team composition and key personnel



6. Workplan and timeline
7. Detailed budget breakdown including:
 - Detailed budget breakdown in INR/EUR (where relevant)
 - Professional fees and daily rates
 - Travel and operational costs
 - Any applicable taxes or overheads

8. Examples of similar evaluation assignments

The technical proposal should not exceed 15 pages, excluding annexes

(G) INDICATIVE TIMELINE

The evaluation is expected to take place in 2026, with final dates agreed upon with the selected evaluator.

Indicative phases:

- Publication of the RFP: February 13th 2026
- Application closure: March 15th 2026
- Contracting: end of March/beginning of April 2026
- Inception period and report: April-May 2026
- Interviews with stakeholders/document review: June 2026
- Data collection and fieldwork: August-September 2026 (this timeline is fixed as data collection will be difficult during the months of July due to the weather conditions)
- Analysis and draft reporting: September-October 2026
- Validation workshop and final report: October 2026

(H) EVALUATION AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals will be assessed based on:

- Quality and feasibility of the proposed methodology
- Alignment between proposed timeline and above mentioned one
- Understanding of community-based programming and evaluation
- Experience in India and/or similar contexts
- Team expertise and capacity
- Cost-effectiveness and value for money

(I) APPLICATION SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Interested and qualified service providers are invited to submit a complete proposal in accordance with the requirements outlined in this Request for Proposal to magali.barraja@responsible-mica-initiative.com by 15 March 2026