

Terms of Reference (ToR) for Hiring of Consultant to Conduct an Operational Study for the Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) Education Project in Thatta District, Sindh

Background:

Save the Children Pakistan, in partnership with Tameer e Khalaq Foundation *an implementing partner*, is implementing a project titled “**Voices and Choices**” an Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) Middle Tech for more than 2100 learners (60% girls) (40%Boys) of post-primary grades in Thatta district of Sindh. The geographic area is not only falls under the bottom three districts with respect to the lowest literacy rate and highest number of out-of-school children, but it is also disaster hit and climate challenges prone district. The ALP Middle Tech Program of SCI targets those children who completed their primary schooling but due to several reasons they were unable to continue their post-primary schooling and dropped out from formal education stream. Since Thatta district is particularly in a coastal region highly susceptible to climate and disaster risks, therefore SCI is using a non-formal education approach. An operational study is required to evaluate the effectiveness of ALC model in reducing child marriage and child labor along with the effectiveness of safe back to school model in bringing children back to school. Additionally, the operational study will contribute to assess the perception of community on importance of education and challenges and opportunities of including economic skills in elementary ALC model and impact of the skill training on the livelihoods of the children above 18 years.

Objective of the study:

The operational study is part of the detailed implementation plan where consultant is required to conduct considering the following objectives.

1. Assess the effectiveness of ALC model in reducing child marriages and child labor in the community.
2. Evaluate the perception of targeted communities on the importance of education.
3. Effectiveness of safe back to school model in bringing children back to school.
4. Inclusion of economic skills and its impact on the livelihood of children above the age of 18 years.

Scope of Work:

The proposed operational study will be conducted during the month of November 2024. The study will focus on education, protection and skill development of children above the age of 18 years.

The consultant will be responsible to perform the following tasks:

1. Develop a mix method methodology for the study.
2. Hold inception meeting with Tameer-e-Kalaq Foundation project staff following desk review of key relevant documents and understanding the project design and contextual framework.
3. Develop operational study tools for data collection of both qualitative and quantitative data for each age group (LFs, ALC students, Govt. stakeholders, VEC members, Parents).
4. Translation of all tools including consent/assent forms into local language or Urdu being the medium of exchange.
5. Get necessary field level approvals/NOC from relevant competent authorities to conduct the study.

6. Conduct data collection (through primary and secondary sources)
7. Analyze and synthesize data; and prepare report.
8. Submit data analysis and draft report for feedback.
9. Incorporate, compile, and submit final endline including post-KAP findings along with the data (hard & soft).

Deliverables:

1. **Study Framework and Research Design** – within one week of commencement.
2. **Data Collection Tools (structured questionnaires, focus group discussion guides, key informant interview guides)** – two week after acceptance of framework and research design.
3. **Field Data Collection (including documentation of interviews, focus group discussions, and field observations)** – within one week after review, translation pretesting, finalization of tools.
4. **Data Analysis Framework**
5. **Study related data in soft and hard copies.**
6. **Data Analysis Report** – two weeks after data collection process.
7. **Draft Study Report (including findings, challenges, and recommendations)** – two weeks after data analysis.
8. **Final Study Report (incorporating stakeholder feedback)** – two weeks after receiving feedback.

Timeline:

The assignment is expected to take **Mid if November** the start date, as per the following timeline:

- **Week 1:** Study Framework Design
- **Weeks 2:** Tool Development
- **Weeks 3:** Field Data Collection
- **Weeks 4:** Data Analysis
- **Weeks 5:** Draft Report Submission
- **Weeks 6:** Final Report Submission

Consultant Requirements:

Qualifications and Experience:

- Advanced degree in education, social sciences, development studies, or a related field.
- Minimum of 5 years of experience in conducting operational studies, program evaluations, or research studies, particularly in the education sector.
- Strong experience in non-formal education projects, especially in challenging environments (e.g., climate-affected or disaster-prone areas) and sound knowledge of Accelerated Learning Program - ALP.

- Demonstrated ability to design and implement both quantitative and qualitative research methods.
- Experience in community engagement and working with diverse stakeholders, including children, parents, and government officials.
- Excellent data analysis skills, with proficiency in software.
- Strong report writing skills in English and fluency in Sindhi.
- Familiarity with the local context of Thatta or similar districts in Sindh is highly desirable.

Key Competencies:

- Proven ability to work independently and meet deadlines.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills, with the ability to work effectively with a range of stakeholders.
- Culturally sensitive and able to adapt research methods to local realities.

Application Process:

Interested consultants should submit the following:

1. **Technical Proposal:** Outlining the proposed methodology, approach, and timeline.
2. **Financial Proposal:** Including all costs for conducting the study.
3. **Curriculum Vitae:** Detailing relevant experience and qualifications.

Submission Deadline: Proposals should be submitted no later than [closing date of Advertisement].

Contact Information:

For further information or to submit your proposal, please contact: