Terms of Reference

Qualitative Researcher for

Situation Analysis on Comprehensive Sexuality Education in Secondary Schools in Malawi

Summary

UNESCO seeks the services of a local consultant to conduct qualitative research for a nationwide situation analysis on the state of comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in Malawi, with a focus on secondary schools and public tertiary institutions. The consultant will work with and support the lead consultant One South LLC. The situation analysis aims to enhance the quality of CSE by informing UNESCO’s O³ Programme.

Background

In March 2018, UNESCO Regional Office of Southern Africa launched a project titled ‘Our Rights, Our lives, Our Future’ which seeks to improve sexual and reproductive health (SRH), gender and education outcomes for adolescents and young people in the Sub-Saharan Africa region through sustained reductions in new HIV/STI infections, early and unintended pregnancy and gender-based violence. The project will support delivery of good quality comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) that empowers adolescents and young people, and builds agency while developing the skills, knowledge, attitudes and competencies required for preventing HIV, reducing early and unintended pregnancies and eliminating gender based violence. This project will build on the achievements of the first phase of the SiDA project, strengthening sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention amongst children and young people through promoting comprehensive sexuality education in Eastern and Southern Africa. The project has four main objectives designed to contribute to the effective strengthening of sexuality education programmes:

a) Secure and sustain strong political commitment and support for adolescents and young people’s access to comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health services across Sub-Saharan Africa.

b) Support the delivery of accurate, rights-based and good quality comprehensive sexuality education programmes that provide knowledge, values and skills essential for safer behaviours, reduced adolescent pregnancy, and gender equality

c) Ensure that schools and community environments are safer, healthier and inclusive for all young people

d) Strengthen the evidence base on CSE and safer school environments

The programme follows a 3-tier system with programme acceleration countries at the top followed by focus countries and then networking countries. This 3-tier system will allow countries to learn from each other as they work towards national coverage. Institutionalizing the CSE programs will ensure governments provide domestic funding and contribute to fully scaled-up CSE interventions.
UNESCO is currently supporting Malawi’s Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to implement the Our Rights, Our Lives, Our Future (O3) Programme. The O3 Programme is a regional endeavour which commenced in 2018, and it supports delivery of good quality comprehensive sexuality education that empowers adolescents and young people and builds agency, while developing the skills, knowledge, attitudes, and competencies required for preventing HIV, reducing early and unintended pregnancies, and eliminating gender-based violence.

Malawi became a programme acceleration country in 2019. With additional support from the Norwegian government, the programme will reach 3.7 million learners in 3,685,545 in primary and 140,660 in secondary schools. It will train 2,210 pre-service teachers, and 8,968 in-service teachers and reach 1.5 million people (parents, guardians, religious leaders and young people out of school) through community engagement activities.

1. Situational analysis of Comprehensive Sexuality Education Malawi in Secondary Schools and Public Tertiary Institutions in Malawi

As this phase of the project intends to scale up by working with secondary schools in Malawi, this study will analyse the state of CSE in secondary schools as well as in universities where secondary school teacher education takes place. CSE-elements aiming at behaviour change are included in the subject of Life Skills Education (LSE) as well as in Social and Development. In addition, the subject of biology includes knowledge-based CSE-elements. The evidence generated will better inform programming on CSE/LSE initiatives.

The situation analysis will inform UNESCO’s programming as it identifies gaps and barriers to deliver CSE in secondary schools. In this regard, the team is recruiting for a national consultant with significant experience in qualitative research and with a background working in sexuality education within Malawi’s education sector.

UNESCO, in partnership with One South LLC, is seeking to recruit a local consultant to support the situational analysis on the status of LSE delivery in secondary schools and in teacher education in Malawi. The consultant will work with One South LLC, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and will report directly to UNESCO staff in-country and at the UNESCO Regional Office in Harare.

2. Scope of Work

UNESCO seeks the services of a local consultant to conduct the following tasks for the situational analysis:

1. Translating qualitative research tools into Chichewa;
2. Scheduling and conducting 30 qualitative sessions (focus group discussions, interviews, and other participatory sessions) in line with the research design set out by the One South team;
   a. Recruiting participants for sessions;
   b. Following research ethics and child protection guidelines set out by UNESCO and One South;
   c. Recording all qualitative sessions and providing audio recordings to transcription team;
   d. Coordinating transcriber team;
3. Completing consent and debriefing forms for each qualitative session conducted;
4. Compiling all transcripts, debriefing forms, and audio files provided to One South team;
5. Completing a context report and reflection exercise following template and guidance provided by One South;

The local consultant will also be required to attend team meetings and follow research design plans to high fidelity. She/he will also coordinate logistical planning for international consultant’s country visit. The One South team will provide all sampling plans and field protocols to be followed.

3. Deliverables

The deliverables for this consultancy shall be the following:

1. Translated qualitative tools;
2. Qualitative research plan (including schedule and recruitment plan for sessions)
3. 30 audio recordings, transcripts, and debriefing forms for all sessions specified in sampling design and the following regional distribution and sampling requirements;
4. Draft context and reflection report following template provided;

4. Timeline and duration

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<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Translated qualitative research tools</td>
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<td>2. Qualitative research plan</td>
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<td>4. 30 audio recordings, transcripts, and complete debriefing forms</td>
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<td>5. Draft context and reflection report</td>
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5. Profile of candidate

The candidate is expected to have the following qualifications and skills;

- Advanced academic degree in a related field (in Anthropology, Education, Social Sciences, Nursing, Public Health, Psychology, Gender Studies, Community Health, Humanities, Statistics, or related fields;)
- Significant experience conducting qualitative research in the education sector within Malawi
- Experience working in comprehensive sexuality education, gender or SRHR;
- Experience interviewing senior level stakeholders within government;
- Experience conducting research with children;
- Report writing skills;
- Excellent communication and social skills;
- Fluency in English and Chichewa.
6. Reporting

The contract will be managed by the UNESCO Malawi Office in Lilongwe, Malawi and the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa in Harare, Zimbabwe.

7. Proposal Submission

Interested candidates should submit their CV, technical proposal and budget by 26th February, 2020 to vacancies.harare@unesco.org.