



TERMS OF REFERENCE: CONSULTANCY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INNOVATIVE FINANCING MODEL FOR NATIONAL EDUCATION COALITION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Lesotho Council of NGO's is an umbrella body for civil society organisations in Lesotho. The organisation was established with the purpose of providing the supportive services to the NGO community through networking, leadership, information dissemination, capacity building, coordination, advocacy and lobbying, and representation when dealing with the international community and government.

The council of NGOs operates through sectoral commissions to ease coordination of alike members. Of the six commissions it has there is one that oversees issues related to education and other socio economic indicators of the country.

The rationale to include education in LCN work emanates from the strong belief from LCN that human resource is the best asset any country has. Educational attainment is the only surest way of ensuring that people who have been disadvantaged by ills of historical trajectories can advance from a disadvantageous position to a position where they can demand and attain positive change in their lives.

It is on the basis of believing in change through educational attainment that LCN uses social accountability tools in its work as those are increasingly recognized as a means of improving service delivery and governance across the globe. Social accountability as an approach relies on civic engagement in that citizens participate directly or indirectly in demanding accountability from service providers and public officials. To that effect LCN conducts participatory

budgeting, public expenditure tracking, citizen report cards, social audits, citizen charters, right to information acts, and community scorecards (CSCs), the focus of this concept note. And in particular LCN had previously analysed education budget as in Lesotho Education gets the highest share from the national covers.

Despite this huge economic boost in education the country still faces high unemployment rate, graduates that most potential employers reject hence a need to develop innovative funding model for Lesotho Education.

At Global level, the year 2015 signalled the time by which all the *Education For All (EFA)* goals and *Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)* were envisaged to have been met. However, global and regional assessments pointed to the reality that most of the targets stemming from these were unmet thus prompting the world to get re-energised and re-mobilised to take stock of progress made, fast-track those goals lagging behind, and strategize as well as think beyond 2015. The United Nations and its key agencies notably UNESCO and UNICEF powered the Education world to discuss, negotiate and converge on Sustainable Development Goals [SDGs] and Education 2030 to provide broad roadmaps for navigating the development agenda through the difficult terrains of financing deficits, conflicts and emergencies witnessed in numerous national and intra-national territories. The collective goal of leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest behind first, was constantly palpable. SDG4 captured the aspiration of the Education Rights advocacy actors thus '*....ensure inclusive and equitable quality education, and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*'.

The overarching language of having the governments as the duty bearers, with the primary responsibility to provide inclusive quality Education, at least at the basic level, through efficient, equitable and sustainable financing, is universally becoming acceptable. The diverse actors hence emerged with a common understanding that Education is a public good, and that every government will strive to fulfil it to its citizens. This becomes a promising declaration step worth matching with concrete action, a move that the Coalition will be keen to keep on track. Key in ensuring that education is sustainably provided is the issue of its financing, especially because this remains the number one barrier to access to education. It is apparent that traditional revenue streams for supporting education are insufficient in guaranteeing its provision. Therefore, innovative financing becomes a cardinal opportunity to explore how best to sustainably finance quality education provision. In this regard, innovative financing for education is seen as the non-traditional and cutting edge approaches and mechanisms aimed at raising education revenue streams for states beyond the ordinary and orthodox means such as taxation and development assistance. It involves advanced measures of understanding the fiscus and how best to effect models of financing that go beyond the ordinary to allow for increased funding for education.

It is therefore essential that the coalition conducts a research to review the funding model/s currently being used by the Government in order to analyse how they contribute to innovative Education financing in a sustainable manner.

2.0. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTANCY

1. To analyze the various financing models applied by The Kingdom of Lesotho and identify an innovative model that efficiently and effectively mobilizes and applies resources to critical sectors of Education, and that which ensures that the furthest of the target communities are reached first, in a transformational way.

This will ensure and include:

- a. Conducting a desk survey of the country level financing models being used to finance the education sector in the country.
- b. Assessing any existing innovative financing models from the country and externally that may be adapted and used within the country context in financing education.
- c. Undertaking a comprehensive and comparative analysis of the model/s to assess their merits and demerits.
- d. Making recommendations thereof on innovative options that the government may adopt in order to improve the country level financing of Education thereby applying the same for sustainable, effective and efficient resource mobilization and use capable of ensuring that the furthest of target communities are reached first.

3.0 SCOPE OF THE CONSULTANCY

The scope of the consultancy will involve undertaking the following key tasks;

- (i) Reviewing existing education financing models and tools on innovative financing for education that the Government and other actors have been using over the last 5-10 years.
- (ii) Undertaking a comprehensive and comparative analysis of the existing financing models for education and assess the merits and demerits of each

- (iii) Reviewing samples of financing tools and documentations that have been used with the aim of providing recommendations on sustainable improvements.
- (iv) State how the state and non-state actors can explore innovative financing approaches which can act as an important supplement to, and catalyst for, providing good quality education for all to support governments to deliver on the right to education
- (v) Developing the first report on ideal innovative financing for education that will clearly propose how the government can increase its finances to the education sector in a sustainable manner.
- (vi) Facilitating a validation meeting on presentation of proposed innovative financing for education in the country that is feasible and sustainable. .
- (vii) Finalizing the report and proposed innovative financing for education that can be applied at country level for use in advocacy by the National Education Coalition.

4.0 DURATION OF CONSULTANCY AND EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

DATES	NUMBER OF DAYS FOR CONSULTANCY	DELIVERABLES
	10 days	Advertising for consultancy
	2 days	Selection of consultancy
	3 days	Contracting
The consultant will be expected to undertake the assignment within 22 working days starting on Monday the 25 th June as follows;		
	7 days	Research/review process and development of first draft report
	10 days	Sharing report with NEC's staff and Board members then with Project Technical Team for their input.
	2 days	Collection of input, Finalising the draft report

	1 day	One day Validation Meeting
	1 day	Finalising all input and cleaning the document ready for printing.
	1 day	Submission of the final report

5.0 MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Academic:

- Possess a Masters' Degree in Economics, Education, Education Planning, Business, Accounting or Finance.

Work Experience

- Proven track record of having worked with civil society, donor agencies, related bodies involved in financing of social sector, and extensive knowledge of broad-based movements that operate as networks/coalitions.
- Minimum of 5 years of experience in a combination of applied financial modeling or structuring, research and analysis and project management, with private financial sector experience;
- Corporate or structured finance experience preferred.

Skills/ Competencies

- Excellent understanding of finance concepts and financial markets
- Highly developed analytical, problem solving and research skills with the ability to work with a large amount of data.
- Advanced financial modeling skills
- Outstanding communication skills
- Able to communicate complex financial analyses information in an easily comprehensive manner.
- Effective in writing reports and preparing presentations.
- Ability to think and work independently and to meet aggressive deadlines.
- High proficient with MS Excel, MS PowerPoint and MS Word.

- Team player, collaborative style, creative and innovative with an engaging personality.

6.0 HOW TO APPLY

Kindly send through your application mail no later than Friday 20th June 2018 by 12:30 PM

Send two Hard copies to:

Lesotho Council of NGOs
Hoohlo Extension
House No. 544
Maseru 100, Lesotho
Southern Africa
Telephone (+266) 22317205/ 22325798 and
E-mail: admin@lcn.org.ls/

Soft Copies to email address: admin@lcn.org.ls together with the following documents;

- A copy of your CV.
- A short write up of 1,000 words on the methodology to be used to complete the consultancy.
- Sample of similar consultancy conducted will be an added advantage.

For either submission detailed budget should be send separate from the technical proposal

7.0 STAKEHOLDER LIST:

A list of stakeholders from National Education Coalition, Government Officials, Parliamentarians, Donors and other stakeholders will be provided to the successful applicant.