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Maldives Learning Advancement and Measurement Project (LAMP: P172631)
Ministry of Education
Republic of Maldives

TERMS OF REFERENCE

**Consultancy for Capacity building of QAD for item development and related factors for
upcoming NALOs**

(Procurement Ref: MV-MOE-345011-CS-CQS)

Background

The Government of Maldives (GoM) has an Education Sector Plan (ESP) endorsed by the Local Education Group (LEG) under implementation. This is the central step required for financial assistance from the GPE. The ESP has four main goals. The first goal is to improve learning for all through equitable access to quality education. The main results of the GoM seeks to achieve under this goal are to ensure that all children from preschool through grade 12 are enrolled in school, learning gaps across atolls are reduced, and overall learning outcomes are improved. The second goal is to provide youth and adults with the necessary skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship. The third goal is to ensure equitable access to lifelong learning and a quality higher education for all. The fourth and final goal is to strengthen the system for efficiency to deliver high quality education. The Maldives Learning Advancement and Measurement Project (LAMP) will support the first goal by promoting strategic initiatives to improve learning outcomes in foundation and primary education, with a special focus on the atolls where learning levels are lowest.

Components of the LAMP

The LAMP is organised into three main components.

Component one: Strengthening Curriculum Implementation: is designed to strengthen curriculum implementation and improve learning outcomes in key subjects, English, mathematics and Dhivehi at the Foundation and Primary Education stages. To ensure equitable access to learning, this component is also designed to provide support for children with SEN and students at risk.

Component two: Improving Teacher Education and Development: is designed to improve teacher quality and performance; with initiatives aimed at improving both pre-service teacher education and continuing professional development of teachers. The Project will help the GoM to develop SBPD to continuously improve teacher motivation, pedagogical skills, competencies and performance. In addition, the Project will help enhance the quality of pre-service teacher education programs offered by the MNU, IUM, and non-state HEIs.

Component three: Advancing the Measurement of Student Learning and School Performance: is designed to advance the measurement of student learning and school performance; with specific initiatives aimed at modernising the system for learning assessment and developing the school QA system.



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Background of the Assignment

Under the component three of the LAMP, the Quality Assurance Department (QAD) of the Ministry of Education (MoE) has planned to upkeep the growth of the education sector in the Maldives.

The LAMP will support the Maldives to develop the capacity of the country to plan and execute NALO (National Assessments of Learning Outcomes) at the end of Key Stages 1 and 2 (grades 4 and 7) for the key subjects: Dhivehi language, English language and mathematics, the results and findings of which will be utilised for the development of educational policies and programmes.

In addition, together with NALO, some questions from an international assessment will be included in the paper. The LAMP will assist in shaping the technical capacity within the MoE, implement and use the results and findings from national assessments for strategic policy and management decisions. The national assessments under the Project will help monitor learning outcomes over time.

Furthermore, the Project will support the analysis of factors that contribute to learning outcomes, such as school-related factors, classroom-related factors, and child-related factors. The information and feedback from these national assessments can be used by policy makers and education specialists in key education areas such as curriculum development, pre-service teacher education, continuing teacher development, the production of educational material including textbooks, and the allocation of resources.

Considering the present situation with regard to the Item Bank, almost all the items have been used for the papers prepared for the assessments conducted within the previous 3 cycles of assessment. Furthermore, the items at hand do not include some of the items needed to assess the National Curriculum implemented since 2015. The few items remaining may assess the lower level skills. The present Item Bank does not have sufficient items to assess viewing illustrations and graphics for understanding and some of the higher level skills like reading comprehension, graphic stimulus, poetry comprehension and items to assess the different text types. Above all, the items in the Item Bank are required to align with the National Literacy and Numeracy Strategy (NLMS).

Objective and Scope of the Work

The objective of this assignment is to; (i) train Item Developers to prepare items relevant to the National Curriculum, for the National Assessments of Learning Outcomes, for the 3 subjects Dhivehi language, English language and mathematics; (ii) conduct a working session to develop the items, in English and Dhivehi languages and in mathematics; (iii) pilot the items; (iv) write a



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report including the analysis of results of the piloted items; and (v) decide on the keeping items, items to be discarded, and items to be edited and improved.

Methodology & Expected Output

The selected Consultancy Firm is expected to submit a detailed training module with a training activity schedule, workshop schedule, and a timeline for piloting items.

1. Submit a detailed training module
2. Schedule of activities for the workshop
3. Conducting working session for item development
4. Plan and implement the pilot study
5. Analysis of pilot and finalise the items (Each subject should have 100 items that can be put in bank)
6. Compilation of the report

Major activities, deliverables, timeframe, and remuneration schedule:

Expected deliverables and timeline of the Consultancy are given below. The payment shall be made based on acceptable deliverables as per the below schedule. The payment is inclusive of all incurred expenditure related to the Consultancy, as stated in the financial proposal to be submitted by the Firm selected from the evaluation process (as per the selection criteria given below), and as agreed by the MoE and the World Bank. The financial proposal must be inclusive of all incurred costs by the Firm to undertake the Consultancy.

| Major activities | Deliverables | Timeframe | Payment % |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|-----------|
| a) Contract signing and inception report submission. | Signed Contract and inception report. | Upon signing the contract and acceptance of inception report | 5% |
| b) Submit a detailed training module | Module for item development completed | 4 person-weeks | |
| c) Schedule and conduction of workshop on item development | Item developers trained | 2 person-weeks | |
| d) Conducting working session for item development | Working session | 2 person-weeks | 35% |



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| e) Plan and implement the pilot study | Items piloted | 2 person-weeks | |
| f) Analysis of pilot and finalise the items (Each subject should have 100 items that can be put in bank) | Findings presented to the QAD, identifying the keeping items, discarding items, and items which can be edited and improved. | 3 person-weeks | |
| g) Compilation of the report | Final report and items added to the bank | 3 person-weeks | 60% |

Expected Results

By the end of the program, participants must be able to develop items, pilot items, analyse items and identify keeping items, discarding items and item which can be edited and improved.

Selection Criteria

Firm

- Must be a registered and operating firm in the field of research consultancy or similar services in Maldives (Please provide Valid Firm/Institute Registration Certificate and Profile).

Key Staff

In order to successfully carry out the Consultancy services listed above, the consultancy firm must have minimum 6 key staff who must meet the following qualifications and requirements.

- Team Leader must have at least a postgraduate degree (Master's or above) in Education Assessment and Evaluation or Education Leadership and Management or a related field of study.
- 2 staff with at least a Master's Degree in Assessment and Evaluation OR Statistics, OR in a related field.
 - The 2 staff must have experience in using software such as STATA, SPSS or ConQuest or other statistical software.
- 3 staff with at least a Bachelor's Degree in the subject area (1 staff from each subject, Dhivehi, English and Mathematics)



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- The 3 staff must have a minimum 2 years of experience in implementing National Curriculum of Maldives in the subject identified

Schedule of completion and payment, and procedure of review and approval of deliverables

The Consultancy is expected for a period of 4 person-months commencing from the date of signing the agreement. The completion of deliverables will be overseen by the designated focal of the QAD, tasked with overseeing the work of the Consultancy Firm. Each deliverable must be submitted to the designated focal of the QAD by the Consultancy Firm and approved by the designated focal of the QAD. Once the deliverable is approved by the designated focal of the QAD and informed to the LAMP PMT, payment shall be made upon submission of the invoice to the LAMP PMT by the Consultancy Firm.

Data, services, and facilities to be provided by the QAD

The Firm will be provided the means of conducting the training, workshop, and piloting the items.

Duty of Care

The Firm shall implement measures for the health and safety at the workplace, training place, networking venue(s) for its employees of the training program. Such measures shall include:

- Implementation of a safe workplace and procedures, procurement of secure tools and equipment for working, and ensuring the continued safety of the same;
- Provide safe materials to work with;
- Provide or arrange for the appropriate medical care for its employees/trainees injured while carrying out/participating in the project;
- Arrange the facilitation of first aid to its employees in emergencies or accidents; and
- Implement and facilitate for the employees to adhere to the WHO recommended and host country mandated COVID-19 health and safety measures throughout the training program.



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ANNEX 1

Report Outline

Possible outline:

1. Executive Summary

2. Chapter 1

Introduction of the report e.g., Background, Rationale

3. Chapter 2

Methodology, e.g., sampling methodology, population, procedures in administration of piloting the assessment, analysis of data

4. Chapter 3

A short description of the data analysed (Grade 4 - for the 3 subjects, Dhivehi language English language and mathematics)

- The quality of the items with regard to difficulty index
- Items to be discarded
- Items to be kept
- Items which need to be edited and improved

5. Chapter 4

A short description of the data analysed (Grade 7 - for the 3 subjects, Dhivehi language English language and mathematics)

- The quality of the items with regard to difficulty index
- Items to be discarded
- Items to be kept
- Items which need to be edited and improved