
Consultancy Terms of Reference

Facilitation of a Technical Workshop and Community of Practice in Confronting the Data Challenge: Strengthening Our Systems for Innovative Data Usage and Management

1.0. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Countries in Sub-Saharan African (SSA) are confronted with the formidable challenge of realizing quality, inclusive and equitable education for social transformation and development. This vision is anchored in several frameworks and vision statements, including the SDG 4 – Education 2030 Framework for Action¹ and the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) 2016–2025², as well as other global, regional and national frameworks.

The Knowledge and Information Exchange (KIX) Hub has been established through the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and with funding from IDRC to collect, generate, exchange and facilitate effective use of data, knowledge and innovation for education policy formulation and implementation among 19 African countries in East, West and South Africa in six thematic areas. These will include (i) strengthening learning assessment systems, (ii) improving teaching and learning, (iii) strengthening early childhood care and education, (iv) achieving gender equality in and through education, (v) leaving no one behind, and (vi) meeting the data challenge in education.

The specific objectives of the regional KIX Africa 19 Hub are to:

- 1 Establish and manage the regional KIX Africa 19 Hub with an emphasis on GPE member state engagement, continuous learning and adaptive management;
- 2 Synthesize knowledge and set regional knowledge and innovation agendas for education policy formulation and implementation in support of realising quality, inclusive and equitable education through incorporation of gender responsive approaches; and
- 3 Support knowledge sharing and mobilization along cross cutting themes and innovation agendas throughout the project cycle in order to facilitate monitoring and sharing of good practices across the member states.

The KIX Africa 19 Hub is expected to provide a timely opportunity to catalyse the provision of quality education through facilitating evidence-based developments in policy and practice,

¹ UNESCO is the only United Nations agency with a mandate to cover all aspects of education. It has been entrusted to lead the Global Education 2030 Agenda through Sustainable Development Goal 4. The roadmap to achieve this is the Education 2030 Framework for Action http://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/education-2030-incheon-framework-for-action-implementation-of-sdg4-2016-en_2.pdf
² http://www.education2030-africa.org/images/systeme_edu/docs/Final_Indicators_Manual.compressed.pdf

fostering equitable partnerships and through identifying and contextualizing evidence in education agendas unique to the region

1.2 Purpose of the Assignment

In view of strengthening the Ministry of Education systems for innovative data usage and management, a technical workshop and community of practice learning series will be held for Ministry of Education EMIS officials, Regional data and assessment experts, Policy actors, and thought leaders to share their expertise, experiences, challenges, and innovations in data systems and EMIS in order to improve their learning of the domain and extract policy ideas to be adopted.

1.3 Specific Objectives for the technical workshop and community of practice learning series

The learning series, more specifically, intend to achieve the following objectives:

1. **To initiate and sustain a community network of practice, learning, and research** made up of stakeholders from member states who are collectively strengthening their capacities to address the challenge of data in their contexts;
2. **To grow institutional capacity to devise and implement policies for the mainstreaming and management of data** in education;
3. **To generate and exchange regional knowledge, data, evidence, and practices**, with an emphasis on **new learning**;

1.4 Target group for the technical workshop and community of practice learning series

The Institutions to participate in this meeting will include representatives from the Ministry of Education EMIS officials, Regional data and assessment experts, Policy actors, and thought leaders from the countries of the KIX Africa 19 Hub.

1.4. Scope of Work

A consulting firm or consultant sought to facilitate this workshop will work in collaboration with the African Union Commission and KIX Africa19 Hub secretariat to undertake the following tasks:

Task 1: Lead the preparation and moderation of an online technical workshop and community of practice learning series to take place in the month of May 2021. Specific tasks will include;

- Undertake a quick document review of the key concepts, best practices, **data challenges, evidence, and practices** on Education Management Information system with an emphasis of identifying **learning opportunities and innovative practices**;
- Develop a clear program and training guide for the **online technical workshop and community of practice learning series** which will focus on the following thematic areas and sessions;
 - *Session 1, May 11th: Developing national EMIS and learning assessment systems*
 - *Session 2, May 18th: Applying national, regional and international learning assessment data in EMIS and school reforms*

- **Session 3, May 25th:** *Developing and implementing appropriate feedback mechanisms for schools following data analysis and EMIS reporting requirements*

Task 2: Ensure that participants analyze national level good practices, available tools, and relevant research in the thematic areas for purposes of developing clear action plans;

- Administer a self- assessment tool or self-diagnostic process in order to identify areas for strengthening evidence based national EMIS and learning assessment systems;
- Guide participants into the development of innovative strategies to address gaps in developing and implementing national EMIS and learning assessment systems
- Facilitate Knowledge Sharing, networking and learning exchange among countries using collaborative tools for networking;
- Guide participants into developing clear action plans and innovative strategies to accelerate education progress for Innovative Data Usage and Management at the national and school level;
- Document and prepare a workshop report

1.5. Expected deliverables at the end of the assignment

The following validated deliverables will be expected:

- Capacities enhanced to **devise and implement policies for the mainstreaming and management of data** in education;
- A community **network of practice, learning, and research** established with stakeholders to collectively strengthening their capacities to address the challenge of data in their contexts;
- **Entry points and opportunities identified** for developing clear action plans and innovative strategies to accelerate education progress for Innovative Data Usage and Management at the national and school level; and
- A **Workshop report** with a clear road map for taking forward the key lessons learnt.

1.6. Time frame

The training workshop **and community of practice learning series** will be undertaken in 3 working days. The whole assignment will however commence on 10th May 2021 and ending 26th May 2021. The consultant/consulting agency will be hired during this period and the schedule below sets out the expected deliverables and indicative dates;

Task	Key deliverable submitted for approval	Indicative days
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of an inception report for the assignment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inception report development 	2 days
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop Advance preparation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To prepare for the workshop 	5 days
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold the technical workshop 	Facilitating the following sessions;	3 days

Task	Key deliverable submitted for approval	Indicative days
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session 1, May 11th: Developing national EMIS and learning assessment systems • Session 2, May 18th: Applying national, regional and international learning assessment data in EMIS and school reforms • Session 3, May 25th: Developing and implementing appropriate feedback mechanisms for schools following data analysis and EMIS reporting requirements 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare and submit a workshop report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Workshop report with a clear road map for taking forward the key lessons learnt. 	2 days
	Total Number of Workings Days	12 days

1.7 . Key technical skills

The Consultancy Firm should have candidates is expected with the following qualifications and skills;

- Advanced academic degree in a related field (preferably education, Statics, Mathematics, Education development, Education Planning).
- Extensive professional knowledge and at least 10 years' experience in the field of establishing and designing EMIS systems will be an added advantage.
- Demonstrated experience in regional review of evidence, literature reviews, stakeholder consultations, analysis and synthesis of findings; excellent writing and communication skills.
- Prior experience with UN Education programs, the KIX Hubs, as well as the African Union Agenda 2063 and CESA 2016-2025 and global educational agenda including would be an asset.

1.8. Procedures and deadline for submitting concept papers and institutional Profiles

Those wishing to be considered for this consultancy should submit their concept papers, Institutional profiles and CVs jajil@africa-union.org to and copy mj.dreas@unesco.org . All documents should have been submitted by 30th April 2021.