

Independent Final Evaluation of the Partnership for Child Development EFA DGF Program

Background and Terms of Reference for Recruitment of an Independent External Consultant

Background and Programme Objectives

Established in 1992, Partnership for Child Development (PCD) is a global consortium of civil society organisations, academic institutions and technical experts with a Coordinating Centre based at Imperial College, London. PCD is committed to improving the education, health and nutrition of school-age children and youth in low income countries to develop policies, implement plans and establish support networks for school health and nutrition, HIV/AIDS and OVC programmes. The early work of PCD focused on research, particularly operations research, and then moved to provide technical input into operational design and implementation.

PCD's goal of improving the education, health and nutrition status of school-age children is integral to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were adopted by all 189 United Nations member states in 2000, and endorsed by virtually all multilateral and bilateral partner agencies. It is also directly supportive of the "Education for All" (EFA) initiative and the follow-on EFA-Fast Track Initiative. The work of PCD is also relevant to ongoing international advocacy for school health interventions, launched by major multilateral development agencies (including the World Bank), most notably: "Focusing Resources on Effective School Health" (FRESH), which supports inexpensive and effective school health interventions, and a UNAIDS Inter-Agency Task Team Working Group (IATT WG), which supports a more proactive and accelerated involvement of the education sector in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The specific objectives of the programme have been:

- 1) To strengthen the evidence base: Leading to the promotion of good practice of cross-sectoral school health and nutrition (SHN) programmes.
- 2) To strengthen the capacity of education sectors in low and middle income countries: Leading to the development of policies and plans for cross-sectoral programmes in SHN, Early Child Development, HIV education and support for orphans and vulnerable children.
- 3) To improve, collect, share and disseminate information and knowledge: Leading to the promotion of evidence for cross-sectoral SHN programmes.
- 4) To strengthen global, national, regional and local partnerships: Leading to facilitating consensus and supporting effective programme coordination and implementation.

PCD has been receiving grant from the World Bank through the Development Grant Facility (DGF) since 2002 and has conducted programme in 62 countries globally under these objectives. PCD is exiting the DGF programme on June 2014 and a final evaluation that covers the entire grant period is required.

Purpose and Objectives of the Evaluation

The evaluation shall assess the quality of the main outputs and outcomes of the programme, taking into account the relevant trends and conditions for achieving the EFA goals and should answer the question on the programme's performance with respect to the agreed objectives.

Scope of the Evaluation

The evaluation shall cover the entire grant period starting from July 1 2002 to the June 2014 and shall assess an appropriate sample of all the activities undertaken during this period.

The findings of the evaluation shall be used by the World Bank to assess the results of the programme to:

- relevance, efficiency and effectiveness as well as shape the features of the programme towards improvements for a possible second phase, and
- demonstrate the programme's achievements and challenges as well as identify areas to be covered in order to better secure its sustainability.
- Identify lessons learned, define how the programme would evolve after exit from DGF (i.e. become an independent mechanism, continue in some other form and shape or end).
- Identify Bank's role after exit from DGF (if the programme continues to exist, would the Bank be involved in some way?)

Evaluation Steering Committee (ESC)

Oversight for the evaluation will be provided by an Evaluation Steering Committee (ESC) composed of representatives from Imperial College, PCD Board members and the World Bank. The role of the ESC is to commission the evaluation, approve the evaluation terms of reference, select the evaluator (ideally using competitive methods), comment and review the draft report and, approve the final evaluation report.

Evaluation Criteria and Guiding Questions

The evaluation should elaborate on the indicative guiding questions presented below and generate corresponding findings and final recommendations:

1) Relevance

- Are the programme objectives still relevant for addressing current school health and nutrition (SHN) needs?
- To what extent are the priority activities appropriate for achieving the national SHN objectives?
- Is the geographic coverage of the programme consistent with the objectives of the programme?
- To what extent are the programme activities and objectives relevant for informing national policies?
- To what extent are the objectives and activities relevant in addressing the SHN needs in the various country contexts?
- To what extent are the programme's objectives consistent with the goals of the main partners including the World Bank and the EFA goals?

2) Efficiency

- How did the expenditures measure up against the expenditure plan? What were the reasons for deviations, if any?
- Have the outputs been delivered in a timely manner?
- Could the activities and outputs have been delivered with fewer resources, without reducing their quality and quantity?
- Has PCD achieved value for money through the various programme activities?
- How have partnerships been engaged to achieve programme goals?
- Have additional resources been leveraged to achieve programme goals?

3) Effectiveness

- What progress has the programme made towards achieving the expected results in advancing SHN?
- What factors (internal and external to PCD) have been influencing the achievement or non-achievement of these results and objectives?
- What outputs have been produced and what has been their quality?
- Which activities were the most/least effective in contributing to the programme's objectives, and why?
- To what extent does the programme have an effective monitoring and reporting framework?
- What impact has been seen at the country level?

4) Governance and Management

- To what extent do governance and management practices within PCD comply with the principles of good governance, accountability, fairness, transparency and efficiency?
- To what extent are the voices of developing countries and technical experts being effectively sought and contributing to efficient decision-making?
- What review processes are put in place to ensure outputs are of high quality?

5) Sustainability

- What measures or mechanisms have been put in place to ensure that the benefits arising from these activities will be sustained in the future once the programme's activities have been completed?
- What are the respective roles of the program and its global/regional partners in achieving and sustaining the expected outcomes of the program?
- To what extent have complementary activities of regional partners been aligned and critical in achieving and sustaining the expected outcomes of the programme?
- To what extent have the institutional structures, policies, protocols, and work plans promoted and advocated by the program been incorporated into countrywide strategies, national plans of action and budgets?
- To what extent is there evidence of country-level commitment (both institutional and financial) and ownership to the programme's goals?
- To what extent have knowledge-sharing and capacity building tools been successfully developed and used for networking and broad dissemination?

Scope of Work

1) Activities

The consultant's activities should include, but not be limited to:

- Analysis should be based on desk studies Desk study of all pertinent documents including the reports of the networks, their websites, conference

programmes/proceedings and documents that were published in the context of the programme

- Interviews of PCD Board members, key partners, programme beneficiaries including country representatives, participants of seminars, courses and workshops from all participating countries, focal point representatives of at least three countries and other sources of relevant information
- Undertake at least one field visit to conduct these interviews with the programme beneficiaries and the other partners.
- Conduct Online surveys where relevant

The consultant shall present the basic methodology he/she intends to use in their proposals. The quality of the methodology will be object of a significant part of the selection criteria.

2) Deliverables

Deliverable 1: An inception report which contains the results chain or logic model of the programme drawn from the desk study, an evaluation design and a list of reviewed documents. The evaluation design should contain the proposed data collection methods and data sources to be used for answering each evaluation question. The plan should also contain a timeline and key deadlines;

Deliverable 2: Draft evaluation report;

Deliverable 3: Review of the draft evaluation report by the ESC

Deliverable 4: Final evaluation report of no more than 60 pages excluding annexes which should be structured as follows:

- Executive Summary
- Programme Description
- Evaluation purpose
- Evaluation methodology
- Findings
- Lessons learnt
- Recommendations
- Annexes (including interview list, data collection instruments, key documents consulted, Terms of Reference)

3) Indicative Timeframe

The evaluation is expected to start April 2014 with an initial planning and inception phase followed by desk review, consultations, interviews and assessments. A draft report of the findings and recommendations should be provided to the ESC by mid-August 2014. The final evaluation report should be delivered to the ESC by November 2014 for their final approval.

Activity	Date
Targeted start of Contract	April, 2014
Inception Report	May 1 st 2014
Submission of Draft Evaluation Report	August 2014
Consultation meeting to review the draft Report by ESC	September 2014

Validation meeting to present the final findings and recommendations to the ESC for their approval	October- November, 2014
Submission of the final evaluation report	November, 2014

Qualifications and Selection Criteria

The evaluation consultant should demonstrate the following criteria:

- a) Advanced university degrees in the education, health, public policy or related field
- b) In-depth understanding and extensive knowledge of issues pertaining to quality assurance in education, in particular in developing countries
- c) A strong record of international work in support of education and /or development with at least 10 years of professional experience in programme or project evaluation of relevance to policy making
- d) Extensive knowledge of and more than 10 years' experience in applying qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods
- d) Excellent data analysis skills
- e) Oral and writing skills in English to the highest standards
- f) In country experience with the education sector in developing countries is highly desirable

Additional Requirements:

The candidate is expected to submit two examples of evaluation reports recently completed, if possible relevant to the subject of the evaluation.

4) Conditions for the Evaluation

Responsibilities of the Evaluator/Consultant

- Inform the ESC in timely fashion of all contacts made with other constituents
- Treat documents in a confidential manner
- Ask for permission before giving any information on the evaluation to third parties
- Report on a timely basis any possible conflicts of interest

Responsibilities of the ESC

- Provide key documents including reports from previous evaluations
- Provide contact information and facilitate contacts with stakeholders
- Provide documents (outputs) and other related comprehensive information as appropriate
- Facilitate contact with the programme beneficiaries, key partners and other stakeholders in the respective regions when required
- Ensure availability to cooperate with the consultant
- Ensure independence of the evaluation