

<b>Title</b>	<b>SECTOR REVIEW SPECIALIST (CONSULTANT) FOR THE MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE EDUCATION AND SPORTS SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PLAN (ESDP) 2016-2020 IN LAO PDR</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	To provide support to the Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES) and its partners in the preparation and conduct of the Mid Term Review (MTR) of the Education and Sports Development Plan (ESDP) 2016-2020.
<b>Expected fee</b>	Individual Contract (P4 level)
<b>Location</b>	Vientiane
<b>Duration</b>	3.5 months
<b>Start Date</b>	1 August 2018
<b>Reporting to</b>	Education
<b>Budget Code</b>	SC149905 – Education Thematic Funds
<b>Related outcome/output</b>	<p><b>Outcome 2.</b> By 2021, children, especially most disadvantaged and in hard-to-reach areas, have access to quality early childhood and basic education services, and complete the basic education cycle with improved learning outcomes</p> <p>Output 2: By 2021, national and sub-national Government Ministries and other key stakeholders have improved capacity to implement and monitor inclusive, equitable and quality basic education services, focusing on early grades</p>
<b>Supervisor</b>	Takaho Fukami, Chief of Education

## 1. Background

The Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) in Lao PDR plans to undertake a Mid Term Review (MTR) of the current Education and Sports Development Plan (ESDP 2016-2020) in 2018. The MTR is a joint exercise by the MOES and its development partners (DPs) to take stock on progress, achievements and shortfalls in specific areas of the ESDP implementation. The review is expected to identify challenges, gaps and concerns, and agree on priorities to move forward in the second half of ESDP implementation. The review will also examine linkages between the policy priorities of the ESDP 2016-2020 to both the resolutions of the 10th National Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (2015).

It is recognised that the ESDP review process must be of high quality, transparent and relevant to the sector needs in order that difficult decisions concerning policy priorities can be openly discussed and consensus achieved on how to move forward. The ESDP MTR also seeks to improve the governance and functioning of its education system, especially sector capacity to implement and sustain reforms. Another priority is to improve equity in the provision of quality of education, especially gender, so that all students can acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for life and productive employment.

The outcomes of the mid-term review will lead to identification of key priority policy choices to achieve the maximum impact on the most serious constraints facing the sector and be based on a realistic assessment of available resources from both the Ministry and the development partners. Any adjustments in the ESDP scope and design will be on the basis of lessons learned

from implementation to date, also taking account of government policy changes, the financing envelope and implementation capacity. Preparation of the work for the review commenced in April 2018 and will continue until October 2018. On the basis of the final conclusions approved by MOES and with endorsement from the Education Sector Working Group (ESWG), the results of the MTR will be incorporated in the updated ESDP framework.

## **2. Justification**

The MTR of ESDP 2016-2020 is a priority of the Government of Lao PDR as well as the MoES. Per the MoES-UNICEF Rolling Workplan 2017-2018 as well as the upcoming MoES-EU-UNICEF partnership for the Complementary Support Programme, UNICEF is committed to providing technical and financial support to the MTR. For that purpose, it has been agreed with MoES and EU for UNICEF to support providing technical assistance in the areas of sector review and analysis by engaging an experienced international consultant.

## **3. Objectives**

The overall objective of the assignment is to provide technical support to the MoES and its partners in the preparation and conduct of the MTR of ESDP 2016-2020.

The specific objectives are to help conduct in-depth studies and analyses on ESDP sector-level implementation and performance (e.g., ESDP Part I), provide quality assurance and ensure timely production of the main ESDP MTR report and revision of ESDP. The consultant will support the work of the ESDP MTR Secretariat of MoES, and coordinate and complement the work of other consultants, including several in-country specialist international and national consultants. The consultant will work under the overall TOR of the MTR itself.

## **4. Scope of Work/ Work Assignments**

The consultant will support the ESDP MTR Secretariat of MoES in the following tasks:

- To review draft ESDP/MTR work plan, including roles of MoES staff and various TA;
- In conjunction with the Education Advisor, to review the reporting templates for central line departments and Provincial Education and Sports Services (PESSs);
- To conduct in-depth analysis of ESDP Part 1 sector performance and achievement
- To review ESDP Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), including sub-national and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- To ensure that key governance topics (e.g., decentralisation, teacher management, capacity development) are adequately addressed in ESDP/MTR findings and recommendations;
- To assist ESDP MTR Secretariat with organization and reporting of consultation meetings, including the final joint ESDP/MTR review mission;
- To coordinate inputs from each ESWG Focal Groups (FGs) and Technical Working Groups (TWGs) and in-country experts;
- To present recommendations on the revisions of the ESDP 2016-2020; and
- To take responsibility for drafting of all main reports from ESDP/MTR.

## 5. Deliverables and Timeframe

Key deliverables	Due by (latest)
1. Consultancy inception report, including assignment work plan, ESDP/MTR methodology, tools and reporting format	15 Aug 2018
2. Submission of ESDP MTR Draft 0 Report, validated by the ESDP/MTR Secretariat	31 Aug 2018
3. Submission of ESDP MTR Final Draft Report, validated by the ESDP/MTR Secretariat	30 Sept 2018
4. Submission of the Revised ESDP based on the ESDP MTR report, validated by the ESDP/MTR Secretariat	15 Oct 2018
5. Aide Memoire, Joint ESDP/MTR Review Mission, validated by the ESDP/MTR Secretariat	31 Oct 2018

The language for reporting will be English. The consultant will provide all reports to the ESDP/MTR Secretariat, with copies to the Co-Chairs of the ESWG and UNICEF.

## 6. Reporting requirements

For the management of this contract, the consultant will report to Chief of Education, UNICEF Lao PDR.

For the work of the specific tasks in this TOR, the consultant will report to the Head of the ESDP/MTR Secretariat of MoES and work in close coordination with MoES line departments. The consultants also will keep the Co-chairs of the ESWG and UNICEF informed on the ESDP/MTR progress.

## 7. Location and duration

The assignment will take place in Vientiane with a site visit to selected provinces and districts in Lao PDR to be agreed with ESDP/MTR Secretariat. The consultant will be based in the Planning Department of MoES.

The duration of the assignment is 3.5 months, from 1 August to 15 November 2018.

## 8. Qualifications or Specialized Knowledge/Experience Required

- Advanced University degree in Education, Social Sciences or a related field;
- At least 10 years' experience in education policy development, strategic planning and review at the sector level.
- Previous working experience in monitoring and evaluation.
- Previous working experience related to education governance and capacity development;
- Previous experience in education sector in South-East Asian countries, especially Lao PDR, would be an advantage;
- Proven ability to manage a team in a collegial style under tight timelines;
- Proven ability to build consensus among a broad range of stakeholders including development partners and government both from within and outside the sector; and

- Excellent inter-personal and written communication skills in English language, computer literate, and effective advocacy skills.

## **9. Administrative Issues**

The consultant will be stationed in MoES. The consultant will require to bring his/her own laptop computer.

## **10. Payment Schedule Linked to Deliverables**

The payments will be settled upon finalization and submission of the deliverables and clearance by MoES and UNICEF.

10% of payment upon finalization and submission of deliverable 1

40% of payment upon finalization and submission of deliverable 2-3

50% of payment upon finalization and submission of all the deliverables