

1. Please briefly describe the project, including its significance, key goals, and principal activities.

The Caste Freedom Index (CFI) is a unique and universal framework for addressing inequalities and measuring discrimination based on caste or descent of nearly 300 million of the world’s most marginalized and socially excluded population known as “Dalits” or “Oppressed people”.

Its goal is to provide a new zeal for Dalits, advocacy groups, policy-makers, development actors and governments needing on-the-ground evidence and framework to address inequalities and injustice on local, national and international levels.

The CFI will be collectively developed as a new effort to measure legal, social, and development progress in reducing and eliminating caste-, work-, and descent-based discrimination and inequality on five thematic human rights factors.

The CFI dashboard is based on a framework matrix which will chart the objectively measured situation of Dalits as the interrelationship between six human rights dimensions and a set of socio-political domains such as law, politics and the economy.

Human Rights	A. Constitutional and legal principle	B. Political and social action	C. Economic activity	D. Community Relations	E. Individual and family experience
1. Life, health and shelter	1A	1B	1C	1D	1E
2. Family life, privacy and personal dignity	2A	2B	2C	2D	2E
3. Employment, fair pay, economic opportunity	3A	3B	3C	3D	3E
4. Freedom of expression, freedom of movement	4A	4B	4C	4D	4E
5. Political representation	5A	5B	5C	5D	5E
6. Access to justice, protection from crime	6A	6B	6C	6D	6E

2. Please list anticipated project outcomes and specific deliverables.

The CFI project can be broken down into four stages, each of which will contain a number of work packages. It is likely that funding will have to be sought for each stage, and potentially for specific work packages within stages. The stages proposed are:

1. Pilot development (stage 1 was already undertaken)
2. Interim roll-out within Nepal
3. Full roll-out within Nepal
4. International development

Stage 1 – Pilot development

<i>Overview</i>	Initial scoping, methodological development and proofs of concept, based on two selected human rights dimensions. Survey is experimental and based on a small geographical area.
<i>Key activities</i>	Work package 1 - Scoping and planning Work package 2 - Survey development Work package 3 - Expert consensus development Work package 4 - Existing sources discovery and assessment Work package 5 - Synthesis and forward planning See Figure 2 for a schematic of work package sequencing.
<i>Outcomes</i>	Scope and context fully understood Methodologies developed and documented CFI scores calculated for selected dimensions Reliable basis obtained for further stages
<i>Duration</i>	6 months
<i>Resources</i>	To be agreed

Stage 2 – Interim roll-out within Nepal

<i>Overview</i>	Scope extended to two additional human rights dimensions. Survey is based on a larger geographical area.
<i>Key activities</i>	Work package 1 - Scoping and planning Work package 2 - Survey further development and implementation Work package 3 - Expert consensus updating and extension Work package 4 - Existing sources discovery and assessment Work package 5 - Synthesis and forward planning
<i>Outcomes</i>	Scope extended to more of the CFI matrix Methodologies tested on a larger scale CFI scores calculated for more dimensions Reliable basis obtained for full roll-out
<i>Duration</i>	6 months
<i>Resources</i>	To be agreed

Stage 3 – Full roll-out within Nepal

<i>Overview</i>	Scope extended to all CFI human rights dimensions. Survey is fully representative and based on whole of Nepal.
<i>Key activities</i>	Work package 1 - Scoping and planning Work package 2 - Survey further development and implementation Work package 3 - Expert consensus updating and extension Work package 4 - Existing sources discovery and assessment Work package 5 - Synthesis and forward planning
<i>Outcomes</i>	Scope extended to full CFI matrix CFI scores calculated for all dimensions Methods to summarise CF matrix finalised Documentation prepared for public launch and international development
<i>Duration</i>	6 months
<i>Resources</i>	To be agreed

Stage 4 – International development

<i>Overview</i>	Agreement reached with partner organisations on implementation in other countries. National development activities carried out.
<i>Key activities</i>	Work package 1 - Scoping and planning Work package 2 - Survey redevelopment for national circumstances Work package 3 - Expert consensus redevelopment Work package 4 - Existing sources discovery and assessment Work package 5 - Synthesis and forward planning
<i>Outcomes</i>	Methods understood and applied by international partners Comparable CFI data collected – may be in several stages as for Nepal development
<i>Duration</i>	12 months. Note that this stage could possibly begin in parallel with stage 2 or 3.
<i>Resources</i>	To be agreed

Further information about the stages which we are yet to be developed:

Work package 2 - Survey development

- Ensure understanding of key population characteristics

- o It will be necessary to have an overview of population numbers, social organisation, geographical and socio-economic distribution, caste, religious and linguistic breakdown of Dalit communities in Nepal, to guide development of the sampling and delivery strategy.
- Develop sampling and delivery strategy
- o The sampling and delivery strategy will depend to some extent on the availability of field resources and the views of local partner organisations.
- o At the pilot stage, it may be desirable to focus mainly on testing the ability of the survey to deliver in a range of geographical, social and linguistic settings.
- Develop and test questions
- o Questions will focus mainly on the two selected human rights dimensions, but the opportunity may be taken (within available resources) to cover high priority issues relating to certain other dimensions.
- o To ensure reliability (and credibility) a full question testing process will be required, including discussion of drafts with local partners, cultural and linguistic experts, cognitive testing and small-scale field testing.
- Deliver and report pilot survey

Work package 3 - Expert consensus development

- Decide on consensus methodology
- o The chosen approach will have to be capable of implementation by correspondence.
- o It would be preferable for the approach to be capable of reaching a 'score' for each indicator as its outcome.
- Recruit expert panel members
- o To aid credibility, expert panel members will have to be widely recruited e.g. not all be Dalits or connected with ICDR.
- o Formal agreement should be reached with panel members on practical matters such as response times.
- Collect key documents for assessment
- o Documents may include (e.g.) legal texts, court records, political manifestos, written organisational policies.
- Conduct and report consensus exercise

Work package 4 - Existing sources discovery and assessment

- Identify potential sources of (a) published statistics, (b) available raw data relevant to the dimensions of interest
- Explore data sources for availability by key variables, especially caste, and for data quality and timeliness
- Construct candidate indicators and report on quality and sustainability
- o It may be worthwhile constructing close proxies for candidate indicators if these would be feasible and of sufficient relevance and quality.

Work package 5 - Synthesis and forward planning

- Develop scaling and weighting approach for combining indicators
- o Scaling is likely to be approached on a technical basis, however weighting may require (e.g.) a preference exercise using an expert panel
- Make final decisions between experimental versions of indicators
- Construct final CFI matrix proof of concept for presentation
- Plan next stages in discussion with funders and local partners

3. Please summarize the planning toward a proposal that has taken place to date and major project components.

The Stage that has been achieved so far is Stage 1. ICDR is planning to set up an expert meeting in March to discuss in further details our future developments.

Stage 1 – Pilot development

<i>Overview</i>	Initial scoping, methodological development and proofs of concept, based on two selected human rights dimensions. Survey is experimental and based on a small geographical area.
<i>Key activities</i>	Work package 1 - Scoping and planning Work package 2 - Survey development Work package 3 - Expert consensus development Work package 4 - Existing sources discovery and assessment Work package 5 - Synthesis and forward planning See Figure 2 for a schematic of work package sequencing.
<i>Outcomes</i>	Scope and context fully understood Methodologies developed and documented CFI scores calculated for selected dimensions Reliable basis obtained for further stages
<i>Duration</i>	6 months
<i>Resources</i>	To be agreed

In more details, this is:

Work package 1 - Scoping and planning

- Agree conceptual scope of the selected human rights dimensions
- Identify candidate indicators and map to CFI matrix
 - o The candidate indicators could be generated from expert 'brainstorming', literature search, etc. A potentially large number could be generated for discussion.
- Make initial assessments of appropriateness and feasibility, select subset of indicators and assign to data collection approaches
 - o An optimum number of indicators per matrix cell may be decided at a later date, but flexibility will be necessary at the experimental stage.
 - o Any one proposed indicator might be assigned to more than one data collection method (e.g. both use of existing data and survey collection) if this would be useful at the experimental stage, with a subsequent decision being made on the basis of data quality, comparability with other indicators, etc.