



## **LESOTHO COUNCIL OF NGOs**

### **Terms of Reference (TOR) for Desk Research on the Reintegration of Pregnant Girls into the Education System 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](http://www.globalpartnership.org)) and managed by Oxfam Denmark ([www.educationoutloud.org](http://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.

**Introduction:**

Not returning to school after childbirth will have a huge impact on the future of girls' education. Most children in school are not receiving any sexual health education, especially in rural communities. Girls in primary and secondary school need sexual reproductive health information and education so they can make informed decisions and refrain from engaging in early sexual relationships.

**Purpose:**

The Lesotho Council of NGOs is seeking to better understand the extent to which pregnant girls return to school after giving birth. The purpose of this desk research is to provide comprehensive insights into the current status of the reintegration of pregnant girls into the education system in Lesotho. The findings from this research will inform the advocacy for development of policies and programs aimed at supporting pregnant girls to continue their education.

**Objectives:**

The primary objectives of this desk research are as follows:

- a. To determine the number of pregnant girls in Lesotho who return to school after giving birth.
- b. To identify barriers for and attitudes of girls towards returning to school after falling pregnant.
- c. To assess the existing policies and programmes in place to support pregnant girls' reintegration into the education system.
- d. To provide recommendations for improving the reintegration of pregnant girls into the education system in Lesotho.

**Scope of Work:**

The desk research will include the following activities:

- a. Review existing literature, reports, and studies related to the reintegration of pregnant girls into the education system in Lesotho.
- b. Analyze available statistical data on the number of pregnant girls returning to school after delivery.
- c. Conduct a review of relevant policies and programs aimed at supporting pregnant girls in Lesotho.

- d. Identify case studies or best practices from other countries that could be relevant to Lesotho's context.
- e. Consult with key stakeholders, including government officials, educators, NGOs, and community members, to gather qualitative insights.

The purpose of this research is to analyse percentage increase on the number of pregnant girls allowed back into school after delivery critical to SGG4 “*Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all in leaving no one behind*”.

- a. This will be desk research on teenage pregnancy and subsequent motherhood highlighting causes for teen pregnancies and subsequent effects on the teens academic performance and development that exist. With an in-depth analysis on the challenges many teenage mothers face when they are re-admitted back to school after giving birth.
- b. Outlining the socio-economic and cultural factors that lead school girls into pregnancy and dropping out of school;
- c. Exploring the factors facilitating and/or preventing girls from going back to school after delivery;
- d. Assessing support systems needed by, and available to, school-going mothers.
- e. Examining any differences in the preceding perspectives, between the northern, southern and middle belts to girls’ re-entry after delivery;
- f. Foster demand-driven regional knowledge exchange and strengthen the capacity of Lesotho to identify, use, share, and mobilize evidence related to priority policy challenges.
- g. To undertake a comprehensive and comparative analysis of the model/s to assess their merits and demerits.
- h. To make recommendations thereof that the government surrounding pregnancy and re-entry into school after delivery that may adopt to improve the country capable of ensuring that the furthest of target communities are reached first.
- i. Produce relevant knowledge and evidence syntheses and disseminate these to relevant actors.

**Questions to consider:**

1. Is there government legislative policy that allows girls to resume schooling and Lesotho which ensures that the furthest of the target communities are reached first, in a transformational way.
2. In this way, this study aims to inform the present debate about the future funding of education.
3. How long girls stayed out of school during pregnancy and after childbirth;

**Methodology:**

- The desk research will employ a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative and qualitative data analysis. Data will be collected from various sources, including surveys, interviews, and document analysis.

**Deliverables:**

- The consultant(s) or research team will be expected to produce the following deliverables:
  - I. A comprehensive report presenting the findings of the desk research.
  - II. Recommendations for policies and programs to enhance the reintegration of pregnant girls into the education system.
  - III. Presentation of the findings and recommendations to relevant stakeholders.

**Timelines:**

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

**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](mailto:admin@lcn.org.ls) / [recruitment@lcn.org.ls](mailto:recruitment@lcn.org.ls) by [17<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Confidentiality:**

- All information and data collected during this research must be treated with the utmost confidentiality and used solely for the purposes of this study.