

SCOPE OF WORK

For evaluating project “*Creating equal opportunities in education for ethnic minority children*”

1. Background

The project "*Creating equal opportunities in education for ethnic minority children*" is sponsored by James Gaskell, an individual donor. The project is implemented in two districts in the high mountainous area of Vietnam: Van Chan district in Yen Bai province and Dien Bien Dong district in Dien Bien province. Van Chan district is one of the poorest districts of Yen Bai province, with ethnic minorities forming 67% of the population. Dien Bien Dong is categorized by the government as one of the 61 poorest districts in Vietnam (out of more than 500 districts in Vietnam) and it is categorized as a priority for both government and donor support. The poverty rate within the district exceeds 50%, with ethnic minorities forming more than 95% of the population.

The project works mainly with the communities of the H'mong, Dao, Thai and Lao ethnic minority groups whose children face significant challenges in accessing a good quality education due to language barriers.

Children cannot learn if they do not understand the language of their teacher or their textbooks. James Gaskell project addresses the language and cultural barriers that ethnic minority children face in accessing learning in the formal government school system through a combination of employing local teaching assistants who speak the children's mother tongue and producing learning materials. The combination of teaching assistants that speak the children's first language and the availability of culturally and linguistically appropriate reading and teaching materials ensures that children master literacy in their mother tongue which provides the foundation for the acquisition of literacy in Vietnamese as a second language.

The primary goal of the project is to make ethnic minority children across Vietnam have access to quality basic education and improved learning outcomes as a result of education being provided in both their mother tongue and the Vietnamese language.

In order to assess the project impact and inform the future intervention, Save the Children would like to hire an experienced national consultant to conduct the end-line evaluation. The design, methodology, sampling, and management of the end-line will be similar to those in the baseline. The end-line will compare children's learning outcomes of grade 1 children in project schools (with and without TA) and compare with 2 comparison schools; learning outcomes of grade 1 and grade 3 children in project schools, using final examination results. Besides, we also compare learning outcomes of grade 3, who have most benefit from the project, with learning outcomes of grade 3 children 3 years ago without any support from the project, using Save the Children's Assessment of reading and math skills. In addition, the survey will analyze changes in teaching/learning practice and teaching/learning environment in the classroom in comparison with the baseline. The survey also explores changes among children in terms of holistic development, especially personality and psychological development besides the learning outcomes; the attitude of parents and community on using mother tongue in their children's learning; and perspective of education management board on bilingual approach and the possibility to scale up.

The end-line employs both quantitative and qualitative research methods, and use both primary and secondary data sources, making use of existing information where it is deemed reliable. Some information will be collected from all project sites but, to maximize resources, data that is more difficult to collect can be collected from a sample of schools/communes.

2. Objectives of the Consultancy

The project will conduct end-line evaluation in April 2016 to assess what the project have achieved against its objectives and analyze the impacts it has brought about to the beneficiaries of two locations, Dien Bien Dong and Van Chan districts.

The primary objective of this consultancy is to design and carry out the end-line survey together with Save the Children staff. The end-line will cover the following areas:

- *Children's learning outcomes*, including:
 - Grade 1 learning outcomes: reading skills and mathematics competencies, basing on school final year examination results.

- Grade 3 learning outcomes: reading skills (accuracy, fluency, and comprehension) and mathematics competency – conduct by survey team as well as using the school final examination results.
- *Classroom practices*, including the use of second language teaching methodology and bilingual teaching method, the use of teaching assistants, the use of contextualized teaching and learning materials, the active participation of children in the classroom between classes with and without teaching assistants
- *Perspectives and perceptions* of different stakeholders on *bilingual education approach and the benefits* that the project has brought about to children’s learning and children’s development, especially children, communities, and teachers.

3. Consultant’s responsibilities:

The consultant will implement following activities, but not limited:

- Study related documents and work with Save the Children staff to finalize tools for the evaluation, including reading and mathematics tests, questionnaires for interviews, and classroom observation checklists;
- Participate the process of collecting information in the project areas, work directly with partners, key stakeholders, and project’s beneficiaries in the field;
- Analyze and synthesize findings of the endline survey;
- Compare results in baseline survey with endline survey, analyze secondary source on children’s learning outcomes as requested by HQ technical team;
- Finalize all the analysis and write the evaluation report for the project, including recommendations and possibility of replication;
- Present key findings and recommendation of the report in Final Workshop.

4. Expected Deliverables/outputs:

- The Consultant is expected to submit a full evaluation report that highlights the findings and recommendations. The study is written in English language;
- The consultant is expected to have presentation on the findings and recommendation in the Final Workshop. The presentation is in Vietnamese language.

5. Duration/Timeframe:

The evaluation to be conducted in April 2016.

The mission will commence in 25 March 2016 and end in 30 June 2016. The duration of the assignment is up to 45 working days during late-March to June 2016 (including travelling days). Tentative timeline is as follows:

Activity	Estimated number of working days	Timeline
Develop and finalize methodology, report design, tools and detailed work plan.	5 days	March 25 – March 30
Field assessment in Van Chan district, Yen Bai province	3 days	4-8 April 2016
Data analysis (including endline, comparison with baseline and secondary data)	13 days	May 2016
First draft submitted to Save the Children	15 days	May - June 2016
Final Report to send to Save the Children	7 days	June 2016
Presentation in Final Workshop	2 days	10 June 2016
Total	45 days	

6. Reporting line <Commissioning Manager>:

The Consultant reports directly to the Project Manager and might report to project officer as required.

7. Consultant's Qualifications:

- Post-graduate degree in Education, development and/or related fields;
- Strong understanding of ethnic cultures, languages and education in ethnic minority communities in Vietnam;
- Proven experience regarding bilingual education and learning assessment in primary education.
- Extensive experience in conducting study/ research on bilingual education programme, especially project effectiveness' evaluation, impact assessment, to provide strategic recommendations for continued support/development of programming/strategies;
- Able to work with Technical Team of Save the Children UK during the data analysis and report writing
- Demonstrated analytical, communication and report writing skills;
- Good experience and knowledge in development issues;
- Excellent interviewing, public speaking at high levels;
- Fluency in written and spoken English

8. Total Estimated cost, Budget & resources:

The total estimated cost including 45 days

Funding source: 7040046 – 82600919 – 1109325 and 109335

9. Other conditions

Payment 1 time after complete the consultancy

10. Submission:

10.1. Documents:

- CV

- Proposal for work plan & methods to measure the change in ethnic minority children's learning outcomes when they benefit from bilingual education program

10.2. Deadline: 17 p.m, 23th March 2016.

Prepared by	Verified by Line Manager	Approval by Thematic Focal point person/ Technical Expert
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