



TERMS OF REFERENCE/ RESEARCH

Studies	Undertake research on key ethnic education systems to support evidence-based advocacy strategies in Ethnic States and Regions of Myanmar
Personnel and experience	Research, Education and Policy Consultant(s)
Work period	Between 20 August 2020 to 10 December 2020
Contact	Ma Ei Ei Phyu, Program Manager crystalwhite.rise@gmail.com
Consultancy days	To be discussed with successful candidates

I. SUMMARY

Rural Indigenous Sustainable Education (RISE) and ADRA Myanmar are looking for researchers, education and policy specialist candidates or firms to undertake research on key ethnic education systems to support evidence-based advocacy strategies in Ethnic States and Regions of Myanmar. The research consultancy work is part of the ongoing EU-funded education programme *Conflict Area Support for Education to Learn* (CASE2LEARN) in Myanmar. The programme focuses on providing education assistance to ethnic education providers in key regions in Myanmar. Firms and candidates are invited to apply as per below described process. The deadline for submitting the application is 10 August 2020.

II. INTRODUCTION

The consortium of Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in Myanmar and its partner the Rural Indigenous Sustainable Education (RISE) are implementing a 5-year EU funded programme called *Conflict Area Support for Education 2 Learn* (CASE2Learn) project. The objective of the programme is to improve access to indigenous education services and learning outcomes for indigenous children, youth and women living in ethnic conflict affected and post-conflict areas of Myanmar/Burma. The project is expected to improve school quality standards and increased alignment to government standards where relevant; expand education services provided by indigenous providers of education to include early childhood, basic education, non-formal education (NFE) and vocational training (VT); and increase engagement between RISE members and government education authorities 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.

III. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of the consultancy is to generate evidence to support ethnic education providers to meaningfully engage and advocate on key education reform issues with the Myanmar Ministry of education (MOE). The goal is that through advocacy, ethnic education providers and MoE will work collaboratively 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 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.

If evidence on contentious education issues is available, providers of ethnic education will be better equipped to engage in education policy and practice dialogue on topics of relevance to their sustainability and complementarity with government education services, then progressive alignment of ethnic education services with government schools will eventuate. This will be made possible through the use of evidence to unify advocacy priorities and policy positions. Through the outcomes of this consultancy, RISE will also work collectively with its members to lead on local, national and international advocacy initiatives that promotes the education rights of ethnic children and produce policy briefs and papers to use at conferences and meetings with key stakeholders, including government authorities at all levels.

IV. SCOPE OF WORK

Research design- the selected consultant(s) in collaboration with RISE and ADRA will design research on one or more areas of divergence within the education system amongst ethnic education providers and between the government. Potential study research areas include the MTB-MLE, recognition of community teachers including funding modalities to support community teacher stipends, accreditation of students' learning in community schools and recognition of Indigenous education systems, language of instruction and culture. Accordingly, the consultant will develop detailed research proposal on agreed research area/topic and the methodology and timeframe will further be discussed with RISE and ADRA. **While the different research pieces will be decided upon throughout the project, the first piece will focus on community teacher stipends.** Success in the first piece of research paper (teacher stipends), can potentially lead to the selected consultant(s) being awarded other pieces of research work on other different topics.

Undertake research, produce and disseminate policy papers Based on approved research proposal, the consultant(s) will undertake research. The consultant is expected to produce credible findings which can be in the form of detailed research reports in appropriate languages (Myanmar, ethnic languages and/or English), briefing papers and/or case studies depending on the on agreed research design. An appropriate dissemination of findings is expected at regional/state and national level, this may include high level forums and national media based on pre-agreed mechanism.

V. METHODOLOGY

The methodology for each research might differ depending on the research design, however the selected consultant(s) will discuss with RISE and ADRA the most appropriate methods and this will be detailed in the research proposal. Generally, the research methods must provide data and information that is sufficiently representative of the ethnic education systems and accurate for the purpose of this ToR.

VI. RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities of the Consultant: To achieve the goal of the consultancy the consultant will be responsible for, but not limited to, the following processes:

1. Develop a research proposal on one or more agreed research topic(s) in consultation with RISE and its members. The research proposal includes the following components:
 - Problem statement
 - Substantive relevance.
 - Key research questions
 - Research design and methodology.
 - Analysis and dissemination approaches.
 - Timeframe.
2. Based on approved research proposal, if required, design data collection instruments, including questionnaires and all data entry processes, qualitative and quantitative tools adapted for different target groups as appropriate.
3. Discuss and coordinate proposed research methods with RISE and ADRA programme team in Myanmar.
6. If required, provide a training to local consultants and enumerators to carry out the research in country. This will include standardized data collection, reporting and storage, management protocol and ethical and participatory research guidelines.
7. Manage all administration and logistics of the assignment, including transportation, communications, and payments to staff and enumerators and any other costs that may arise, within the pre-agreed budget.
8. Coordinate 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.
9. Analyse data and develop study deliverables within agreed timeframe.
10. Throughout the duration of the contract, provide RISE with regular written management updates on progress to date, issues and planned actions

Responsibilities of RISE:

1. 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. This includes defining the research topic(s) and approval of the deliverables including research proposal.
2. To technically collaborate with the consultant(s) on all aspects of this consultancy including sampling and setting up of the research pitch.
3. It is expected that the consultant will have all the necessary facilities and equipment to undertake the assignment.
4. To manage and coordinate the process with the consultant including logistics requirements and day to day operations.
5. To support the collection of data through its extensive networks and relationships with local communities and authorities for data collection and participate in discussions regarding methodology.
6. To 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.
7. To lead in supporting in-country workshops / consultations.

8. To lead and coordinate with ADRA Myanmar the review and finalization process of the deliverables within an agreed timeframe.
9. Recommend enumerators who are able to access the target areas.

Responsibilities of ADRA:

1. To collaborate with RISE and the consultant(s) on all technical matters of the consultancy, this includes advising and approving research proposals, budget and deliverables.
2. ADRA will provide funding/payment directly to the consultant(s) upon approval of agreed deliverables.
3. To provide technical guidance during the planning phase and support to RISE where necessary and required.
4. To timely participate in relevant stages of the research process including trainings.
5. To provide write ups or drafts of any sections of the reports requested by the consultant to RISE that require the perspectives of ADRA Myanmar and contextual knowledge of the country and the program.

VII. TIMEFRAME

This proposed study has to be carried out between August 2020 and December 2020. The final report is due to RISE by 10th December 2020.

VIII. SELECTION CRITERIA

The successful research consultant will have a solid track record on the criteria below, with examples of evidence for each. The consultant must have:

General criteria:

1. At least 5 years of proven experience of research and analysis in relevant field.
2. Demonstrable expertise on civil society, rights and ethnic education
3. Thematic expertise in education. A focus on education systems and policy would be an added advantage.
4. Evidence of use of ethical considerations and methodological measures for conducting research with girls, women, boys, men and particularly those who might be disadvantaged and marginalized
5. Evidence of successfully designing and managing large-scale, rigorous and robust research papers, processes and evaluations.
6. Experience in quantitative and qualitative research methods and analysis.
7. Proficiency in the use of analytical software.
8. Geographic expertise in Myanmar and its diverse education systems is essential.
9. Proficiency in Burmese language or other local languages in Myanmar is preferred.
10. Excellent working knowledge in English language.
11. Proficiency in computer applications (Windows, MS office, etc.)
12. At least a master's degree in the relevant fields of education or any related field of social sciences is preferred.

The consultant is not allowed to subcontract part of the activities under this consultancy.

IX. APPLICATION PROCESS

RISE and ADRA Myanmar invite applications from eligible and qualified individuals or organizations to undertake the work specified in this ToR. Interested parties should submit to RISE the following:

- Curriculum Vitae of the lead researcher and/ or profile of the entity demonstrating capacity to undertake the consultancy.
- 2 or 3 samples of previous research papers produced by the consultant(s)/ entity in the last 3 years.
- Application letter expressing interest and indicate daily consultancy fees.

Applications via email clearly marked *Application for Consultancy-CASE2LEARN programme research* in the subject line should be submitted to the email addresses below by 23:59 GMT time on 10 August 2020.

Please send applications to: Ms. Ei Ei Phyu, RISE Programme Manager at crystalwhite.rise@gmail.com
. Please copy Mr. Saw Lay Wah, ADRA Myanmar Project Director at sawlay.wah@adramyanmar.org on your correspondence.