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Consultancy on "A Meta-analysis of school-based interventions": Consultancy on "A Meta-analysis of school-based interventions"

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CLEAR-AA
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TERMS OF REFERENCE

CONSULTANCY ON 'A META-ANALYSIS OF SCHOOL-BASED INTERVENTIONS TO DETERMINE THE HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS OF SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN IN i) EAST AND CENTRAL; ii) WESTERN AND iii) SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA'

1. Background	The Center for Learning on Evaluation and Results (CLEAR) is a global, multi-lateral initiative aimed at strengthening and developing countries' capacities to focus on results and evidence-based decision-making. It was established in 2010 to strengthen capacity to undertake monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and to use evidence to improve programs and support policy makers and implementers to make better decisions. The CLEAR Initiative is constituted by six regional Centers (which CLEAR-AA is part of) housed in academic institutions across the globe. These six regional Centers are coordinated by the CLEAR global hub located Washington, District of Columbia, United States of America. CLEAR- Anglophone Africa (CLEAR-AA) works in English-speaking African countries to achieve the initiative's objectives. CLEAR-AA works to develop and promote the use of monitoring and evaluation evidence in policy making to promote development across Anglophone Africa. The Center works to support evaluation systems across the region by strengthening supply of, and demand for, evaluation simultaneously.
2. Introduction	In 2020 CLEAR-AA signed a Long Term Agreement (LTA) with WFP on two streams, one being, Work steam 3 (analyze existing evidence and produce dissemination products to enhance evaluation use). The World Food Programme (WFP) in 2020 launched a Global School Feeding Strategy which lays out the corporate vision of working with governments and partners to ensure that all school-aged children can have access to good quality school meals with an integrated package of health and nutrition services. A key-element of this new approach is to transform schools as a major driver of biopsychosocial development, contributing to the human capital transformation in the Global South. The Global School Feeding Strategy takes a three-context specific approach[1] and adapt its roles to the country situation under analysis, in partnerships with other players, including governments, United Nations agencies, the private sector, multilateral development banks, international financial institutions and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). At the corporate level, WFP has put in place four work streams[2] to support the implementation of its School Feeding Strategy. CLEAR-AA seeks to commission three regional research experts in school health and nutrition taking into consideration regional variations in the school health and nutrition interventions in East and Central, Southern and West Africa.
3. Purpose of the assignment	The main purpose of this assignment is to conduct a meta-analysis of existing academic research and literature on school-based programme interventions in 3 regions, requiring 3 regional and subject-matter experts. In doing so: (i) each region is to develop a regional implementation plan which will include a situation analysis of the school health and nutrition, including school feeding, in the region; and (ii) the regional situation analysis should highlight the specificities and main challenges of

[1] Country Contexts: refer to page 5 of the https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000112102/download/?_ga=2.200686702.195887320.1587064307-1043232169.1572994835

[2] Work Streams: refer to page 6 of docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000112102/download/?_ga=2.200686702.195887320.1587064307-1043232169.1572994835

	the region for the health and nutrition of school children and will inform the implementation plan of the strategy at the regional level. The meta-analysis of the regional situation of health and nutrition of school aged children should be framed along four areas as featured in the WFP Global School Feeding Strategy and listed in section 5. Whilst the meta-analysis will focus on Sub-Saharan Africa, it should be clearly delineated by region as the analysis is designed to aid teams in their situation analysis and planning exercise for the regional implementation plans, including decision-making and prioritization of their work streams and methods to respond to the WFP Global School Feeding Strategy. The meta analysis assignment objectives include: • Develop, an analysis of the regional situation of health and nutrition of school aged children. • Using evidence and literature highlight lessons learned and best practices, effectiveness of interventions, challenges and gaps in the implementation thereof of school health and nutrition in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. • Examine the existing policy and legal framework for school health and nutrition in Sub-Saharan Africa. • Conduct a regional stakeholder mapping and analysis. This should include an analysis of regional bodies and their position on the issue in the region and an analysis of UN agencies and main partners and their position on the issue in the region. • Provide an overarching narrative synthesis of qualitative and quantitative evidence that proposes recommendations on school health and nutrition interventions based on evidence.
4. Methodology	The 3 experts will be required to participate in virtual meetings with the Team Leader for discussions in the development of the research protocol. Due to the extraordinary circumstances of COVID-19, no travel is required for conducting or concluding this project; therefore, the study will consist of desk-based analysis only, and no fieldwork is required, although a list of contacts of partners that have been consulted is required. Regular engagement with the Team Leader from these experts is required over the 3 month period to ensure that progress on activities are discussed and all issues that may arise are mitigated. The experts will also provide feedback timeously to the Team Leader on comments for all draft and final reports – virtually. Detailed activities and deliverables are outlined in sections 6 of this TOR. A detailed Workplan will also be made available to the selected experts indicating the detailed scope and timeframes for each deliverable, as summarised in section 6.
5. Scope of work	As part of the implementation of the WFP Global School Feeding Strategy, each region is required to develop a regional implementation plan which will include a situation analysis of the school health and nutrition, including school feeding, in the region. The regional situation analysis should highlight the specificities and main challenges of the region for the health and nutrition of schoolchildren and will inform the implementation plan of the strategy at the regional level. The 3 regional experts will report to the Team Leader to provide support on the development of the research protocol. They will also be required to conduct a desktop and telephonic scoping exercise, as well as conducting a review and analysis of continental and regional documents. In addition, the regional experts are also required to assist the Team Leader in drafting reports on issues identified from the literature and surveys as outlined in the research protocol, as well as participating in a regional validation exercise, and provide final comments on the integrated regional report. **This assignment requires**: x1 Regional Expert (East & Central Africa) x1 Regional Expert (West Africa) x1 Regional Expert (Southern Africa)

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<tr><td>6. Deliverables to be submitted</td><td>In response to the request form WFP, the regional experts that we are seeking, will provide support to CLEAR-AA to deliver on the specified scope of work as shown in section 5. Specifically, the main purpose of this assignment is to conduct a meta-analysis of existing academic research literature on school-based programme interventions in 3 regions, with these specific deliverables to be submitted by each regional expert:

<table>
<tr><th>Activities</th><th>Deliverables</th></tr>
<tr><td>1. Liaise with Team Leader on the discussion and development of the research protocol</td><td>One page note on the contribution to the research protocol</td></tr>
<tr><td>2. Conduct desktop scoping and telephonic scoping exercise</td><td>List of people to contact</td></tr>
<tr><td>3. Prepare a list of documents to be reviewed, conduct the review and analysis of documents (for each region) according to the agreed upon protocol.</td><td>Draft regional document review</td></tr>
<tr><td>4. Where necessary, prepare a list of SSA documents to be reviewed and conduct the review according to the agreed upon protocol</td><td>Draft review of allocated SSA documents</td></tr>
<tr><td>5. Draft report on issues identified from the literature and surveys – structured according to the research protocol</td><td>Draft regional reports developed</td></tr>
<tr><td>6. Participate in a regional validation exercise and revise the Draft regional report based on feedback.</td><td>Brief Report on proceedings of the regional validation exercise (2 pages max.) and Final integrated regional report</td></tr>
<tr><td>7. Support the Team Leader in the preparation of the integrated report and prepare comments on the draft</td><td>Brief note of comments on the final integrated report for use by the Team Leader.</td></tr>
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<tr><td>7. Skills and experience required for the Regional experts</td><td>• An advanced university degree (PhD, Masters or equivalent) in public health, Health studies, development studies, and social sciences.
• Minimum 5 (five) years' experience leading and designing studies in school health and nutrition in at least one of regions for East and Central, Southern and West Africa
• Flexibility to adapt to work with WFP's key partners working on education, school health and nutrition and reference group
• Excellent English speaking/writing skills required. French is an added advantage
• Strong methodological experience, both quantitative and qualitative
• Ability to conduct systematic reviews
• Excellent report writing and presentation skills</td></tr>
<tr><td>8. Communication and Support</td><td>The research specialists will report to the Team Leader, who will then report to the Regional School Feeding Programme Policy Officers from WFP's Regional Bureaus in Dakar, Johannesburg and Nairobi.</td></tr>
<tr><td>9. Payment schedule</td><td>The 3 Regional experts will be obliged to send an invoice after the completion of the stipulated activities to Ms. Sky Konrad on email: sky.konrad@wits.ac.za. The regional experts will be paid upon completing a deliverable.</td></tr>
<tr><td>10. Application Process</td><td>Interested individual consultants and academic institutions should submit their applications to CLEAR-AA through Ms Jenean Pretorius [jenean.pretorius@wits.ac.za] (with a clear reference to the advert in the subject line) by 19 August, 2020. This application should include a) a cover letter, b) 4-pager technical proposal on his/her capacity and methodology of the assignment and c) the Curriculum Vitae (4 pages). The rate per day is USD450 @ 20 days = USD9,000 total per expert</td></tr>
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11. Time Frame	The academic / research institution/ researcher is expected to deliver the mentioned products within 3 months (starting 10 August and ending 30 October 2020) with a total of 20 days allocated upon signing the contract.