1. Background Introduction

Country background

Somalia’s GDP and living standards are among the lowest in the world. According to the World Bank, Somalia ranks amongst the poorest countries in the world, with a per Capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimated at USD 288. 43.2% of the population live on less than US$ 1/day (53.4% in rural areas); 73.4% live on less than US$ 2/day. Somalia’s economy traditionally depends on the exploitation of natural resources, mainly livestock and agriculture. Recurrent droughts, often followed by floods, severely affect people’s livelihoods. Economic growth is slowly expanding beyond Mogadishu, which has been recovering since al-Shabaab retreated to rural areas in 2011.

A Population Estimation Survey for Somalia that was conducted between October 2013 and March 2014 puts Somalia population at 12.3 million. Somalia’s central government lacks the ability to administer taxes or provide basic services effectively. Little effective fiscal policy exists, although some duties and taxes are collected. Most government expenditures are financed through aid. Recent estimates show relative improvement in some social indicators but the scores remain well below average. The last time Somalia was included in the UNDP Human Development Index (2001), it was ranked 161 out of 163 countries – a position that has since not been reviewed.

Institutional shortcomings, including challenges related to the rule of law, severely impede any meaningful and sustained economic activity. A functioning formal labor market is nearly absent, and much of the labor force is employed in the informal sector. Despite the weak institutional governance, the informal agricultural, financial, and telecommunications sectors have prospered without subsidies. Diaspora contributions have played a central role in Somalia’s economy with an estimated one third of these contributions used for household survival, the rest destined to private investments, which have boosted private sector resilience.

Levels of development vary widely between urban, rural and nomadic areas, between males and females, and between different regions of Somalia. In North-West and North-East Somalia (Somaliland and Puntland) local authorities have been able to establish a system of acceptable governance and security allowing more medium to long-term rehabilitation and development interventions over the last decade. In South Central Somalia, security and access related constraints have led to emergency-oriented interventions over the last two decades.

2. Current Situation in the Education Sector

The Education Sector Strategic Plan (2018-2020) is now in place in Somalia. The ESSP express a call for expanded education opportunities for the hard to reach, particularly girls and women, greater ownership, and better coordination across donor-funded investments. The ESSP has formed the basis for alignment and coordination of partner support to the education sector. Management systems continue to be established in Somalia, just as efforts to gather data and move towards information-based decision-making are being continued. The Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) developed the ESSP through a consultative and participatory process, with the leadership of the Federal Government, and the Education Sectoral Partners. The Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP 2018-2020) is guided by the National Development Plan, The Education Act, and key education documents, and it outlines the following thematic areas: Fragility and Education in
Emergency; Early Childhood Care and Education (ECE); Primary Education; Secondary Education; Alternative Basic Education (ABE); Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET); Cross-cutting issues - Enhance the organizational capacity of the MOECHE to manage/regulate the education sector, Develop learning materials based on approved national curriculum framework; Attain equity and parity in educational system for girls, Strengthen in-service teacher training systems for all subsectors, Establish a system-wide monitoring and supervision system, establish system-wide use of EMIS data, Support decentralization of education service delivery, and Higher Education, and Financial Plan and Domestic Financing; the Monitoring Plan, and the Risks and Mitigation Measures.

Progress made on the sector plans is set to be assessed and reported upon through separate Annual Joint Reviews of the Education Sector (JRES) workshops involving the Federal Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education (MoECHE), State level Ministries of Education from Southwest, Jubbaland, Galmudug and Hirshabelle, development partners, civil society and the private sector in Somalia. JRES, as part of the sector-wide monitoring mechanism in the country, will also address the fragmented and uncoordinated monitoring efforts.

3. Objectives and Purpose of JRES

The Federal Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education (MoECHE) will hire an external consultant to facilitate the JRES exercise. The consultant will work with the MoECHE and education partners, to assess performance of the sector in the past one year. The JRES exercise will culminate in a JRES workshop which will provide an opportunity to the MoECHE and partners to convene and jointly analyze the sector, drawing upon the assessments and the results.

The key objective of the JRES exercise is to review performance of the sector against the ESSP targets and government policy documents. Specific objectives include:

- To assess the overall implementation of sector targets and verify achievements against established ESSP indicators.
- Identify unmet targets/variances, lessons learned and recommendations that could be integrated in the action plan for the coming year.
- To examine budget execution of the sector and to engage in discussions on sector investment needs.;
- To review level of coordination of various actors in the education sector
- To follow up on recommendations of the previous JRES to develop an Aide Memoire that captures sector review preparations - including field visits -, discussions, key findings and recommendations.

This consultancy of which this contract will be a part, is aimed towards contributing to the enhancement of the capacity education sector by supporting the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoECHE) in Somalia in leading and coordinating a fourth Joint Review of the Education Sector (JRES), leading to the institutionalization of annual Joint Reviews of the Education Sector.

4. Methodology

JRES will principally be a consultative process involving major stakeholders and the members of the Education Coordination Committee, the Federal Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education (MoECHE) as well as extensive consultation with State level MoEs in Jubbaland, Southwest, Hirshabelle and Galmudug. The main focus of the field visits will be to assess the progress on key areas of ESDP sub sectors. The key areas of focus based on the ESSP would be:

i. Primary Education Sector (including Early Child Education)
ii. Secondary Education
iii. Primary Teacher Education and Training
iv. Formal Education and Technical and Vocational Education and Training
v. Special Needs Education
vi. Alternative Basic Education (ABE)
vii. Fragility and Education in Emergency (EiE)

Additional cross cutting areas to explore will be progress made on: Enhancement of the organizational capacity of the MOECHE to manage/regulate the education sector, Development of learning materials based on approved national curriculum framework; Attainment of equity and parity in educational system for girls, Strengthening of in-service teacher training systems for all subsectors, Establishment of a system-wide monitoring and supervision system, establishment of system-wide use of EMIS data, Supporting of decentralization of education service delivery, and Higher Education, and Financial Plan and Domestic Financing; the Monitoring Plan, and the Risks and Mitigation Measures.

5. Description of the assignment
The Federal MoECHE and State level MoEs working closely with the consultant will assess performance of the education sector and ESSP. The purpose of this assignment is to provide technical input to the JRES in Somalia, to facilitate discussions on key issues that have arisen in the education sector within the last year, and, subsequently, update an Education Action Plan 2019 based on the ESSP. The consultant is expected to draft an Aide Memoire that identifies priority actions and milestones to address performance issues in the coming year.

6. Geographical area to be covered
South Central Regions of Somalia consisting of: Banadir, Jubbaland, HirShabelle, Southwest and Galmudug. The Consultant will also make reference to the Puntland JRES process and outcome.

7. Target Groups
The JRES process will involve the MoECHE, including its decentralized structures, development partners, civil society organizations, the private sector and school communities. The process should be consultative involving all major stakeholders of the education sector in Somalia. The Review will be coordinated by the MoECHE in collaboration with the Education Sector Committee.

8. Specific work
The consultant in close coordination with the MOECHE and relevant stakeholders will be responsible for the design and facilitation of the JRES as well as the development/updating of the Education Action Plan 2019 (including the financial and costing plan as well as the monitoring and evaluation framework), and an Aide Memoire. The consultant will oversee the whole process while working in close partnership with the Federal MoECHE, State level MoEs, the Education Sector Committee and development partners.

Specific tasks to be implemented include:

a) Desk Review

The consultant will support Federal MOECHE to undertake a technical and financial review of the ESSP to gauge the level of implementation for the past year while also identifying gaps, priority actions and milestones for the coming year. In addition, all existing relevant project documents, reports, studies, evaluations and legislation will be reviewed in cooperation with the target MoECHE and development partners.

b) Consultative Meetings
Federal MoECHE will take a lead role in the consultations. The consultant will meet and discuss with officials from the federal MoECHE, State level MoEs, the education partners, and other relevant stakeholders to gain further insight into the education sector, in general, and critical issues, in particular.

c) Action Plan Review

The consultant in close coordination with the federal MOECHE, State level MoEs and partners will ascertain the level of implementation of the action plan. This will be collaborated through field visits. In this regard, the consultant will prepare a sectoral report reflecting progress on the key indicators in each sector, reporting on implementation of the 2017 action plan and an assessment of the findings, financial reporting and follow up of the recommendations of the 2017 JRES.

d) Synthesis /Sectoral Report

The consultant in close coordination with the federal MOECHE and State level MoEs will provide a sectoral/synthesis report and a PowerPoint presentation covering an overview of the current state of the education sector in Somalia in relation to the Education Sector Strategic Plan, based on data and statistics, documents, field visits and meetings. The synthesis report will include data analysis, graphs and charts, as well as a narrative portion. The synthesis report will be circulated a few days prior to the JRES and provide the basis for discussions during the JRES workshop. A Power Point of the report will be presented at the JRES workshop.

e) Joint Sector Review Workshops

The consultant will assist the Federal MoECHE and State level MoEs to plan for and implement a two day JRES workshop in mid June 2019 in Mogadishu, Somalia. The workshop will be an analytical and collaborative process that will provide a platform for education stakeholders to review the education sector, as well as the implementation of the ESSP, including forward planning. A ToR of the JRES will be developed and distributed to the ESC for input. An Agenda for the JRES will be sent to ESC before JRES.

f) Education Action Plan 2019

The consultant will develop an Education Action Plan for 2019, ensuring that the activities proposed in the plan will incorporate priorities and key strategies, and be in line with the ESSP 2018-2020. The consultant will work closely with the Federal and State Ministries of Education, Culture and Higher Education and partners to prepare a financial plan as well as a monitoring and evaluation framework for the Education Action Plan for 2019.

g) Aide Memoire

The consultant will provide a report on all stages of the Joint Review of the Education Sector, on issues raised, key findings and recommendations.

9. Qualification and experience requirement

- A Degree in education or related social sciences;
• At least eight years of relevant experience, mostly in supporting education sector and experience in education sector planning, review and evaluation is highly preferred asset;
• Excellent command of the English and Somali languages with demonstrated analytical and report writing skills, presentation and facilitation skills;
• Ability to work in difficult environments; previous experience of working in Somalia and specifically in the Somali education sector is a must;
• Specific knowledge of the education sector in Somalia;
• Availability and commitment to complete the assignment within strict deadlines.

The assignment is expected to start 6th May 2019 and end around 20th June 2019.