

TERMS OF REFERENCE

SURINAME BASIC EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 1521/OC-SU

Support the Establishment of a New Basic Education Cycle

I. BACKGROUND

In the past years Suriname has, inspired by the bottlenecks and problems experienced with education and also in the light of international and regional developments and commitments, taken many actions to transform the entire educational system.

In this respect many sector-wide studies and analysis of education have been performed that were partly funded by different donors.

Also MINOV started in 2001 with a national mobilization process in order to consult the stakeholders in the education sector to lay the foundation for the realization of a short, medium and long term educational policy with a scope of 15 – 20 years.

A five year Education Sector Plan was derived from all the studies, analysis, sector plan and other documents.

To achieve some of the objectives as mentioned in the educational policy documents, the Government and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) signed the loan contract 1521/OC-SU “Basic Education Improvement Program (BEIP)” on March, 31 2004. This project aims at improved quality and increased efficiency of the basic education system by updating the educational contents and processes, providing inputs to schools and supporting institutional reforms to strengthen MINOV and build-up management capacities at the school level.

The main objectives of component I of this project, “Support the establishment of a Revised Basic Education Cycle”, are to increase the quality and efficiency of the basic education system.

The activities of this component started in 2004 with the preparation of new teaching materials and the installation of the Curriculum Task Force (CTF).

Some new books for primary education are already printed and distributed to the schools, teachers trained in the use of the new books and stakeholders are informed during workshops and meetings.

For component I, a Task Manager is appointed by MINOV to manage all activities related to this component but considering the scope and complexity of this component, strengthening of the PCU with more specialists is required.

II. CONSULTANCY OBJECTIVES

The objective of this consultancy is:

To provide support to the efficient implementation of Component 1 – revised basic Education Cycle by providing day-to-day technical and operational assistance to the Curriculum Development Task Manager.

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III. ACTIVITIES

The consultancy will conduct the following activities, among others

(i) Review and analysis of the Literature: The consultant shall review all Literature and other documents generated from the two years of consultation on changing the basic education cycle: The consultant shall review, inter alia, (i) report from the Curriculum Task Force (August, 2005); (ii) reports from the in-house consultations (In-house Consultaties met betrekking tot Hervormingen Basisonderwijs Eindrapport, Bendt Training & Consultancy) (iii) reports from the workshops conducted in November 2005; (iv) Sectorplan Onderwijs 2004-2008, November 2004; (v) Surinaams Educatief Plan- SEP, December 2002). (vi) The report on the road map for the implementation of the new basic education cycle (vii) Operation Manual (viii) National Curriculum (Nationaal Leerplan) for primary education

(ii) Action Plan: The consultant shall prepare a detailed action plan for the execution of all activities from component I. This plan should be consistent with activities within other project components and activities scheduled and/or carried out by other donor organizations or MINOV. The consultant shall present this plan to the Program Coordinator and MINOV for formal approval.

(iii) Define Requirements and Conditions for Successful Implementation: Identify and advice on the required conditions to implement Component I of the project according to the approved detailed action plan The consultant shall define the human resources, financial resources and all other required input. Special attention should be given to means to create a motivational environment for the involved MINOV personnel.

(iv) Coordinate the final stages of the exploration study to design the overall framework of the new curriculum: The consultant shall prepare, plan and evaluate required study tours. The consultant shall also work closely with the social marketing consultant to process feedback from stakeholders and adjust the proposal for the new structure for basic education.

(v) Revamp the Curriculum Task Force (CTF) and support the CTF in the first proposal for an overall curriculum framework.

Define the new curriculum based upon different aspects such as real integration of pre-primary within the new basic education cycle, upgrading of goals, content and pedagogy; inclusion of certain subjects; broadening of separate subjects in broader learning areas; adjustment and optimization of learning materials et cetera.

The consultant shall have regular consultation about the draft with a wider group of stakeholders.

(vi) Coordinate the development of the Curriculum through the set up of curriculum working groups.

(vii) Coordinate the implementation of the new basic education cycle by setting up a number of Pilot Schools Sites to experiment with drafted plans and materials.

The consultant shall make systematic efforts for sharing the pilot experiences and outcomes with relevant professional partners.

(viii) Guide the reform of the existing examination and tracking system.

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- (ix) Act as liaison for the consultant in charge of the reorganization of the management of primary and secondary schools.
- (x) Define requirements for new textbooks and teaching materials and provide input to the PCU for the preparation and printing process.
- (xi) Coordinate the training of 5.000 teachers and MINOV officials in the new curriculum contents, in the use of the new or adjusted material, guides and textbooks and in the new assessment approach.
- (xii) Coordinate the activities of the international consultant for the design and implementation of the multi grade approach for Basic Education for the interior.

IV. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- (i) The current primary and junior secondary cycles are transformed into a one 9 or 10 year basic education cycle
- (ii) The actual curriculum is updated to consolidate the change to a 9 or 10 year basic education cycle.
- (iii) All basic education teachers are trained in the new curriculum and the changes of the system.
- (iv) Textbooks and teaching materials are available for all students.
- (v). New pre-service and in-service teacher training systems are implemented.
- (vi) A multi-grade model for the interior schools is implemented.

V. EXPECTED REPORTS

The consultant is expected to deliver the following products:

- (i) The action plan for the implementation of component I shall be submitted to MINOV and the Bank for no-objection within 4 weeks after start.
- (ii) Monthly reports. The monthly status reports must include at least detailed information on the activities over the previous month, adjusted detail planning for the next three months and if appropriate, implications for the overall action plan or the road map.
- (iii) In general all reports as mentioned in the action plan or as required by the Program Coordinator.
- (iv) A final report within one month after the end of the contract.

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VI. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CONSULTANCY

- (i) Type of consultancy: Full time individual consultant.
- (ii) Counterparts: Task Manager of the Curriculum Development component and the Program Coordinator.
- (iii) Starting date and duration:(1 year)
- (iv) Place of work: The office of the Task Manager in Paramaribo, Suriname.

VII. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS OF THE CONSULTANT

At least a Masters degree in Curriculum Development.

Eight years or more experience in curriculum development and strategic education policy in general and eight years working experience within the education sector in Suriname.

Major experience in management of complex projects and the use of automated Project Management tools.

Knowledge of the IDB procedures will be an asset. The consultant must be fluent in Dutch and English.

Ability to work within a team, flexibility, analytic ability; willing to get training and to transfer knowledge and experience to others.

VIII. COORDINATION

The consultant will report to the Program Coordinator. The consultant will work closely with the Task Manager Curriculum Development, the consultant in charge of the Road Map, the consultant in charge of social marketing and the PCU Project Team and will have the Task Manager as primary contact within the PCU.

The Task Manager for this activity is the Head of the Curriculum Development Department. The MINOV departments Curriculum Development and Bureau of Examination will also be actively involved in all the activities and will have specific responsibilities related to this consultancy.