

Expression of Interest for Mid-Term Evaluation of UNESCO Project titled “Capacity development for Adult Literacy and NFBE in Pakistan”

Context:

Illiteracy is one of the gigantic problems faced by Pakistan. According to Population Census of 1998, more than 50 million Pakistanis of age 10+ were not able to read and write. Latest PSLM Survey (2007-08) shows that 44% people in Pakistan are still illiterate. Historically, Pakistan has been sporadically launching literacy projects, and their quality and sustainability have always remained questionable. Lack of sustainability, weak professional base, absence of mechanisms for quality control, standardization and certification; have been identified as key issues of this sub sector in various reports, studies, and seminars. As a follow up of Dakar Framework of Action (April 2000), Pakistan has taken certain major steps for promotion of literacy. Although funding for literacy increased slightly after Dakar (April 2000), but issues relating to quality and capacity building could not be addressed at policy level.

Based on its low literacy rate and large population of illiterates, Pakistan qualified for participation in the global programme of UNESCO called ‘Literacy Initiative for Empowerment’ or LIFE. Being a LIFE country, Pakistan received special assistance from UNESCO in the field of literacy and Non-formal Basic Education for the interventions focusing on policy dialogue and improvement of quality through capacity building. The on going Project, titled “Capacity Development for Adult Literacy and NFBE in Pakistan, is second phase of UNESCO assistance to Pakistan, being a LIFE country. UNESCO has planned to undertake Mid-term Evaluation of the on going project referred above.

2. On going Project: Salient Features

The two year project which started during March 2009 is expected to be completed by February 2011. It has following five overall components in line with the general capacity development framework of the CapEFA Programme within which the country programme in Pakistan falls:

1. National ownership and partnership building
2. Institutional capacity development
3. Organizational capacity development
4. Quality and equity
5. Knowledge management for capacity development

In addition to the project budget from UNESCO HQs, Paris (France), UNESCO Islamabad office also received financial resources from local level mechanisms (One UN Fund), which are also being used to supplement and up scale project interventions. Detailed Project document (along with Log Frame etc.) and other relevant information will be provided to the selected consultant/organization.

3. Objectives of Mid-term Evaluation

The Mid-term evaluation of CapEFA Project titled “Capacity Development for Adult Literacy and NFBE in Pakistan” is being planned to achieve following objectives.

1. To review availability and functioning of mechanisms for capacity development and quality control in the fields of adult literacy and NFBE in Pakistan, and identify capacity assets, gaps and needs.
2. To assess the overall performance of the UNESCO interventions to date, in terms of progress towards expected capacity development targets in light of the stated baseline, outcome indicators, and challenges met.
3. To assess the level of ownership and change processes generated through institutional and organizational capacity development interventions.
4. To review the usefulness and effectiveness of UNESCO mechanisms to support implementation and add value to on-going change processes, and to the UN interventions under 'Delivering as One'.
5. To identify factors which have influenced the pace of implementation of UNESCO supported interventions and quality of their outcomes
6. To draw lessons for effective literacy and capacity development processes and interventions in Pakistan, its regions, and beyond;
7. To identify changes or adjustments in the project document (leading to revision in the project Log frame, as deemed relevant) in view of sharpening expected outcomes and interventions for the remaining period of the programme cycle.
8. To recommend long term strategies for capacity development and quality control in the fields of literacy and NFBE in Pakistan and desired nature of international support for this purpose.

The above listed objectives may be further elaborated after review of project log frame by the expert or the consultant.

4. Overall approach:

The Mid term evaluation will be a participatory process, wherein strengths and gaps of the project interventions and current capacity development processes will be identified and its impact will be assessed jointly by UNESCO team and key stakeholders. A short term (individual) consultant or an institution will be associated to facilitate the process of the Mid-term Evaluation. The national and provincial level lead agencies mandated to work for literacy and NFBE will be involved in the process, including the Ministry of Education, NCHD, NEF, provincial Departments/Directorates of Literacy and NFBE, and relevant UN Agencies supporting NFE programmes in Pakistan.

5. Methodology:

The Mid-term evaluation will not restrict its focus on specific interventions of the CapEFA project, but will also assess overall situation of capacity development in the field of adult literacy and non-formal basic education, and challenges in this area. With a view to ensuring that the evaluation process is participatory and its outcome leads to concrete guidance for improvement of future strategies and the remaining interventions, the evaluation will consist of following steps and procedures:

1. Formation of a Partners Group to facilitate the process of evaluation and provide inputs on various stages.
2. Identification and engagement of an individual Consultant or an institution to facilitate the whole process of the evaluation.

3. Briefing of the Consultant by the Project Team and Lead Programme Officer (LPO).
4. Desk review of project document and expected outcomes and its outputs (publications, and reports of activities etc.) by the Consultant and discussion with the Lead Project Officer (LPO) and contacts with other UNESCO entities involved as deemed necessary, such as UIL (UNESCO Institute of Lifelong Learning, Hamburg, Germany) and UNESCO Bangkok.
5. Focused Group Discussion with key partners and beneficiary organizations (including visits to 2-3 provincial capitals).
6. Individual interviews with focal persons of key partners and beneficiary organizations.
7. Preparation of preliminary/Draft report by the Consultant (as per outline –see below) for sharing with UNESCO and Partners Group for inputs, including the completion of the log frame summaries.
8. Revision of the Draft report in the light of feedback from UNESCO and partners
9. Second Focused Group Discussion with the partners for review of Revised Draft Report
10. Finalization of Report.

Detailed research design will be prepared by the consultant selected for the task, after review of project document and interaction with UNESCO team, and in light of the expected evaluation questions and issues and the general report outline for the analysis.

6. Report of Mid-term Evaluation:

The report of the mid-term evaluation will contain data and analysis of project implementation, findings, and recommendations in accordance with the objectives envisaged above, the overall evaluation questions focusing on capacity development and the outline give below:

Executive summary

Quick checklist on programme characteristics and alignment

1. Introduction
2. Context
3. Findings
 - I. Programme developments and performance
 1. National ownership and partnership building
 2. Institutional capacity development
 3. Organizational capacity development
 4. Quality and Equity
 5. Knowledge-generation for capacity development
 - II. Delivery, management, coordination and monitoring
 1. UNESCO efforts to support literacy efforts and implementation partners in Pakistan: An overview
 2. Effectiveness of coordination and monitoring mechanisms for literacy/project interventions at various levels (Federal Govt., Provincial Govts, NGOs, UNESCO)
 - III. Lessons learnt
 1. Factors supporting achievement of project targets

2. Factors impeding implementation (internal and external): An analysis
4. Conclusion
 1. Overall assessment of project implementation: A summary
 2. Possible strategies for strengthening enabling factors and overcoming impeding factors
 3. Next Steps: Future needs for capacity development and quality improvement in Pakistan

Total estimated volume of the Report (excluding Annexes) may be in the range of 20-30 pages. Above outlines can be further elaborated through discussion with the partners and the consultant. Baseline information, targets, and indicators etc. given in the project log frame will be used for assessment and documentation of progress against various interventions etc., and will be annexed with the Report.

7. Time frame: Four Weeks from the starting date (tentatively from 07 June to 05 July 2010). This time period is for completion of the whole process of Mid-term evaluation, including desk review, field visits/focused group discussions, preparation of draft report, its sharing for feedback, revision and finalization etc. This time frame will not be extended.

8. Eligibility: Individual experts or organizations possessing adequate experience in planning and monitoring of education related projects, particularly in basic education and literacy, and educational research/evaluation studies, should apply. Preference will be given to the organizations which are currently not working with UNESCO or not receiving funds from UNESCO under any other contract. Applicant must be computer literate, possesses adequate knowledge of Log Frame approach, and have demonstrated capability in the preparation of good quality reports.

9. Fee or remuneration: Keeping in view the nature of the task and time required to complete the process, an amount ranging from US\$ 3,000 to US\$ 4,000/- may be offered to the consultant/organization as fee, depending upon the suitability of credentials and past experience in this field. Travel cost for the field visit to 2-3 provincial capitals will also be paid separately.

10. Expression of interest: Organizations and individuals with relevant qualification and experience may send their CVs by email. Only those organizations/individuals should apply who are available on full time basis during the time frame referred above (07 June – 5 July 2010), and can also meet the deadlines. Please send your expression of interest by email, along with CV (or profile of the organization) to the following address:

Arshad Saeed Khan
Senior National Specialist (Education)
UNESCO Islamabad
Email: askhan@un.org.pk

11. Queries: For additional information or queries, please contact at following telephone numbers:

051-2611170 up to 2611173 Extension 24 (Arshad Saeed Khan, Senior National Specialist)
Cell: 0333-5205302

Or

051-2611170 up to 2611173 Extension 15 (Mr. Muhammad Afzal, Project Assistant)

12: Deadline: The last date for submission of expression of interest along with CV/profile of organization (by email) is 02 June 2010.