

Terms of Reference

Evaluation of the OSISA/UNESCO project on advancing Education For All (EFA) in the Southern Africa Region

I. Background

The OSISA/UNESCO project “Advancing Education For All (EFA) in the Southern Africa Region” is based on the recommendations of the EFA Conference held in Johannesburg in February 2005, convened by the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA), World Education Initiative (WEI) and UNESCO. The conference was attended by members of the public sector as well as civil society organizations pursuing education issues.

The main outcome of the 2005 Johannesburg Conference was the EFA Charter indicating key recommendations and areas of focus for governments, civil society organizations, EFA sponsors and Development Partners (DPs) to advance towards the achievement of EFA goals in the Southern African sub-region. The overall message emanating from the Conference was that countries in the sub-region were far from reaching EFA goals and targets, but with the political will on the part of both the public and civil society sectors, coupled with their demonstrated commitment towards EFA and support from sponsoring agencies, greater efforts could and would be made to speed up the EFA process.

Hence, the idea of the UNESCO/OSISA partnership in EFA was conceptualized, and formalized through a partnership agreement. The project was administered by the UNESCO Windhoek Office in consultation with the UNESCO Offices in Harare and Maputo, with the goal to accelerate progress towards the attainment of EFA goals in the Southern African member states.

The project has been implemented in 10 Southern African countries, namely Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Reports on EFA advancement at national level have been developed as a result of the project.

Over the course of the period 2006-2013, project activities have included, among others, 2 sub-regional stakeholder meetings (2008 and 2012, both in Johannesburg); national EFA stakeholder meetings in all 10 participating countries; national policy advice on areas related to EFA and support to advocacy initiatives in favour of EFA such as the annual Global Action Week (GAW) on EFA.

During the African EFA Conference in October 2012, Southern African Member States met and EFA country progress reports were discussed. This regional platform served also to:

- Review the EFA coordination mechanisms in Sub-Saharan Africa and propose new means to reinforce them
- Contribute to the UNESCO report on Education For All in Africa
- Prepare an action plan to speed up progress towards the EFA 2015 objectives
- Make recommendations for the post-2015 agenda for education in Africa

At this meeting member participants representing the stakeholders agreed that additional efforts are needed and identified priorities for the region.

In addition, the final recommendations of the Global EFA Meeting, held at UNESCO Headquarters on 22 November 2012 urged countries to show commitment and make an additional effort to improve the EFA indicators before 2015, specifically by mobilizing partners and taking the lead to assist countries in their efforts to accelerate progress towards EFA.

In this context, UNESCO launched the EFA “Big Push” Africa Acceleration Support Initiative to support selected countries to initiate the process of developing an acceleration framework for EFA suited to their national situation and needs. In the SADC region, Angola, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zambia expressed keen interest and were selected as the first pilot countries for SADC.

Since the goals and objectives of the OSISA/UNESCO project converged perfectly with the UNESCO “Big Push” Acceleration Initiative, the project has supported in its final year of 2013 the roll-out of the acceleration initiative in the SADC selected countries, in particular Lesotho and Swaziland. OSISA has also granted further financial support in the case of Swaziland.

II. Objective

The main objective of this assignment is to undertake the evaluation of the OSISA/UNESCO project on Advancing Education For All (EFA) in the Southern Africa Region. This evaluation was foreseen to be commissioned by UNESCO in consultation with OSISA four months following completion of the project. This evaluation will assess the overall performance of the project including the projects’ main achievements, shortcomings and gaps, as well as recommendations for a roadmap on future collaboration between OSISA and UNESCO in the field of EFA.

The project evaluation will be most beneficial at national level in the sub-region to maximize the effects of the results of the work done through the OSISA/UNESCO project towards the provision of further and efficient support to the acceleration efforts at country and sub-regional level.

III. Tasks/Deliverables

The consultant will be a specialist in the Education sector. The consultant will be provided with all the country activity reports from the project, as well as the contact details of the relevant project partner institutions at national level. The consultant will also be provided with the progress reports submitted by UNESCO to OSISA. The consultant will provide the findings of the project evaluation to the UNESCO Windhoek Education Team.

The successful candidate, working under the supervision of the Head, UNESCO Windhoek Office and the Education Programme Specialist, will undertake and will be responsible to provide the following outputs:

1) Draft outline of the project evaluation report

The consultant will submit to UNESCO by **16th April 2014** the signed contract and a draft outline of the project evaluation report

2) Full project evaluation report

The consultant will submit to UNESCO by **28th April 2014** a full project evaluation report on the OSISA/UNESCO project on advancing Education For All (EFA) in the Southern Africa Region meetings, including its main achievements, shortcomings and gaps, as well as recommendations for a roadmap on future collaboration between OSISA and UNESCO in the field of EFA.

IV. Timeframe

The task is estimated to take 15 days to complete from 14th April till 28th April 2014

V. Payment schedule

- 50% of the total value of the contract upon submission of Deliverable 1
- 50% of the total value of the contract upon submission of Deliverable 2

VI. Minimum qualifications and required skills

- Master's degree or PhD in Education, Social or Development Studies
- Experience in project/programme M&E
- Research and analytical skills
- Knowledge and experience in the Southern Africa region
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English

VII. Submission for the assignment

The interested candidate for this contract must submit the following

- Motivation letter
- Samples of assignments
- CV/s
- Detailed budget

VIII. Expression of interest

The closing date for the submission is **11th April 2014**.

Submissions can be sent through e-mail to s.fernandez-diekert@unesco.org and d.kasote@unesco.org and/or in sealed envelope to UNESCO, attention Mr. Samuel Fernández Diekert, Education Consultant, 38-44 Stein Street, Klein Windhoek, P.O. Box 24519, Namibia (Tel: +264 61 291 7212) by the closing date.