



Information for Development Program

Request for Expressions of Interest

Survey of ICT and Education in Africa

Country: International

Notice/Contract Number: 1272

Publication Date: 28 April 2006

Deadline: 15 May 2006

Funding Agency: *infoDev*

**Implementing
Organization:** *infoDev*

Eligibility of Bidders: The Consultant is expected to include a team of experts in the area of ICT use in education. Key staff will include personnel with demonstrated expertise and at least five years' experience working with ICTs in developing countries, including demonstrated knowledge of and experience with working with ministries of education, NGOs and the private sector, and in supervising multi-country survey work related to ICT use and/or education in developing countries. Specific experience and expertise with ICT use in education in Africa is preferred, but not required.

Request For Expressions of Interest (EOI):

infoDev invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing expert services to develop a *Survey of ICT and Education in Africa*.

The main objective of this assignment is to gather together in a single resource the most relevant and useful information on ICT in education activities in Africa.

The work involved in this assignment is schedule to be completed within ~ 10 months from the date of signing the contract agreement within an available lump-sum fixed budget of \$125,000, which includes all fees, travel, audit and additional related expenses.

Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

Interested consultants should review the Terms of Reference, which are provided below and may obtain further information on the *infoDev* web site at <http://www.infodev.org/education> or at the address below during office hours from 10 am to 5pm US Eastern Time.

Selection will be based on the “Consultants Qualifications” (CQ) method of procurement and Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers May 2004.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below either as hard copies or electronically. **Electronic submission of the Expression of Interest is preferred. The EOI should be submitted via e-mail as a Microsoft Word or PDF file. Deadline for submission: 15 May 2006, 11:59pm Washington, DC time.**

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Note: More information about World Bank procurement processes and guidelines can be found on its Procurement web site at <http://www.worldbank.org/procurement>.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

ICTs to Benefit EFA & Education-Related MDGs

Survey of ICT and Education in Africa

Background:

ICTs are widely believed to be important potential levers to introduce and sustain education reform efforts. Despite evidence of increasingly widespread use of ICTs in education initiatives around the world, however, there is little guidance available for policy makers and donor staff specifically targeted at countries contemplating the use of ICTs to help countries meet the education-related Millennium Development Goals. Despite rhetoric related to the ‘digital divide’, especially in Africa, scattered and typically uncoordinated initiatives utilizing ICTs to benefit education throughout the continent, and interest in using ICTs to help meet EFA objectives and other education-related Millennium Development Goals, there is no consolidated documentation of what is actually happening in Africa in this area. In addition, there exists no comprehensive baseline data of the state of ICT use in education in Africa, against which future developments can be compared. This is potentially problematic, especially given increased donor commitments to Africa, and the emergence of many national and regional ICT in education initiatives, most notably the NEPAD e-Schools project.

Lack of information impacts planning. Anecdotal evidence suggests that many countries and donor agencies are struggling to keep track of ICT/education projects development projects over which they have no control and about which they often have little knowledge so that the lessons learned from these projects -- let alone their existence -- can inform strategy and planning related to ICT use in education going forward. Many private sector firms and civil society organizations with an interest in supporting education programmes and technology initiatives in Africa (especially where such projects may intersect!) have expressed similar frustrations.

No consolidated information resource. Much relevant data collection has already occurred, but the results are scattered across a number of publications and databases (many of which are not widely known), held within individual organizations, not easily accessible to the education community, and/or, where public, not widely disseminated. Examples of useful resources in this area include the *Imfundo KnowledgeBank*, which is not longer on-line, and publications such as *Towards a Strategy on Developing African Teacher Capabilities in the Use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT)* and *Mkusanyiko on School Networking*.

Need for coordination. Conversations with colleagues at a number of organizations -- donors, governments, civil society, universities, and the private sector -- interested in ICT & education issues in Africa suggest that many are contemplating similar or related types of data collection efforts in this area. As part of its support for activities outlined in this Terms of Reference, *infoDev* is seeking to identify and collaborate with interested groups to help coordinate some of the data collection activities (where feasible) and share the resulting data as widely as possible. While different organizations have different objectives in collecting such data to serve various constituencies, it may make sense to coordinate efforts in certain areas, and *infoDev* is willing to help lead such

coordination efforts. At a minimum, this should help prevent duplication of efforts, as well as 'survey fatigue' on the part of potential information sources 'on-the-ground'.

This project seeks to gather together in a single resource the most relevant and useful information on ICT in education activities in Africa. As such such comprehensive survey has yet been completed, it is envisioned that data collected as part of this survey process can help to form a set of baseline data, against which future survey work and research could be compared. Eventually, it is hoped that this data can be combined with data from other regions to help form a global database of information related to ICTs in education in developing countries.

Scope of work:

In general, this study will explore answers to the following basic questions:

- How are ICTs currently being used in the education sector in Africa, and what are the strategies and policies related to this use?
- What are the common challenges and constraints faced by African countries in this area?
- What is actually happening on the ground, and to what extent are donors involved?

More specifically:

For each African country, data will be collected related to a variety of themes. The types of data collected as part of this survey could, for example, be divided into the following general categories:

- (a) General state of ICT use in education
- (b) National and regional policies & strategies
- (c) How MOEs treat ICT issues from an internal organizational and staffing perspective (including organograms of ICT responsibilities at the MOE), as well as other governmental entities (Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Science and Technology, PTT, etc.), as relevant/appropriate;
- (d) Current levels of ICT access and use in the sector;
- (e) Notable initiatives and programs;
- (f) Constraints on the use of ICT in education;
- (i) Donor activities;
- (j) Use in non-formal education;
- (k) Other notable and relevant information (e.g. gender, literacy);
- (l) Additional information resources.

Particular note will be made of how ICTs are used in education at various levels of an education system, namely:

- Primary education
- Secondary education
- Higher education
- Vocational education

(Where information about ICT use to facilitate lifelong learning and in non-formal education is available, this will be included as well.)

Important additional information:

- It is expected that this survey will encompass and be relevant to both the "ICTs in education" and "distance education" communities (the lines between which are rapidly blurring).
- ICTs are to be broadly defined, including radio, television, PDAs, and mobile phones as well as computers and the Internet.
- In 2003-2004 UNESCO-Bangkok completed work on a landmark *Metasurvey on the use of Technologies in Education in Asia and the Pacific*. *infoDev* proposes to use this survey, and the related survey collection methodology, as a rough model for its data collection activities.
- The data collected will be synthesized and published (in print and on the web) to serve as a general 'international public good'. It is expected that this data could serve as an important resource for a variety of follow-on studies and work.

The **primary audience** for this study is policy makers in countries eligible to participate in the Fast Track Initiative and their partners in donor agencies. However, the study's exploration of issues related to the use (and misuse) of EMIS should be of great interest to a broader audience: in developing countries currently on-track to meet EFA goals but pursuing large scale investments in ICTs in their educational systems, as well as within donor agencies and in the broader ICT and development communities, and especially for firms involved in providing EMIS-related equipment and services to these groups.

This study is one in a series of publications for policymakers commissioned by *infoDev* focusing on issues related to the appropriate use of ICTs in education to help countries meet the Millennium Development Goals. More information about other publications in this series is available at <http://www.infodev.org/education>.

Consultant qualifications

The Consultant is expected to include a team of experts in the area of ICT use in education. Key staff will include personnel with demonstrated expertise and at least five years' experience working with ICTs in developing countries, including demonstrated knowledge of and experience with working with ministries of education, NGOs and the private sector, and in supervising multi-country survey work related to ICT use and/or education in developing countries. Specific experience and expertise with ICT use in education in Africa is preferred, but not required.

Deliverables

1. Preliminary workplan – 10 days after signature of grant agreement with *infoDev* ("Effective Date")
2. First Interim report -- 4 months from Effective Date
3. First draft of survey – ~7 months from Effective Date
4. Detailed listing of organizations, sources and people consulted (with contact information) – ~7 months from Effective Date
5. Review workshop – ~ 8 months from Effective Date.
6. Final version of survey – ~10 months from Effective Date

The consultants will also be expected to participate in a review workshop in Washington, DC (or in a regional hub, if *infoDev* and the consultants jointly agree that an alternative venue is preferable) to receive expert reactions to the draft study shortly after the submission of the draft.

Tentative Timeline

The study, including a review workshop, is expected to take ~ 10 months.

Publication of request for expressions of interest (EOI)	28 April 2006
Deadline for submission of EOI	15 May 2006
Preparation of shortlist	16 May 2006
Select one firm from the established shortlist	19 May 2006
Request technical and financial proposal from selected firm	19 May 2006
Receive technical and financial proposal from selected firm	2 June 2006
Review proposal	8 June 2006
Recommendation of award and invite the firm for negotiations	9 June 2006
Grant signing	16 June 2006
Preliminary Workplan due to infoDev	30 June 2006
Interim report	29 October 2006
First draft of survey completed and submitted	29 January 2007
Review workshop	28 February 2007
Final version submitted to infoDev	31 March 2007

Indicative budget envelope

Available lump-sum budget of \$125,000 which includes all costs (fees, travel, audit and additional related expenses).

About *infoDev*

The Information for Development Program (*infoDev* – www.infodev.org) is an international consortium of official bilateral and multilateral development agencies and other key partners, facilitated by an expert Secretariat housed at the World Bank. Its mission is to help developing countries and their partners in the international community use information and communication technologies (ICT) effectively and strategically as tools to combat poverty, promote sustainable economic growth, and empower individuals and communities to participate more fully and creatively in their societies and economies. *infoDev* pursues this mission through an integrated set of programs financed by its consortium members and administered by the *infoDev* Secretariat in active cooperation with all members and other key strategic partners, public and private. Its work is rooted in the conviction that information and communication are indispensable elements of effective and responsive institutions (including governments), markets and societies.

Contact Information

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