Terms of Reference

Team Leader for Scoping What Works Hub for Global Education (WWHGE) priorities in Nepal

January 2025

**About British Council**

The British Council is the UK’s international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We create friendly knowledge and understanding between the people of the UK and other countries. Through our arts, education and English programmes, we give opportunities to hundreds of millions of people worldwide each year. We are on the ground in six continents and over 100 countries. The British Council has been operating in Nepal since 1959.

The British Council’s education work is far-reaching and covers nearly all 110+ countries in which we do business. Our education programmes, which are core to our charitable purpose, are built to give people opportunities, make connections to the UK and ultimately engender trust. The British Council believes that by delivering education programmes that are mutually beneficial to the UK and other countries, we will create more understanding and links between people, making a brighter future for all of us.

Education priorities for British Council Nepal are guided by the Nepal Government’s National Education Policy 2019, School Education Sector Plan (SESP) priorities, and strategic priorities of the British Council.

**About What Works Hub for Global Education**

The What Works Hub for Global Education is an international partnership working out how to implement education reforms at scale, with the ultimate goal of increasing literacy and numeracy. The WWHGE aims to improve how evidence is communicated and used at all levels of government and at all stages of the delivery cycle, supporting evidence-based and cost-effective education policies that improve learning for all.

Strategic partners include UK government’s Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) – the primary funder, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, World Bank, USAID, UNICEF, UNESCO-IIEP, the Learning Generation Initiative, the British Council, the Jacobs Foundation and the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford.

The What Works Hub for Global Education mainly works under following pillars:

**Pillar 1**: Help **make the best existing evidence clear and available** to governments so they can use it immediately.

**Pillar 2**: Support **governments’ use of evidence for bold reform** through embedded evidence labs, and by building and nurturing networks of government, researchers and practitioners.

**Pillar 3**: Generate a **new field of implementation science in education**, which will leverage existing research on what policies work to understand how they should be implemented in practice, at the scale necessary for transformative outcomes.

**Objective and scope of the assignment**

The overall objective of the assignment is to provide an analysis of the Education sector context in Nepal to identify where and how WWHGE can support the Nepali Education sector through strategic partnerships and technical assistance, building on WWHGE and Nepal Government priorities.

The Team Leader will lead the scoping to ascertain need and relevance of WWHGE interventions in Nepal, as well as scope out how WWHGE can support the Nepali education sector. Assessment and scoping work will primarily focus on Nepali Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MOEST) needs for establishment of an evidence lab and possible activities under the evidence lab.

**Specific scope of the assignment**

Working with a National Consultant and in-country British Council and FCDO colleagues, the tasks of the consultant shall compromise of the following:

1. Review and analyse the context of the school education system in Nepal including the school sector governance mechanism, priorities of MOEST, and support to the school education sector from various partners, in the context of research, evidence generation and its use for sector reforms.
2. Review WWHGE priorities and scope to understand how WWHGE can support Nepali government, especially in the context of its Pillar 2.
3. Identify where the WWHGE would be best placed to support the ongoing reform as prioritized under Nepal’s School Sector Education Plan (SESP) and emerging needs for evidenced based school sector reform.
4. Consult with selected government officials at federal, provincial, and local level, development partners, and academic institutions and research think tanks to assess (i) needs of federal, provincial and local governments regarding evidence use for reforms, (ii) relevance of WWHGE in Nepal in the context of local needs, and (iii) identify lessons from the current landscape of generation and use of school education evidence.
5. Based on consultations, assess capacity and institutional needs and gaps with regard to evidence-based school education reforms in Nepal, and to ascertain how WWHGE interventions can be institutionalized within the education system in Nepal.
6. Assess purpose, roles, structure, and support mechanism for proposed evidence lab to be stablished under the WWHGE support in Nepal.
7. Conduct stakeholder review to analyse how best to engage with key stakeholders – for establishment of WWHGE support in Nepal.

**Deliverables:**

* Short inception report outlining the approach for the scoping and work plan within one week of commencement of services.
* Draft scoping report by 24th March 2025.
* Final scoping report by 14th April 2025, after incorporating comments from British Council and FCDO.

**Consultant Level of Effort**

The Team Leader is expected to work for 25 days between February to April 2025.

**Consultant Specifications**

Essential

* Masters-Degree in a relevant field (e.g. education, economics or other social science)
* Significant experience (>10 years) of conducting or coordinating research in an academic, government, industrial/commercial or non-profit organisation, ideally in a developing country.
* Experience of undertaking project scoping or design in the school education sector.
* Excellent understanding of evidence generation, presentation, and use of evidence for policy development and implementation.
* Experience of organising and/or participating in stakeholder consultations, conferences, workshops, and webinars.
* Ability to work independently with accuracy, using own initiative and under minimal supervision.
* Strong communication and interpersonal skills and experience of engaging with a range

of external actors, including interacting with senior government officials.

Desirable

* PhD degree in relevant field.
* Knowledge of research in international development, particularly in school education in Nepal.
* Experience with school education sector in Nepal.

**Implementation Arrangement**

The Team Leader will report to designated staff from the British Council. A national consultant will be separately recruited to support the team leader in the scoping assignment.

**Duration of Assignment**

The task will be implemented from **10 February 2025** till **15 April 2025.**