CONCEPT NOTE FOR 2019 NATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK (NEW)

Theme:

Reforming the Education Sector for Effective Service Delivery:

Embracing Innovations

Including Annex: Evidence Summit

BACKGROUND

The Ministry holds the National Education Week (NEW) annually to engage stakeholders in the review of sector performance and collectively strategize towards the attainment of sector targets in the ensuing year. The 2018 NEW theme, "*reforming the education sector for effective service delivery"* focused on sector reform for effective service delivery. Accordingly, an overhaul of the legal and policy framework is currently being undertaken by the Ministry. This warrants more time to yield the desired results.

While the reforms are ongoing, the Ministry seeks to catalyse the process to the delivery of relevant and internationally competitive education for all Ghanaian children. To do this, the education system needs to be adaptive to innovations and new ways of functioning. Striving for innovative and adaptive education system is crucial to ensure improved learning outcomes.

Lessons from initiatives and innovations abound. This offers a rich source of knowledge and experience that the Ministry could adapt to leapfrog the challenges that currently confront the sector to improve service delivery and achieve learning goals in record time. Specifically, innovations sought cover the following: lesson delivery, pedagogy, data collection, sector management, accountability and financing. The Ministry considers building an education system that is receptive to and takes on board adaptive solutions as critical to the delivery of relevant and quality education. It is in this context that ***"Reforming the Education System for Effective Service Delivery: Embracing Innovations"*** has been chosen as theme for NEW 2019.

Innovation as a concept for the NEW focuses on creative methodologies for delivering better solutions to the challenges that confronts the sector and hinder the attainment of the learning goals. To improve the usage of innovative solutions, and become more adaptable in its approaches, the sector needs to identify efficiency and equity gaps that negatively affect learning outcomes and allow innovative solutions to address these across sector.

GOALS OF NEW 2019

The overarching goal of NEW 2019 is to discuss and agree on how the sector can better embrace innovations and identify adaptive solutions to deliver quality education. In order to discuss best practices and evidence to contextualise it with the Ghana education system, NEW will create a platform to have engagement with relevant stakeholders. The NEW 2019 brings together a wide-ranging group of stakeholders with the aim to:

- review the sector performance over the past year;

- to engage and inform stakeholders of emerging practices and innovations to service delivery;
- how the sector can improve performance by embracing innovation in delivering quality education; and
- make recommendations on best practices to be adapted by the Ministry

STRUCTURE OF NEW 2019

The NEW 2019 will be a 4-day event from **August 6th -9th** with activities prescribed for each day. These daily events are as follows:

Day 1: Annual review of the Education Sector

The NEW will kick off with the annual sector review presented by the Ministry and its agencies, to discuss progress made over the past year, identify gaps in effective service delivery and set agenda for evidence day and technical group discussions. In addition, the Ministry will showcase its achievements against key government priorities to sector stakeholders. This allows space for an objective assessment of sector performance and also initiate discussions towards formulating policies and initiatives.

Day 2: Evidence Day/Summit

The Evidence Day of NEW provides the platform to disseminate research findings, discuss innovative and best practices on what works, and to draw out lessons for evidence informed policy and education planning. Papers will be presented, linked to this year's NEW theme, across the sub-sectors of education from early grade to tertiary level. This will assist policy makers and sector practitioners with evidence to inform planning and policy implementation towards achieving improved service delivery in the education sector.

Day 3: Technical Group Discussions

Taking the learnings from the previous day's discussions, the presented evidence and best practices will be discussed aiming at addressing the identified gaps in effective service delivery. The discussions will be formed around four sub-themes for each relevant education level. Each sub-theme will have individual terms of reference with specific expected outputs, which will then inform the way forward for each area of the NEW.

Sub-themes/technical discussions:

To ensure the relevance of NEW, the week will be structured around the seven ESP themes. Basic, Secondary, TVET and Tertiary Education will constitute individual themes for discussion. Non-formal, Inclusive and Special Education and Education Management will be cross-cutting themes.

The review, evidence and technical discussions will be held on four different education levels (basic, secondary, TVET and Tertiary) through the lens of innovations. Each level will have the following sub-themes to discuss:

- Innovative financing
- Innovative teaching and learning practices
- Implementation at scale
- Innovative accountability measures

Day 4: Plenary and Business Meeting

The day will start with the technical groups presenting their outputs and discussions from day 3 in a plenary session.

The day will continue with the business day. In the presence of the Ministry, GES and Donor Partners, the second half of the day will be utilised to discuss the various recommendations made by the technical groups. The recommendations will be assessed and aligned with the priorities of the Ministry.

PARTICIPANTS

The invitee list of participants will include officials from the Ministry of Education, officials from GES HQ, GES regional directors and selected district directors, heads of schools along with select officials from the Ministry's Agencies, representatives from other key Ministries, Donor Partners, Academia, teacher unions, NGOs and the Private sector.

Ministry of Education
REPUBLIC OF GHANA

NATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK

REFORMING THE EDUCATION SECTOR FOR EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY: EMBRACING INNOVATIONS

Evidence Summit 2019
August 7, 2019

INTRODUCTION

Improving education sector performance is a key policy priority for the Government of Ghana, and the Ministry of Education is currently undergoing a sector reform towards achieving effectiveness in education services delivery. To ensure that well-intentioned policy goals translate into improved learning outcomes, decision-makers are eager to: (1) learn about interventions and innovative practices that have proven to work; and (2) use such evidence and innovative solutions to improve planning and education services delivery.

The Evidence Summit, *which forms part of the* ***National Education Week (NEW),*** *will bring together policymakers, researchers and practitioners to: a) share rigorous evidence that has been collected about innovative approaches to improve learning outcomes, in Ghana and internationally; and b) identify ways in which evidence can be used to drive the implementation of priority reforms, and facilitate better decision-making processes.*

BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Education holds the National Education Week (NEW) annually to engage stakeholders in the review of sector performance and collectively strategize towards the attainment of sector targets in the ensuing year. The theme for NEW 2019 focuses on ***reforming the education sector for effective service delivery: embracing innovations.***

The education system needs to be adaptive and responsive to proven and innovative ways of functioning. Innovative lessons from rigorous research abound, and this offers a rich source of knowledge and experience that the Ministry could adopt to leapfrog the challenges that currently confront the sector. Striving for an innovative and adaptive education system is crucial to ensuring effective service delivery—and ultimately, improved learning outcomes for children.

To improve the use of innovative solutions, and become more adaptive in its approaches, there is a need to adopt the culture of evidence informed policy-making to influence sector review and planning processes.

Ministry of Education
REPUBLIC OF GHANA

EVIDENCE SUMMIT

The Evidence Day of NEW provides a platform to discuss best practices and to draw out lessons for policy and education planning. Papers will be presented, linked to this year's NEW theme, across the sub-sectors of education from early grade to tertiary level. This will assist the policymakers and sector practitioners with evidence to inform reform, planning and policy implementation for improved service delivery.

SUMMIT STRUCTURE AND GOALS

The evidence summit aims to:

- **Share results of high-quality research** on what works in education from researchers and academics doing work in Ghana and internationally.
- **Engage and inform stakeholders** of emerging practices and innovations to improve education services delivery and attain quality education.
- Translate evidence into action by highlighting **policy recommendations** to inform the technical discussions and planning process during the NEW.

CALL FOR PAPERS

A Call for Papers is being made to solicit an array of research work being carried out across the country and internationally. A Censor Panel of three members from MoE/GES, academia, and IPA will convene to review the submissions and select high-quality studies whose lessons can inform the sector planning processes.

Papers to be presented will be on Basic Education (including early childhood education), Secondary Education, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), Tertiary Education, and Planning and Management.

Papers can be submitted at **https://forms.gle/Nib2AmmUynu6GJy99**.

THE SUMMIT WILL BE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING **CROSS-CUTTING THEMES:**

- Innovative financing
- Innovative teaching and learning practices
- Implementation at scale
- Innovative accountability measures

THE RESEARCH AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION INCLUDE:

- Early grade education
- Languages in education
- Science and mathematics education
- Technical and vocational education
- Teacher education and development
- Curriculum development and implementation (pedagogy)
  Leadership, supervision, accountability and community involvement

Ministry of Education
REPUBLIC OF GHANA

PARTICIPANTS

Proposed participants for the summit will be drawn from across the education sector as follows:

