

Costing of the Education Sector Plan 2018-2022

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Terms of Reference for Local Consultant: Costing Expert

To support the Maldives Ministry of Education to do a full costing of the 5-year Education Sector Plan 2018-2022 being prepared under the Education Sector Plan Development Grant (ESPDG) from the Global Partnership for Education (GPE).

1. Background

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) is a global effort devoted to getting all children in school for quality education. Established in 2002, GPE is comprised of 65 developing countries, donor governments, international organizations, the private sector, teachers, and civil society/NGO groups. It is the only global partnership entirely focused on education in developing countries. The partnership has fundamentally transformed international cooperation in education. GPE helps country partners with the central aim of improving the capacity of countries to develop efficient, sustainable, strengthened, and inclusive education systems. Members of the Partnership mobilize and coordinate resources to support the achievement of the plans' goals to enroll more children in school for a better education. By promoting dialogue among partners around shared objectives, GPE fosters mutual accountability, increase shared knowledge about best practices, and encourage transparency at all levels. GPE earmarks grant funds of its programmes, to member developing countries according to eligibility criteria.

In 2015 Maldives expressed interest in joining the Partnership and requested for Secretariat's support in formalizing its application for funding. In order to obtain the support of the GPE for the development of the Strategic Plan of the education sector, a grant application was prepared in 2017, a National Education Consultation Committee (NECC) was formed to serve as the Local Education Group (LEG), the World Bank was nominated as the Grant Agent (GA) and UNICEF was designated as the Coordinating Agency (CA) for the management of the grant.

Subsequently Maldives has received funding from the GPE to undertake a comprehensive education sector analysis (ESA) and develop its new education sector plan (ESP) for the five-year period from 2018-2022. A team of three consultants including an International Consultant (IC) and 2 Local Consultants together with the active engagement of respective teams from the Ministry of Education (MOE) has completed the five-year Education Sector Plan.

This Terms of Reference (TOR) sets out the framework to recruit a local Costing Expert (CE), to undertake a full costing of the five-year ESP and thereby contributing to the finalization of the proposed GPE application for programme implementation grant.

2. Objectives and Scope of Work

The Ministry of Education seeks the services of a qualified and experienced local as a Costing Expert to participate in development of costing of all programmes identified in the ESP 2018-2022. The main objective is to realistically cost the plan and to provide technical assistance to MOE to determine how to restructure the composition of spending based on available resources. The Expert will also be responsible for providing strategic advice to the MOE with respect to costing of programmes, meaningful distribution of the budget over years and cost saving strategies.

The CE will provide technical and analytical support for the review, costing and financial analysis of the Education Sector Plan. The main tasks of the assignment include the following:

1. Reviewing the data and broad cost-estimates in the 'Draft Education Sector Plan 2018-2022, reviewing the education sector public finance analysis (undertaken in 2017), verifying the source of data and unit costs and proposing corrections when appropriate.
2. Reviewing the policy actions and reforms proposed in the sector plan for possible financial implications, specifically with regard to inter-dependencies e.g. higher enrolments require higher investment on infrastructure and teachers etc. The same analysis should lead to proposed corrections and additions.
3. In consultation with the respective staff from the MOE Finance Division, prepare a summary of resulting financial requirements (Recurrent and Capital, including the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) for the planned period. This should be compared with existing annual allocations (Recurrent and Capital) and suggestions should be provided to inform future planning.
4. Assist the MOE to review planned projections in light of expected financial resources and suggest adjustments based on realistic targets.
5. Study institutional arrangements, systems and financial management capacities at all levels and make recommendations to address immediate and longer-term priorities regarding resources and human capacity gaps.
6. The consultant will also assess the revenues available to the government for education from domestic sources and funds from development partners. S/he will also advise the MOE of feasible options for the Education Sector Plan, based on the availability of resources.
7. Participation in presentation of findings and costings in workshops/committees such as the Policy Planning Committee (PPC) of the MOE and the National Education Consultation Committee (NECC) which also serves as the Local Education Group (LEG) for the purposes of GPE grant applications.

3. Supervision

The Expert will work under the overall supervision of the Local Education Specialist in the 3-member Consultant Team but s/he will also have broad accountability to the Minister of

State overseeing the Policy Planning Division of the MOE under whom the ESP development takes place.

The Expert will have access to MOE Planning Division's facilities during the office hours, such as electricity, telephone, photocopier, computer printer and scanner to accomplish the tasks. The expert will use his/her own laptop/IT equipment.

4. Deliverables

The Costing Expert is expected to deliver the following.

1. Realistically costed Education Sector Plan.
2. Conduct a one-day orientation and familiarization workshop on the costed ESP to all policy and technical staff involved in the development of the plan and selected staff from the MOE Finance Division.
3. Recommendations for improvements of financial planning, programme budgeting and further financial analysis work.

5. Timeframe for Costing of the ESP

It is estimated that the assignment will take up to one month starting on 1st March 2018.

6. Consultancy Requirements

Qualification and Experience

Education:

Advanced degree (Masters or equivalent) in Accounting, or Finance or related discipline.

Work Experience:

1. A minimum of 5 years experience in education finance and/or in cross-sectoral or related budgeting/accounting/finance work.
2. Good knowledge of the main challenges facing Maldivian education system, its sub-sectors and of the different options to address those challenges.
3. Experience in analyzing and determining cost variables for education systems and providing assistance to help prioritize and sequence reform interventions.
4. Experience of operational work in the education/social sector and/or finance sector, preferably working on programme budgeting approaches (especially for sector development plans, sector investment plans).
5. Ability to analyze issues technically and contribute to high-level policy dialogue with the Government.
6. Excellent analytic and report writing skills in English;
7. Ability to participate effectively in multi-disciplinary teams, including capacity to interact effectively with a diverse range of colleagues, clients and representatives from partner institutions on education-related issues, research and operations.

7. Conditions and payment modalities

GPE will only make milestone payments based on achievement of specific deliverables as listed on the table below. Also note that GPE does not make advance payment and GPE is exempted from paying VAT and any other forms of taxes. Payments will be made upon satisfactory completion of all the work. All remuneration will be within the contract agreement.

Deliverable	Percentage of payment
1. Submission and acceptance of realistically costed Education Sector Plan/Implementation Plan.	50%
2. Conduct a one-day orientation and familiarization workshop on the costed ESP to all policy and technical staff involved in the development of the plan and selected staff from the MOE Finance Division.	25%
3. Submission and acceptance of final report with recommendations for improvements of financial planning, programme budgeting and further financial analysis work.	25%

Relevant penalty applicable will be instituted in the event of the Expert not meeting the timeframe and quality of work.
