

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TEST ITEMS FOR SEACMEQ ASSESSMENTS

UNESCO is seeking services of consultants to support the Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality (SEACMEQ) in preparations for the fifth project planned for the period 2018-2021. SEACMEQ will engage a team of consultants for a period of three months over one year to support the SEACMEQ Coordinating Centre and National Research Teams in developing test items for SEACMEQ V Project.

The first working meeting for the National Research Coordinators and the SEACMEQ Research Committee was held from 8-12 October 2018 in Johannesburg South Africa. During this meeting, all participating countries agreed that the development of test items and related capacity building should be outsourced to ensure adherence to the highest standard of research methodology during the implementation of SEACMEQ V Project.

SEACMEQ V Project aims to:

1. Study the achievement levels of Primary Grade 6 Pupil in Reading (Language of Instruction), Mathematics, and Health Knowledge
2. Study the difference in achievement levels with regards to location, gender, socio economic group, and management of schools
3. Study the effect of variables like home, school and teacher characteristics on pupils' achievement levels

ABOUT THE ASSIGNMENT

Duties

Under the direct supervision of Director SEACMEQ Coordinating Centre and the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa, the consultants will carry out the following activities associated with SEACMEQ V test item development:

1. Develop a work plan
2. Review the Table of Specification (Test Blueprint) and SEACMEQ Taxonomy
3. Undertake cross national syllabus content analysis (Mathematics, Reading (English) and Health)
4. Develop two parallel Mathematics Tests (Multiple Choice) for Grade 6 pupils and their teachers:
 - a. Pupil tests: at least 50 items each
 - b. Teacher tests: at least 50 items each
 - c. The tests for Pupils and Teachers should overlap
5. Develop two parallel Reading (English) Tests (Multiple Choice) for Grade 6 pupils and their teachers:
 - a. Pupil tests: at least 60 items each
 - b. Teacher tests: at least 60 items each
 - c. The tests for Pupils and Teachers should overlap

6. Develop two parallel Health Knowledge Tests for Grade 6 Pupils and their Teachers: at least 100 items each (Multiple Choice)
7. Perform the skills audit for all test items
8. Provide capacity building for National Research Coordinators (skills transfer)

Deliverables

1. Draft work plan
2. Report on the Table of Specification (Test Blueprint) and SEACMEQ Taxonomy
3. Cross National Syllabus content map (Mathematics, Reading and Health)
4. Draft Mathematics Test Items
5. Draft Reading (English) Test Items
6. Draft Health Knowledge Test Items
7. Draft skills audit report
8. Trained National Research Coordinators

Timeframe

The work will commence on 1 January 2019 and be completed by 31 December 2019.

First draft test items (Maths, Reading (English), and Health) to be submitted by 15 February 2019.

Second draft test items (Maths, Reading (English), and Health) to be submitted by 15 April 2019.

Final draft test items (Maths, Reading (English), and Health) to be submitted by 15 August 2019.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

1. Team Leader:
 - a. A minimum of a PHD in Educational Measurement (Psychometrics), Research and Evaluation or equivalent
 - b. At least 5 years' experience of large scale assessments of education systems
2. Other team members must be experts in the following areas:
 - a. Curriculum development and evaluation (Primary education level)
 - b. Diagnostic assessments at Primary Education level
 - c. Test Item writing for primary education level
3. All team members should also have excellent writing skills, and knowledge of education systems in SEACMEQ participating countries will be considered as an added advantage.

Interested teams of consultants are requested to submit a brief expression of interest (no more than 6 pages) with a work plan for Test Development (Item writing), an estimated budget; relevant experience; CVs for team members, and two referees to vacancies.harare@unesco.org cc Masalila, Toziba Masalilat@mopipi.ub.bw

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE

The closing date for applications is 28 December, 2018 (Midnight – Central African Time).