

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



MALDIVES: ATOLL EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

(AEDP: 177768)

Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Skills Development

Republic of Maldives

TERMS OF REFERENCE

CONSULTANT FOR DATA ANALYSIS AND REPORT WRITING OF NALO 2026

Background

The Maldives Atoll Education Development Project (AEDP) is organized under five components: (a) enhancing curriculum delivery; (b) continuing teacher development; (c) measuring and enhancing system performance; (d) coordination, monitoring, capacity building and technical assistance; and (e) contingent emergency response. These components and the activities under them were prepared through a process of consultation and collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Skills Development; the Ministry of Finance and Public Enterprises; the atoll education agencies; public and private employers; academics and school principals, teachers, parents and students. The components and activities are also based on the knowledge and experience gained through the implementation of the Learning Advancement and Measurement Project (LAMP) guided by Global Partnership for Education (GPE) trust fund.

The Government of Maldives (GoM) is implementing the "Maldives: Atoll Education Development Project (AEDP), funded by the World Bank. The project aims to increase access to education and enhance the quality of secondary education. The four components of this project are:

Component 1: Enhancing Curriculum Delivery and Increasing Higher Secondary Participation

This component aims to promote strategic initiatives at the country level to strengthen and develop the general education system, focusing on access and quality at the secondary level. Under this component: teaching/learning materials will be procured to enhance student literacy and numeracy skills; STEM and ICT in education will be promoted; and the effectiveness of curriculum delivery will be enhanced by implementing vocational education in selected secondary schools.

Component 2: Continuing Teacher Development

The objective of this component is to develop Maldivian schools to strategically implement the initiatives under component 1 (one) by building the capacity of teachers. Under this component, in-service teacher support (professional development) is planned. These support sessions include: developing teaching/learning materials, addressing effective pedagogical practices, and developing teaching/learning activities to support students with complex learning needs.

Component 3: Measuring and Enhancing School and System Performance

This component aims to measure the school system's performance through quality assurance activities and assessment of national learning outcomes. This component would support academics in higher education institutions to undertake policy analyses using the information and data from quality assurance activities and the assessments conducted under AEDP. The main procurements under this component will be consultancies and atoll-level human resource development.

Component 4: Coordination, Monitoring, Capacity Building and Technical Assistance

This component will assist the GoM in supporting coordination, operation and monitoring, capacity building and technical assistance, and communications concerning the project. Furthermore, this component will assist schools in getting grants for activities to improve their teaching/learning process.

Background of the assignment

The AEDP is supporting the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Skills Development to develop the capacity of the country to plan and execute the National Assessments of Learning Outcomes (NALO) across the curriculum. In this regard, in the year 2026 the Nation Assessment of Learning Outcomes (NALO 2026) has been conducted for students who have completed Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 in the academic year 2025. The subjects focused in the NALO 2026 were Dhivehi Language, English Language and Mathematics; the results and findings of NALO 2026 will be utilised for the development of educational policies and programmes. Quality Assurance Department (QAD) of Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Skills Development requires assistance for the data analysis and report compilation of NALO 2026. Thus, the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Skills Development is looking to hire a consultant for the work.

Objective and scope of services

The objectives of this assignment is to: (i) carry out the data analysis of the NALO 2026, (ii) prepare and submit a report of findings of the analysis of the NALO 2026 of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 for the subjects Dhivehi Language, English Language and Mathematics. The Consultant will be expected to:

- Clean the data of the NALO 2026;
- Analyse the data for the NALO 2026 using statistics such as mean, median, mode, standard deviation, variance, decile and quintile analysis, and descriptive statistics such as frequencies, cross-tabulations, and correlation analysis;
- Prepare and submit a draft report of the findings and recommendations based on the above statistical analysis of the NALO 2026;

The report should cover the following areas on the subjects Dhivehi language, English language and Mathematics for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2:

- Patterns of achievement at national level,
- Patterns of achievement by atoll,
- Patterns of achievement by gender,
- Patterns of achievement by skill-wise data,
- Patterns of achievement by cognitive levels,
- Patterns of achievement by school size,

- Prepare a comprehensive summary report of the findings at the individual school level. The analysis should include skill-wise and cognitive-level breakdowns for each subject across both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 within each school;
- Compare the Average scores of NALO 2026 with that of NALO 2024 for both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 for the subjects Dhivehi Language, English Language and Mathematics; Comparison should be based on the following aspects:
 - Patterns of achievement at national level,
 - Patterns of achievement by atoll,
 - Patterns of achievement by gender,
 - Patterns of achievement by skill-wise data;
- Provide an analysis of NALO achievement trends over the years;
- Complete the final report of the NALO 2026 as given in Annex 1 and submit to the QAD; and
- Present or support QAD to present the findings of the NALO 2026 to the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Skills Development as required, and propose recommendation.

Deliverables, timeline, and payment schedule

Timeline	Tasks	Deliverables	Payment %
	Sign Contract	Signed Contract	10%
1 person-week	Clean analyse the data for the data of NALO 2026.	NALO 2026 data cleaned and ready for analysis.	20%
2 person-weeks	Data for the NALO 2026 using statistics such as mean, median, mode, standard deviation, variance, decile and quintile analysis, and descriptive statistics such as frequencies, cross-tabulations, and correlation analysis.	Data for the NALO 2026 analysed using statistics such as mean, median, mode, standard deviation, variance, decile and quintile analysis, and descriptive statistics such as frequencies, cross-tabulations, and correlation analysis.	

5 person-week	Compare the Average scores of NALO 2026 with that of NALO 2024 for both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 for the subjects Dhivehi Language, English Language and Mathematics; Comparison should be based on the following aspects: ▪ Patterns of achievement at national level, ▪ Patterns of achievement by atoll, ▪ Patterns of achievement by gender, ▪ Patterns of achievement by skill-wise data;	The scores of NALO 2026 with that of NALO 2024 for both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 for the subjects Dhivehi Language, English Language and Mathematics compared.	
	Provide an analysis of NALO achievement trends over the years (2017, 2021, 2024 and 2026);	Analysis of NALO achievement trends over the years (2017, 2021, 2024 and 2026) provided;	
	Prepare and submit a draft report of the findings and recommendations based on the above statistical analysis of the NALO 2026 (as in annex).	Draft report of the findings and recommendations based on the above statistical analysis of the NALO 2026 prepared.	
	Prepare a comprehensive summary report of the findings at the individual school level. The analysis should include skill-wise and cognitive-level breakdowns for each subject across both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 within each school.	Summary report prepared based on the findings at the individual school level. Skill-wise and cognitive-level analyses for each subject across both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 within each school are included.	
5 working days	Comments and approval of the draft report by the QAD.	Draft report approved by the QAD.	20%

5 working days	Prepare and submit a final report of the findings and recommendations based on the above statistical analysis of the NALO 2026 (as in annex). Comments and approval of the final report by the QAD.	Final report of NALO 2026 submitted to QAD. Final reports approved by the QAD.	40%
1 person-week	Present or support the QAD to present the findings of the NALO to the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Skills Development as required, and propose the next steps for policy level or strategic changes.	The findings of the NALO 2026 presented or supported the QAD to present to the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Skills Development as required, and the next steps for policy level or strategic changes proposed.	
1 person week	Comments and approval of the findings of the NALO 2026 and the comments and approval of the proposals of the next steps for policy level or strategic change by the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Skills Development. Prepare and deliver a comprehensive presentation on the findings, conclusions, and policy recommendations of the National Assessment of Learning Outcomes (NALO) to stakeholders, including government officials, school representatives, and development partners, during the scheduled report dissemination ceremony.	The findings of the NALO 2026 and the proposals of the next steps for policy level or strategic change approved by the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Skills Development. A comprehensive presentation summarizing the key findings, conclusions, and policy recommendations of the NALO report, delivered to stakeholders at the dissemination ceremony.	10%

Data to be provided from the QAD to the Consultant

The consultant will be provided NALO 2026 data sheets of students' answers for each assessment item, in Google sheets. NALO findings of previous years will also be shared with the consultant.

Procedure for review of deliverables

The Assessment Team from the QAD will check the deliverables and Assessment Team lead will provide feedback to the consultant for the deliverables. The deliverables will be deemed as completed, once approved by the Assessment Team lead, in writing.

Required qualifications and experience

In order to successfully carry out the tasks listed above, the consultant is required to meet the following minimum requirements:

- A minimum of Master's Degree in Statistics/ Education/Assessment and Evaluation, or in a related field, (a higher qualification in Statistics/ Education/Assessment and Evaluation, or in a related fields will be considered an advantage),
- Successful completion of at least two similar assignments, each with a minimum duration of three months, involving statistical analysis using software such as STATA, SPSS, SAS, ConQuest, or other statistical, psychometric, or econometric software. Additional relevant experience will be considered an advantage.

Professional competencies

In addition to the required qualifications and experience, the Consultant must have the following professional competencies:

- Prior experience in analysis and report writing preferably for the education sector,
- Strong organisation, co-ordination and teamwork skills,
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills in English, and the ability to prepare high quality reports in English,
- Proficiency in the use of MS Office, advanced statistical software, Google products, and the internet, and

Duration of the contract

The contract duration will be approximately 12 person-weeks, starting from the date of signing the agreement.

Remuneration

The consultant will be paid as per the agreement between GoM and the WB for this position, as per the payment schedule provided in the “**Deliverables, timeline, and payment schedule**”.

Working Arrangements

The consultant will work remotely. The consultant will be required to provide regular updates and attend meetings as and when required by the QAD.

Report Outline

- **Executive Summary**

- **Chapter 1**

Introduction of the report (ex: Background, Rationale).

- **Chapter 2**

Methodology (ex: sampling methodology, population, framework for the national assessment, procedures in administration of the national assessment, analysis of data).

- **Chapter 3**

NALO 2026 findings of Key Stage 1

Patterns in achievement of the subjects, Dhivehi language, English language and mathematics as given below:

- Patterns of achievement at national level,
- Patterns of achievement by atoll,
- Patterns of achievement by gender,
- Patterns of achievement by skill-wise data analysis,
- Patterns of achievement by cognitive level,
- Patterns of achievement by enrollment size,

- **Chapter 4**

NALO 2026 findings of Key Stage 2

Patterns in achievement of the subjects, Dhivehi language, English language and mathematics as given below:

Patterns of achievement at national level,

- Patterns of achievement by atoll,
- Patterns of achievement by gender,
- Patterns of achievement by skill-wise data analysis,
- Patterns of achievement by cognitive level,
- Patterns of achievement by enrollment size,

- **Chapter 5**

Comparison of NALO 2026 with that of NALO 2024

Patterns of achievement over the years

- **Chapter 6**

Conclusion and Recommendations