



CONSULTANT SERVICES

EDUCATION

Introduction

The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is a U.S. Government corporation whose mission is to provide assistance that will support economic growth and poverty reduction in carefully selected countries that demonstrate a commitment to just and democratic governance, economic freedom, and investments in their citizenry. For more information on the MCC, please visit www.mcc.gov.

Scope

MCC seeks the services of experienced education consultants to assist it in conducting technical due diligence of such projects or activities and/or assisting client countries in further developing or refining projects proposed for assistance. Once a project has been approved and a funding commitment extended, further assistance may be requested from one or more consultants in monitoring project implementation and/or to periodically review and evaluate project sustainability, performance and impacts.

Tasks

The consultant's assignments may include the following:

- Assist in performing due diligence of projects
- Coordinate with the relevant government agencies, civil society, private sector, donors and Project Management Unit staffs to facilitate activity oversight operations and implementation.
- Conduct in-country assessments related to implementation of Compact education activities, building on the work that has already been conducted during the development and early implementation phases.
- Participate in Education technical meetings, project portfolio reviews and Education monthly staff meetings, providing document reviews and recommendation for clearances by Projects Leads, as requested and appropriate.
- Evaluate progress of education projects, project activities, and sub-activities, identify constraints to successful implementation, and recommend appropriate courses of action.
- Provide technical advice, recommendations and inputs, as requested, in support of the Education Team's oversight of activities, contributing information and analyses that can inform effective implementation of education activities and facilitate specific actions and operations.
- Provide detailed and comprehensive written reports on progress of project activities, and sub-activities to the MCC Education, Health and Community Development Director, MCC Education team and Resident Country Director (RCD) who will transmit to MCA and other MCC staff as appropriate.
- Make verbal presentations to MCC Washington on project progress as needed.

- Review, assess and edit technical documents as appropriate.
- Review and recommend clearances to the Education Director on quarterly financial, procurement and technical reports submitted for education projects
- Conduct in-country assessments.
- As needed, propose and, if requested, develop and deliver training programs to improve performance of MCA managers and education implementing agencies.
- Provide advice about lessons learned and potential improvements in proposed implementation that will facilitate MCC/MCA operations.
- Provide technical input in support of Education Director Education and Country RCD.
- Provide written reports in the format and by the schedule required by MCC and its Implementation Support Teams for periodic reports and other specified tasks.
- Communicate and coordinate regularly with in-country teams, and local institutions, government entities, and other relevant parties, with copy to appropriate MCC staff.
- Contribute to analysis, budgeting, and research that may inform MCC/MCA operations with respect to specific Compact education activities.
- Engage in discourse with the Director Education/RCD as needed to fulfill scope and specific task.
- Review and comment on MCC/MCA Statements of Work (SOWs) and Technical Specifications for procurements of education good and services.
- Monitor technical, social, economic, and financial aspects and impacts of education Compact activities in Namibia; assess progress against approved work plans, disbursement plans, monitoring and evaluation plans, Compact or work plan Conditions Precedents, and overall sustainability priorities; and identify any technical or management problems that may arise, proposing and facilitating resolution.
- Assist MCC with activity sequencing, procurement and disbursement planning, annual work planning, resolution of monitoring and evaluation data collection issues if/as needed, and deployment of sustainability measures throughout the implementation of Compact education activities.
- Assist MCC with the review and comments on draft deliverables of MCA-issued contracts and supply written comments to MCC and MCA with observations and recommendations.
- Provide background, analysis, and recommendations for MCC/MCA senior management use at meetings, external events, and other forums, as requested.

Period and Place of Performance

This consultancy maybe filled as a short or long term consultancy with a base period of twelve months with up to four twelve month option years.

The consultant will work from its home office and/or MCC headquarters or any MCC eligible country.

Subcontracting

The consultant is authorized to subcontract data collection, data preparation, economic analysis, and related services as needed. The overall costs for subcontracting shall not exceed 25% of the consultant's total negotiated unloaded direct labor cost.

Evaluation Criteria

- 1) Minimum of 10 years of demonstrated success in the following areas:
 - Assessing the condition of educational systems in developing countries and prioritizing the interventions that are most urgently needed;
 - Gathering and assessing evidence of constraints in developing countries' educational systems and estimating the economic and social costs;
 - Assessing the various channels by which education-related interventions could create additional value added, employment opportunities, better incomes and contribute to poverty reduction;
 - Drawing upon past government and/or donor-community experiences related to education programs in developing countries to determine the most appropriate plan forward;
 - Preparing related program design documents, terms of reference, procurements and budgets;
 - Identifying implementation risks and appropriate mitigation measures;
 - Supporting the governments of developing countries, or institutions in those countries, to undertake education policy reforms;
 - Supporting the governments of developing countries, or institutions in those countries, to plan, implement and evaluate education programs;
 - Collaborating actively in the field with other project consultants, donors, NGOs, communities and intended beneficiaries;
 - Assessing private-sector demand for skilled human resources, including conducting labor market surveys/analyses and creation of public-private partnerships for educational provision;
 - Improving access by vulnerable, marginalized groups to educational facilities and programs;
 - Supporting improved management, administration, resource utilization and financing of education programs in developing and transitional countries;
 - Developing innovative delivery of educational and training programs, including the use of media and digital information and communication technologies for distance learning; and
 - Monitoring and evaluation of education programs in using rigorous impact evaluation methodologies.
- 2) Skilled in performing project analysis and appraisal
- 3) Ability to identify the essential risks and issues
- 4) Ability to brief high-level U.S. and foreign government officials
- 5) International experience, especially in developing or transitional countries, is highly desirable;
- 6) Language skills (French, Spanish, and/or Arabic) is highly desirable

Other requirements:

International travel may be required. The Consultant may be requested to mobilize on a short notice and will be expected to deliver high quality finished products in a timely manner.

How to Apply

Please include the following in your application to recruitment@mcc.gov with Education in the subject:

- 1) Cover Letter addressing evaluation criteria

- 2) Resume
- 3) Three professional references

This announcement will be open and continuous.

Your application will be on file for six months after the announcement closes or six months from the date you applied to an open and continuous announcement.

Applications are reviewed every three months.

If selected for an assignment, you will receive an email notification from MCCs Office of Contracts and Grants Management

THIS ANNOUNCEMENT IS FOR AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR TO PERFORM CONSULTANCY SERVICES AND IS NOT FOR INDIVIDUALS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT DIRECTLY WITH MCC. PLEASE VISIT: <http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/index.html> FOR INFORMATION REGARDING INDEPENDENCE CONTRACTORS.