

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ



Learning Advancement and Measurement Project (LAMP: P172631)

Ministry of Education

Republic of Maldives

TERMS OF REFERENCE

CONSULTANT TO DEVELOP AN ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT PACK FOR IN-SCHOOL AND OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

(Procurement Ref: MV-MOE-177101-CS-INDV)

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 the GoM seeks to achieve under this goal are to ensure that all children from pre-school 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 organized into three 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 modernizing the system for learning assessment and developing the school QA system.



Learning Advancement and Measurement Project (LAMP: P172631)

Ministry of Education

Republic of Maldives

Under the Maldivian constitution, every child has the right to education. Hence, under the Child Rights Protection Act (19/2019) endorsed recently indicates that education must be provided for all students till they are 18 years old. The Ministry of Education (MoE) has taken several measures to ensure that inclusive, appropriate and relevant education is provided to children. There are a considerable number of students who are in conflict with the law or have risky behavior which could end them being in conflict with the law. Majority of these students have dropped out from mainstream education or at risk of dropping out from school as their disengagement with the school is great. The most vulnerable students are students in contact with law, children who have been detained by authorities, children in custody of the juvenile justice unit and/or children who have engaged in any crime, big or small. There are some students who have never attended school for different reasons. It is recognized that these children who are out of school and who need to be brought back to school system need an academic assessment to gauge their academic levels. Furthermore, once the academic level is determined, these children need to be placed in an age appropriate academic program and this does not necessarily match the age appropriate grade of these children. Hence, programs of study for these children to be able to catch up needs to be developed so that the children can be given the right help in developing their academic levels. Therefore, an accelerated and/or condensed program needs to be developed within a systematic approach which is embedded and/or recognized within the mainstream education system of the country. Currently, Educational Supervision and Quality Improvement Division (ESQID) of the Ministry of Education (MoE) facilitate this work.

A consultant is needed to assist the ESQID staff to develop a program that provides a systematic approach to the education for these students. Once the program is developed, training will be needed for teachers in the schools to implement the program so that students gain the knowledge and relevant skills that are needed for them to be responsible persons in their practical life. The consultant also needs to develop: (a) a comprehensive standardized academic assessment tool that can be used by schools for diagnostic purposes; and (b) differentiate the program during preparation into modules serving varying ability levels of children as identified through the assessments.

Aim of the academic assessment tool kit:

The overall objective of this intervention is to ensure age appropriate learning and development of every child and to ensure that that all children acquire the key competencies stipulated in the National Curriculum.

Specific Objectives

- To develop an Alternative Education Framework that can be embedded into the mainstream education system.
- To provide the schools with a tool kit that can be used to assess academic level of students.
- To provide teachers with specific learning materials that teachers can use with different age groups of children.
- To identify ways of supporting teachers to implement the curriculum and learning programs with students who need extra support to catch up to the work of the grade level.



Learning Advancement and Measurement Project (LAMP: P172631)

Ministry of Education

Republic of Maldives

Proposed Activity

The Consultant will report to the Director General of ESQID. His/her main duties and responsibilities are to:

Activities	Time frame (excluding weekends)
PHASE 1 (Desk review)	
1. Conduct a literature review on international best practices 2. Hold stakeholder discussion meetings 3. Propose 2 models as a report with justification	2 weeks
1. Pilot the two models and submit a report with consultant recommendations 2. Share the draft with MoE and schools to validate 3. Finalize the tool with MoE	2 weeks
1. Draft the academic tools	1 Week
2. Share the draft tool with MoE and schools to validate. 3. Finalize the tool with MoE.	1 Week
PHASE 2:	
4. Develop the academic learning packages for different levels	5 weeks
5. Conduct a small pilot 6. Present the packages to MoE for feedback. 7. Draw up a teacher training package with a training plan 8. Finalize	4 weeks

Deliverables:

- 1- An alternative Education Framework (including pathways for mainstreaming).
- 2- An academic assessment tool to assess the performance of the students.
- 3- A package of high-quality tools and learning materials.
- 4- A monitoring tool and proposed monitoring mechanism.



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

Expected Results:

- 1- Children in schools and out of school are assessed using standardized assessment tools and are learning from high quality, age appropriate learning programs
- 2- Assess the academic performance/standards and classroom policies for differentiated students.
- 3- Assist teachers in correlating of student drop-out rates.
- 4- Teachers have increased capacity to assess students 'academic performance and respond accordingly.

Required Qualifications and Experience:

- A Masters' Degree in a relevant social sector field.
- Experience in conducting desk reviews and broad stakeholder consultations will be preferred.

Professional Competencies:

- Must have sensitivity to diverse opinions and difficulties arising from differing social perceptions.
- Effective facilitation skills and communication skills in English.
- Ability to work in teams.

SCHEDULE

The service is for a period of 75 working days excluding weekends.

REMUNERATION

As per the agreement between GoM and the WB for this position.

FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED

The holder of the position would be entitled to the following facilities:

- An office in the MoE with equipment including a computer/laptop and docking station, telecommunication services, and access to printing, photocopying and scanning equipment.
- Transport for official purposes. Transport, lodging, subsistence and incidental expenses for atoll travel for official purposes.