



TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)
**CONSULTANT TO FACILITATE ADVOCACY WORKSHOP/TRAINING AND
TO IDENTIFY KEY EDUCATION RESEARCH GAPS IN ETHNIC AREAS**

Title:	Advocacy Workshop/Training and identification of critical education research gaps in ethnic areas, Myanmar
Qualifications and experience:	Advocacy/Research/Education Specialist/Consultant
Work period	Between Mid-October and Mid December 2019
Reporting to:	John Mubonderi, Programs Director – ADRA Myanmar johnmubonderi@adramyanmar.org Emma McCrow, PR & Communications Officer – ADRA Myanmar emma.mccrow@adramyanmar.org
Consultancy days:	Approximately 10 days (including travel)

BACKGROUND

The consortium of Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in Myanmar, ADRA UK, ADRA Germany through its partnership with the Rural Indigenous Sustainable Education (RISE), is implementing a 5-year EU funded Conflict Area Support for Education 2 Learn (CASE2Learn) project. The objective is to improve access to indigenous education services, including ECCD, basic education, NFE and TVET, and improve learning outcomes for indigenous children, youth and women living in ethnic conflict affected and post-conflict areas of Myanmar/Burma. Through a whole system response, the project is expected to improve school quality standards and harmonization of basic education services established and supported by RISE with increased alignment to government standards where relevant; expansion of education services provided by indigenous providers of education to include early childhood, basic education, NFE and VT for older OOSC, youth and illiterate women; and increase engagement between RISE members and government education authorities at the local, state and national level to promote cooperation, collaboration, alignment and recognition of Indigenous services.

The consortium intends to undertake research on key education reform issues in Indigenous ethnic communities in Myanmar and produce and disseminate evidence with the intention of influencing for an inclusive education system in the country. This will

enable greater engagement of ethnic education providers in supporting alternative pathways in education, improving recognition of ethnic teachers and education services, improved alignment and technical harmonization around assessment of learning outcomes and improved long terms stability.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of the consultancy is to build the policy advocacy capacity of ethnic education providers so that they can meaningfully engage on key education reform issues with the Myanmar Ministry of Education(MOE) and work collaboratively with each other and the MOE to support the development of a coherent national education system that ensures that marginalised children's rights to a relevant quality education are upheld. This will directly lead to more inclusive development outcomes in conflict affected areas and in so doing will support, rather than hinder, peace building efforts at the local and national levels. The consultancy also aims to identify and define key contentious education issues where evidence is missing for effective advocacy.

OBJECTIVES

- The objective of the consultancy is to build the capacity of consortium staff to do advocacy work in the Myanmar education sector, particularly influencing inclusive education. The consultant is expected to improve knowledge and skills for the staff by facilitating an advocacy training workshop.
- The consultant is also expected to identify, examine and define key education research issues underlying the conflict amongst Indigenous Providers of Education, the communities and the government in Ethnic States and Regions. This includes desk review of the education systems in targeted geographical areas, interviews with key education actors etc.

SCOPE OF WORK

Identification of critical education research areas.

The consultant(s) will conduct a systematic review of the education system to identify system gaps, map the key actors in the system with more focus on the role of ethnic education providers in selected conflict affected areas. This involves consultations with key stakeholders such as the government, donor community, community, RISE partners and reviewing education policy documents including the Myanmar Education Strategic Plan and previous relevant researches. Identification of previous research products, processes and resources developed by other actors and currently in use to strengthen education systems in conflict affected areas is required to build upon it. An analysis of the conflict within the education sector in selected states/regions affected by the conflict is required, this includes the causes, the underlying and contributing factors. The analysis should be guided by the appropriate analysis tool/framework. Areas of divergence within the education system amongst ethnic education providers and between the government should be clearly identified and ranked based on level of significance.

Based on potential to minimize exclusion risks, minimize conflict and promote access to equitable quality education, identify at least four focused critical quantitative and qualitative research areas. Provide substantive relevance for each of the selected research subject. Potential study research areas include the curricula, recognition of community teachers, including funding modalities to support community teacher stipends, accreditation of students' prior learning in community schools and recognition of Indigenous education systems, language of instruction, culture, gender etc.

Capacity building of consortium staff on advocacy

The advocacy workshop/training will be provided to implementing partner RISE and their respective network and will focus on analyzing what advocacy is, how to advocate for ethnic education in Myanmar, advocacy tools, advocacy strategy preparation and planning .This workshop/training will act as an introduction to advocacy to pave the way forward for future advocacy activities in the project as well as a method to identify critical education research gaps.

METHODOLOGY

The consultant(s) work associated with the components will utilize a mixed method approach mainly interviews with key stakeholders, desk review of secondary data sources and facilitating basics of advocacy training workshop.

- Facilitating a capacity building workshop on advocacy
- Consultations with the consortium members through a workshop.
- Stakeholders mapping and review of the education systems in targeted areas through desk review.
- Literature review including that of papers those previously produced by consortium members, existing policy papers available within or outside of the RISE network
- Analysis of the education related conflict and identification of critical contentious areas
- Prioritization of research areas with a clear justification.

Key deliverables

- Advocacy Workshop report with evidence of improved skills and knowledge.
- Soft copies of the training materials used.
- An analysis of the key education research gaps in the form of a narrative report as per provided template.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities of the Consultant: To achieve this goal and completing the tasks described above, the consultant will be responsible for, but not limited to, the following processes:

- Preparing appropriate materials for a workshop/training on advocacy. This is done in consultation with ADRA Myanmar.
- Conduct desk reviews and provide an analysis of key education research gaps.

- Lead the process of developing the key deliverables including conducting capacity building workshop on advocacy and conducting a desk review to identify key education research issues.
- Ensure the quality of all deliverables as per the terms of reference, as well as their timely submission.
- The Consultant should coordinate and make arrangements with RISE Management prior to going to the field to ensure no issues arise during field data collection. RISE's management team will provide the final go/no-go decision about when and where field visits may be conducted.
- Facilitate advocacy workshop/training to consortium members staff.

Responsibilities of ADRA Myanmar:

- To support the external consultant, develop a good understanding of the partnerships and approaches:
- ADRA will provide all documentation required to facilitate the assignment to the consultant and will hold a meeting with the selected consultant to go over the details of the assignment and answer any questions. It is expected that the consultant will have all the necessary facilities and equipment to undertake the assignment.
- ADRA will manage the contract and will provide funding directly to the consultant in accordance with the terms specified in the contract.
- ADRA will be responsible for reviewing first drafts reports within 5 working days of receipt (not including weekends) and will provide feedback to the consultant and has the final approval of all the deliverables.
- Provide technical guidance and support where necessary and required.
- Provide write ups or drafts of any sections of the reports requested by the consultant that require the perspectives of ADRA Myanmar and contextual knowledge of the country and the program.
- Participate in discussions and preparations for the delivery of the Advocacy Workshop/training.
- Take a proactive role in providing project documents, reports and other applicable documents, and identifying information and topics relevant to the advocacy workshop/training.
- Participate and lead in supporting the advocacy workshop/training in Pyin Oo Lwin.
- Liaise with implementing partner RISE for logistics of event and follow up.

Responsibilities of RISE:

- Lead in pre discussions of content for workshop/training.
- Actively lead in the advocacy workshop/training
- To support the external consultant, develop a good understanding of the partnerships and approaches:
- To provide all documentation required to facilitate the assignment to the consultant and will hold a meeting with the selected consultant to go over the details of the assignment and answer any questions. It is expected that the consultant will have all the necessary facilities and equipment to undertake the assignment.
- RISE Management, being the main point of contact will directly manage and coordinate the process with the consultant including logistics requirements and day to day operations.
- Provide write ups or drafts of any sections of the reports requested by the consultant that require the perspectives of RISE and contextual knowledge of the country and the program.

- Lead in supporting in-country workshops / consultations.
- Utilize extensive networks and relationships with local communities and local authorities to collect the data from schools and communities.
- Participate in the review and finalization process of the deliverables.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Competencies

- Good knowledge and understanding of research and advocacy planning processes
- Good knowledge and understanding of best practices for assessments adopted by diverse NGOs, INGOs and other government agencies.
- Good knowledge of indigenous education and its place in the education sector an advantage

Functional

- Excellent presentation skills and delivery in the training context
- Ability to produce relevant deliverables on time that can be shared
- Fluency in English (written & oral)
- Proficiency in computer applications (Microsoft Office etc.)

Communication

- Strong interpersonal and communication skills
- Ability to converse well with non-native English speakers with the aid of a translator
- Demonstrated capacity of team-orientation work

Education

- Masters level and/or PhD in relevant fields of expertise.

Expertise

- At least 5 years of proven experience in advocacy related work.
- At least 3 years of proven experience of working with NGOs, INGOs, government agencies or other organizations and companies on advocacy related issues
- Experience in conflict areas desirable
- Experience working with different cultures an advantage
- Knowledge and sensitivity to political and social contexts of Myanmar
- Knowledge of the education context and process of recognition for indigenous providers in Myanmar (developing countries) an asset

APPLICATION AND DEADLINE

Interested firms/individuals should send the requested documents to the Programs Director, John Mubonderi, at johnmubonderi@adramyanmar.org and the PR & Communications Officer, Emma McCrow, at emma.mccrow@adramyanmar.org on or before October 15th, 2019, 23:59 GMT.

- A narrative proposal which should include the following information (at a minimum):
 - Technical proposal detailing advocacy tools and proposed training materials for delivery in a workshop for beginners.

- The process to identify key education research gaps in ethnic areas and the criteria to rank the research topics/areas.
- CV of key consultant(s) attached to the technical proposal clearly showing the qualification and experience of the consultant and his/her team
- Proposed budget (if any consultancy fees are charged)
- Proposed timeline.
- Contacts of three organizations/companies recently worked with.

Applicants reserve the right to ask for more clarification. Due to urgent need of the consultancy, proposals will be short listed on a regular basis and we may offer the consultancy before the closing date. Only short-listed consultants will be contacted.