

National Campaign for Education Nepal

SABAL NAGARIK SAMAJ RA UTTARDAI SARKAR’ (Strengthen Civil Society and Accountable Government) 2020 - 2021

Terms of Reference for an External Evaluation Consultant

TERMS OF REFERENCE:	Terms of Reference for External Evaluation of the EOL financed National Campaign for Education Project 2020-2021.
Title of the consultancy	“Evaluation of National Education Coalition Project 2020-2021”
Background Information	<p>The National Campaign for Education Nepal (NCE Nepal) is implementing EOL financed project 2020 -2021 on education advocacy with the aim of ensuring that the public national education systems become stronger in producing equality and gender transformative quality education for all, including for marginalized groups. This project provides support to the civil society organization working in rights to education to enable them to exist and participate with a coordinated voice in education policy discussions to defend the right to education for all and particularly for the marginalized groups. The also support the strengthening of the national education coalitions’ capacities and skills to participate effectively and meaningfully in evidence based and policy-relevant discussions.</p> <p>Overall Theory of Change is that the Nepal’s public education systems will improve if civil society organisations participate in policy setting arenas and discussions and advocate in favour of marginalized groups’ right to quality education; particularly if the civil society organisations are strong actors with good governance, technical and advocacy skills acquired through diverse learning strategies; and are capable of collecting and using evidence on the education situation of marginalized groups and in participating in the multi-level monitoring efforts so as to ensure accountability in education.</p> <p>The project is designed taking educational, political, social, economic and legal aspects into account especially to contribute towards a well governed public education system that ensures access to inclusive quality education for all with strong civil society engagement that has links from local to national level. Specifically, it intends to;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthened effective engagement of CSOs at local, province and federal level to monitor and contribute towards the realisation of the government’s commitments to SDG 4 and the overall rights to education,

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Ensure that local, provincial and federal Policies (Act, Laws, by-laws, guidelines) are formulated, aligned and implemented to guarantee the right to education as enshrined in the Constitution. 3. Ensure increased accountability of government in financing inclusive and quality public education for all and ensure the effective use (sensitivity) of the budget to improve access to quality education of marginalized communities (PWDs, dalits, vulnerable, girls) and progressively realise quality public education that will prepare the Nepali people for the emerging world of work and life. 4. Broaden advocacy and outreach through evidence based policy advocacy on quality, equity, financing and reformation of education system through networking, partnership and coalition mobilization. <p>This project also incorporates the human rights-based approach and aligns to the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG4 on quality education, School Sector Development Plan (SSDP) in Nepal and other plans and policies of local, province and federal governments.</p>
Purpose and objectives of the consultancy	<p>The purpose of the consultancy is to evaluate the EOL financed National Education Coalition project (2020-2021).</p> <p>The specific objectives are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Compile information to document and/or confirm to what extent project outcomes and objectives are achieved (including change in the education policy formulation, implementation and monitoring; and effect on cross-cutting themes such as gender and inclusivity) and/or reported to EOL; in order to evaluate the project's effectiveness and efficiency; in addition to evaluate its relevance in the national context (for marginalized groups' interests/rights and in relation to national policies/priorities) and ability to adapt as well as the sustainability of the results achieved. 2) Compile information about lessons learned, good practices and successful innovations through the systematization of information, analysis and evaluation of the project, in order to orient NCE Nepal for improving future project strategic planning and adaptation, particularly in relation to promote policy changes aimed at ensuring equality generating and transformative quality education for marginalized groups. 3) Make recommendations on how to improve the strategic orientation and implementation of future NCE Nepal's future project(s). <p>The evaluation is carried out during the October – December, 2021. The primary users of the evaluation are National Campaign for Education Nepal, its member organizations, District Coordination Committees and EOL Regional Management Unit.</p> <p>The secondary users of the evaluation are stakeholders, such as Oxfam IBIS, GCE and its regional coalitions, etc.</p>

Scope of the Evaluation	<p>The evaluation should concentrate on project strategies and activities and carried out in the period from January 2020 to end of December 2021.</p> <p>The evaluation will integrate human rights approach, gender equality perspective, disability inclusion and other non-discrimination issues as a cross-cutting concern throughout its methodology and all deliverables, including the final report.</p> <p>The evaluation should pay special attention to how the intervention is relevant for the national development strategy, particularly in relation to the implementation of SDG 4; the national education sector plan (SSDP); and GPE support program in the country.</p>
Evaluation criteria and questions	<p>The project will be evaluated in relation to its relevance and validity of the design; effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability.</p> <p>Some of the questions that the evaluation should seek to answer are the following:</p> <p>Relevance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To which extent has the project been relevant for the stakeholders in the national political and socio-economic context? - To which extent has the project been aligned to EOL OC1 objective and outcomes, established in the EOL Global Results Framework? - To which extent has the project been relevant in relation to the GPE supported education sector plan (SSDP) in the country? - To what extent has the project taken into account the needs/rights/interests of marginalized groups i.e. in relation to reducing inequality? - To what extent did the project strategy integrate the human rights- and gender perspective and to what extent did it succeed in operationalizing it? - Has the project been adapted during its implementation and in which aspects? <p>Validity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To which extent was the project design logical and coherent? <p>Effectiveness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To which extent has the project achieved its expected outcomes and agreed original or updated outputs? - What are the gaps and differences noted and what are the justifications? - What are the underlying factors beyond the control of the project that have influenced its performance? - To what extent the project contributed to policy advocacy (based on analysis of evidences of NCE Nepal's engagement in the LEG, policy forums at local, provincial and federal level, Civil Society forums or any relevant platforms)? <p>Efficiency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To which extent the project resources (financial, expertise and time) were used in an efficient manner and used to produce results?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Was the project designed to be cost efficient (budget expenditure vs results?) - To which extent the project identified possible risks? Were these risks adequately identified and mitigated? Effectiveness of management arrangements: - To which extent did the management capacities and arrangements put in place support the achievement of the results? <p>Impact and sustainability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the evolution between the situation at baseline and at endline? - What are the expected and unexpected positive and negative effects produced by the project? How did these changes come about? - To which extent did the project contributed to produce broader, long-term, sustainable development changes at NEC level? - And if so, whether the changes have been durable or replicated? - To which extent did the project contribute to increase civil society organizations capacities (their own or their membership)? <p>Cross-cutting areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To which extent were gender equality and human rights-based approach incorporated in the project proposal design? - To which extent did different marginalized groups benefit - in different ways - from the intervention? - To which extent did the intervention succeed in involving both women and men, rights holders, and duty bearers, especially the most vulnerable? - To which extent project implementation mainstreamed a non-discrimination principle? - How do you assess the support provided by Regional Secretariat/Global Campaign for Education and how it can be improved and impactful? <p>Lessons learned and adaptations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which were the lessons learned from the project implementation experience? • How did the strategy work? Or how did it not work? • Why did the strategy work? Or why did the NEC strategy not work? • Were any lessons learned during implementation used to adapt the project? • Has the quality of partnership (with stakeholders) been balanced or has there been a relationship of subordination? • Knowledge about the national education eco-system / landscape and strategic positioning of NCE Nepal. • Overview of engagement with key stakeholders and clear knowledge about government priorities and commitment to the national education agenda.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts and plan towards reaching out and remaining connected with sub-groups and alliances. • Some objective assessment of the carrying capacity (scale and magnitude of involvement) of NCE Nepal and how the engagement is contributing towards making them competent and sustainable. <p>The assessment/evaluation criteria and questions can be changed and should be further elaborated by the external consultant, but fundamental changes should be agreed between NCE Nepal and the external consultant.</p>
Cross-cutting issues / Issues of special interest	<p>The consultancy must apply the following approaches in the analysis: the results-based management approach, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and learning; adaptive management approach; the human rights-based approach as well as cross-cutting concerns for gender equality, disability inclusion and concern for non-discrimination for all groups of people. In relation to this, there should be the consideration in terms of policy changes if any as well as the NCE Nepal's strategies aligned to an equality generating and human rights-based approach as well as to the SDG-agenda;</p>
Methodology	<p>The details of the methodology will be elaborated by the external evaluator on the basis of the present Terms of Reference (ToR) and documented in the inception report.</p> <p>For the design of the methodology, it is recommended to use a combination of qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods; and involving various analysis methods; carry out triangulation of data, using different data collection methods, types of data and stakeholder perspectives; utilize the human rights- and gender perspective approach in the analysis as well as equity lens in the analysis; ensure that there is a clear logical link between the data collected and analyzed and the conclusion and recommendations presented; data analysis and interpretation well communicated through accessible language and useful visuals (diagrams, graphs, tables as needed).</p> <p>The methodology could include the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read relevant NCE Nepal's documents such as projects and narrative reports; Technical Progress Reports and other documents. - Participate in a Virtual meeting with representatives from NCE Nepal and EOL Regional Management Unit (RMU), GCE and ASPBAE in case of necessity. - Elaborate semi-structured interview guidelines for interviews with separate interviews or focus group discussions with NCE Nepal, its members, RMU, GCE/ASPBAE, Local Education Group members, national authorities and other stakeholders; - Compile information through interviews, focus groups, surveys; analyze and draft a preliminary report. - Present the preliminary findings to the NCE Nepal in order to receive feedback. - Incorporate factual corrections and relevant information. - Elaborate the final report including executive summary and annexes as per the Index given below. - Present the conclusions and recommendations to the NEC, RC and RMU (and eventually stakeholders).

	-The methodology will need to take into account health protocols related to Covid-19	
Duration and period	The duration of the consultancy is maximum three months starting from December, 2021 – February, 2022	
Main deliverables and payments	<p>The consultancy has 3 deliverables.</p> <p>The total amount to be paid to the external consultant is negotiable based on the experience and expertise of consultant. Payment will be made as per the financial policy of NCE Nepal</p>	
	Deliverables (written in English language).	Delivery dates
	1. Inception report that contains the precise methodology and workplan for the evaluation.	2 weeks after contract signature
	2. Evaluation Draft Report (written in English, French, Spanish or Portuguese)	8 weeks after contract signature
	<p>3. Evaluation Final Report (written in English, French, Spanish or Portuguese), included an executive summary of maximum 5 pages.</p> <p>The evaluation report shall have this obligatory sections included below:</p> <p>Index:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cover page 2. Acknowledgement 3. Table of Content 4. List of tables, list of annexes, 5. List of acronyms, 6. Summary (max. 5 pages) 7. NCE Nepal's introduction (short description of NCE Nepal) 8. NCE Nepal - Project intervention and theory of change 9. Objective of the evaluation 10. Scope and methodology of the evaluation and limitation of the evaluation 11. Literature review: assessment of achievement based on available reports 12. Results of the evaluation: (results on relevance, results on effectiveness, results on efficiency, results on the impact, results in relation to sustainability, results on cross-cutting issues) 	12 weeks after contract signature

	13. Analysis and discussion 14. Lessons learned, good practices, case studies 15. Conclusion 16. Recommendations 17. References 18. Annex: photos, 19. Annex: list of participants in the discussion 20. Annex: verification materials 21. Annex: data base (excel PART B) The text (point 7 – 16 included) can MAXIMUM be 50 pages long including annex.	
Orientation and supervision of consultancy.	This consultant will receive technical orientation about the project from the NCE Nepal. The NCE Nepal provides overall supervision of the consultancy. The consultant(s) will be responsible for logistics, communication as well as for the administration of all tools such as questionnaires, focus groups, etc.	
Management Arrangements and work plan	The consultant should have the following skills/experience/qualifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hold a University Degree in international development, education, social sciences, economy, political science or monitoring and evaluation. - Have minimum 5 years' experience in working in international development programs. - At least 3-4 years experiences of conducting project evaluation related to international development cooperation. - Be qualified as evaluator of development projects in the social area with expertise in applying human rights based approach and gender perspective. - Have experience in working in different national development contexts and/or at regional/global level - Technical knowledge to development of social policies, preferably education policies. - Knowledge to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. - Excellent writing skills in English (demonstration of writing skill is required with submission of previous reports) - Availability in December 2021-February 2022 	
Legal and ethical matters	The consultancy and its products should comply with NCE Nepal and its partner's Code of conducts and standards, General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR-rules), international established ethical guidelines and "no conflict of interest" statements. The evaluator will be independent and impartial; will produce useful and credible information and recommendations for the established users; carry of the evaluation action plan in a transparent way and comply with international established ethical guidelines for evaluations. The principal	

	<p>consultant and his / her team must comply with and respect the rights of the interviewees by guaranteeing them confidentiality and security.</p> <p>The consultant should declare Conflict of Interest in writing to NCE Nepal.</p>
Submission of Proposal	<p>Technical and financial proposals of a maximum of 10 pages (annexes not included) must include the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Technical proposal integrating the understanding of the TORs and the methodology proposed to carry out the evaluation. -Composition of the team with a detailed CV of each team member and the roles of each in carrying out the assessment. -Detailed budget -At least two extracts (3-5 pages) of evaluation reports carried out for similar missions; -Date of submission of proposal: no later than 30/10/2021