

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

Senior Education Consultant, Foundational Learning	
<b>CONTRACT MODALITY</b>	Individual Consultancy
<b>DUTY STATION</b>	UNICEF Office to the AU & ECA Office based- Addis Ababa - Ethiopia
<b>DURATION OF CONTRACT</b>	10 months & 18 days

### Purpose of Assignment

The Senior Education Consultant, Foundational Learning will serve as the project officer within the Department of Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation (ESTI) at the African Union Commission for the Gates Foundation grant project titled: “Education advocacy in Africa in partnership with UNICEF, the African Union Commission and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat. His/her function will be to provide advice and technical assistance to ESTI on the operationalization of foundational learning in Continental Education Strategy for Africa 2026-2035 (CESA 26-35) and support the effective investment of AU Member States in foundational literacy and numeracy, ultimately leading to improved learning outcomes, and a reduction of learning poverty.

His/Her responsibilities will be limited to the activities directly implemented by ESTI while ensuring alignment with broader AU priorities, statutory processes, and long-term sustainability consideration. The Consultant will work under the operational supervision of the Head of Education Division (ESTI), African Union Commission, with technical guidance from the UNICEF Representative to the African Union and UNECA.

### Scope of Work

Key functions, accountabilities, and related duties/tasks:

#### A- Support and advance implementation of education advocacy in Africa Project phase 2

1. Lead the organization of continental level advocacy events to advance Member States’ commitments to system reforms to improve foundational learning (e.g. preparation of concept notes, partner mobilization and meeting logistics)
2. Facilitate the documentation of good practices and lessons learned throughout the implementation phases and participate in peer learning platforms.
3. Prepare AU common positions, policy briefs and discussion papers on FLN for continental and global platforms to support advocacy efforts and elevate FLN as priority
4. Link ELPAf campaign activities to AU high-level platforms, including Ministerial meetings, and other relevant forums.

#### B- Lead implementation of the ELPAf Campaign

1. Prepare an expansion plan for the campaign to cover all 25 countries, with at least 10 national launches within the next 24 months.
2. Work with AUC and UNICEF Communication teams on the drafting and dissemination of communication materials in support of the ELPAf Campaign.
3. Mobilize additional resources (financial and technical) for the campaign through new partnership and support member states with innovative financing models.

**C- Provide technical support and guidance to MS on FLN**

1. Develop and implement a strategy to consolidate the ELPAf campaign and the subsequent reform commitments in countries that have already conducted national launches, including increased domestic financing, effective and efficacy in education expenditure.
2. Provide technical assistance to Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Member States for the development and operationalization of Foundational Learning Policies, including sustainable financing mechanisms.
3. Organize peer learning and capacity building events for AU member states on technical issues relating to Foundational learning (Webinars, Workshops, exchange visits etc.)

**D- Coordination and representation**

1. Support preparation of the CESA FLN subcommittee and represent ESTI as co-lead of the CESA FLN sub-cluster and work to mobilize Member States and education partners for the cluster activities.
2. Be part of the delegation to represent the AU in various FLN platforms and events on the continent and beyond, draft relevant report for implementation.
3. Prepare annual work plans and progress review meetings of the project in coordination with key project partners, including with minutes and summary notes.
4. Undertake any other assignment related to the education portfolio as deemed appropriate by the Head of Education Division, Department of Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation, AUC.

Work Assignments Overview	Deliverables/Outputs	Delivery deadline <b>(in weeks/months) and input days to complete the deliverable</b>
1. Annual Work planning	<p><b>Deliverable 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Induction report with a list of key partners including clarity on ways of working submitted to the HoD</li> <li>b) Detailed annual workplan endorsed by the ESTI Department</li> <li>c) List of 10 AU Member States for ELPAf phase 2 launch submitted to ESTI</li> </ul>	<p>By 30 April 2026</p> <p><b>Total number of days : 21</b></p>
2. Advocacy events	<p><b>Deliverable 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) 1 day meeting with Members of the PRC from the 25 Countries participating in the ELPAf Campaign planned and facilitated Output: Meeting report</li> <li>b) 1 Ministerial Dialogue side-event on Foundational learning during the 6th STC on education planned and facilitated. Output: Meeting report</li> <li>c) 1 High-level policy dialogue side-event on Foundational Learning during the ECD Conference Output: Meeting report</li> </ul>	<p>Click here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) 19 days of work (29 June 2026)</li> <li>b) 20 days of work (13 November 2026)</li> <li>c) 20 days of work (11 December 2026)</li> </ul> <p><b>Total number of days: 59</b></p>
3. Technical workshops	<p><b>Deliverable 3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Facilitate the 3rd Annual Technical FLN Conference (2-day conference) Output: Workshop report.</li> <li>b) 1 Regional workshop for the dissemination of The Report on Mapping Exemplar Good Practices in FLN in AU Member States planned and facilitated. Output: Workshop report.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) 30 days of work (16 September 2026)</li> <li>b) 22 days of work (16 October 2026)</li> </ul> <p><b>Total number of days: 52</b></p>

4. Coordination and partnerships building	<b>Deliverable 4</b>  a) ToR of the FLN CESA sub-cluster and the annual work plan and shared with partners b) Draft ELPAf Resource Mobilization strategy and plan submitted c) National ELPAf Campaign Report shared with AUC and Donor d) Submit Annual Report on FLN CESA Sub-Cluster activities submitted e) Submit Project Annual Report for review	a) 20 days of work (2 June 2026)  b) 25 working days (03 August 2026)  c) 10 days of work (25 December 2026) d) 20 days of work (26 January 2027)  e. 18 working day (19 February 2027)  <b>Total number of days: 94</b>
---	---	---

**Payment Schedule:**

Payment will be made on submission and acceptance of deliverables. UNICEF reserves the right to withhold payment in case the deliverables submitted are not up to the required standard or in case of delays in submitting the deliverables on the part of the consultant.

**Important Notes:**

- Individuals engaged under a consultancy or individual contract will not be considered “staff members” under the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and UNICEF’s policies and procedures and will not be entitled to benefits provided therein (such as leave entitlements and medical insurance coverage). Their conditions of service will be governed by their contract and the General Conditions of Contracts for the Services of Consultants and Individual Contractors. Consultants and individual contractors are responsible for determining their tax liabilities and for the payment of any taxes and/or duties, in accordance with local or other applicable laws.
- The selected candidate is solely responsible for ensuring that the health insurance (and visa if applicable) required to perform the duties of the contract are valid for the entire period of the contract. Selected candidates are subject to confirmation of fully-vaccinated status against SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) with a World Health Organization (WHO)-endorsed vaccine, which must be met prior to taking up the assignment. It does not apply to consultants who will work remotely and are not expected to work on or visit UNICEF premises, programme delivery locations or directly interact with communities UNICEF works with, nor to travel to perform functions for UNICEF for the duration of their consultancy contracts.
- UNICEF offers reasonable accommodation for consultants with disabilities. This may include, for example, accessible software, travel assistance for missions or personal attendants. We encourage you to disclose your disability during your application in case you need reasonable accommodation during the selection process and afterwards in your assignment.

**QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE / EXPERIENCE/ COMPETENCIES (CORE/TECHNICAL/FUNCTIONAL) / LANGUAGE SKILLS REQUIRED FOR THE ASSIGNMENT**

**Minimum requirements:**

- **Education:** Master's in Education, Economics, Social Sciences, or another relevant technical field.
- **Work Experience:**
- At least 8 years of experience working in Education Policy and Program planning at a continental context. A specialized expertise in Foundational learning is an added advantage.
- Working experience in international organizations in Africa. Prior experience working with the African Union or the UN is a considerable advantage.
- Demonstrated experience in project management and advocacy involving multiple actors
- Track records in scientific research in Education sector or another social science field especially in foundational learning in a great asset.