



LESOTHO COUNCIL OF NGOS

Terms of Reference (TOR) for Desk Research on National Educational Curriculum Change and Education Governance in Lesotho

Background:

The Education Out Loud (EOL) program – is a Global Partnership for Education's (GPE) funded program with the goal of strengthening civil society advocacy and influencing work in education policy processes, to better meet the needs of communities, especially of vulnerable and marginalized populations by promoting inclusion and learning, enhance accountability and transparency in education policy and create an enabling global and transnational environment for civil society engagement. It is resourced by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) (www.globalpartnership.org) and managed by Oxfam Denmark (www.educationoutloud.org).

Objectives of EOL:

The overall Goal of Education Out Loud is to enhance civil society capacity efforts to strengthen advocacy, learning, equity, and stronger systems and to ensure transparency and increased effectiveness in national educational policy and implementation processes. In order to further 'GPE 2025' strategic plan overall goal to accelerate access, learning outcomes and gender equality through equitable, inclusive, and resilient education systems fit for the 21st century. It seeks to promote more equitable, efficient domestic education spending while offering innovative financing mechanisms.

In particular, Education Out Loud has three specific objectives namely:

- a) Objective 1 (OC1): “Strengthen national civil society engagement in gender responsive education planning, policy development and monitoring”.
- b) Objective 2 (OC2): Strengthen civil society roles in promoting the transparency and accountability of national education sector policy and implementation.; and
- c) Objective 3 (OC3): Create a stronger global and transnational enabling environment for national civil society advocacy and transparency efforts.

1. Introduction

The Lesotho Council of Non-Governmental Organizations (LCN) is seeking proposals from qualified individuals or organizations to conduct a desk research project focused on the National Educational Curriculum Change and Education Governance in Lesotho. This research project aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the current status and potential challenges and opportunities in the Lesotho education sector.

The education system in Lesotho has been undergoing significant changes in recent years, including curriculum reforms and governance structures. This research project will assess the implications of these changes on the quality, equity, and accessibility of education in the country. The findings and recommendations from this study will inform LCN's advocacy and policy initiatives to promote quality education for all in Lesotho.

2. Objectives

The primary objectives of this desk research are as follows:

- a. To assess the status and effectiveness of the National Educational Curriculum Change processes in Lesotho.
- b. To document attitude and views of different representative stakeholder on the Lesotho Primary and Secondary curriculums.
- c. To identify key challenges and opportunities of the current Lesotho Primary and Secondary Curriculum.
- d. To make recommendations for improving the education system and governance structures in Lesotho.

3. Scope of Work

The consultant or research organization is expected to:

- a. Review existing literature, policy documents, and reports related to curriculum change and education governance in Lesotho.
- b. Examine the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders in the education governance structure.
- c. Assess the effectiveness of educational institutions in implementing curriculum changes.
- d. Investigate the challenges and opportunities within the education sector.
- e. Develop a comprehensive report that includes findings, recommendations, and a strategic framework for addressing identified issues.

4. Deliverables

The selected consultant/organization is expected to deliver the following:

- a. An inception report outlining the methodology, work plan, and data sources.
- b. A draft report for review and feedback.
- c. A final comprehensive research report (including an executive summary)
- d. A presentation of the findings and recommendations to LCN and relevant stakeholders.

5. Qualifications

The consultant or organization should have:

- a) A proven track record in conducting research in the field of education, curriculum development, and governance.
- b) Experience in Lesotho's education sector and a deep understanding of its policy and regulatory frameworks.
- c) Expertise in data collection, analysis, and research methodology.
- d) Excellent writing and presentation skills.
- e) Strong knowledge of the local context and the ability to engage with key stakeholders.

6. Methodology:

The researcher is expected to employ a mixed-method approach, combining qualitative and quantitative research methods. The methodology should include document analysis, structured interviews, surveys, and data analysis. Ethical considerations and data privacy should be maintained throughout the research process.

7. Timelines:

- The desk research is expected to be completed within [30 working days], with regular updates provided to the Council.

8. Budget:

- The consultant(s) or research team is requested to provide a detailed budget proposal, including costs for data collection, analysis, report writing, and presentation of findings.

Submission of Proposals:

- Interested consultants or research teams are invited to submit their proposals, including a detailed methodology, a timeline, and a budget proposal, to admin@lcn.org.ls / recruitment@lcn.org.ls by [17th November 2023].

Evaluation of Proposals:

- Proposals will be evaluated based on the proposed methodology, experience of the consultant(s) or research team, and the cost-effectiveness of the proposal.