

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Evaluation Support for the Education Quality Improvement Program

Belize
BL-T1159

[Web link to approved document]

Evaluation Support for the Education Quality Improvement Program

1. Background and Justification

- 1.1. Education Quality Improvement Program II (EQIP II) The Education Quality Improvement Program II (EQIP II) operation (BL-L1030) is currently in execution. The development objective of EQIP II is to improve the quality and gender equity of education at the primary and secondary levels, with a special focus on innovation in Science Technology Engineering Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) education. This general objective is being pursued by achieving the following specific objectives (i) Improve the quality of primary school teachers by expanding the inquiry- and problem-based learning approach; (ii) Improve the quality of secondary education teachers by improving teaching practices with a focus on student-centered science and mathematics learning; and (iii) promote gender-sensitive STEAM teaching.
- 1.2. In support of the second and third of these specific objectives, a STEAM Laboratory Secondary School is being created. A laboratory school is an elementary or secondary school operated in association with a university or educational institution. The school is established with the goal of studying pedagogical practices to inform teacher training to improve student learning. In Belize, prior to the creation of the STEAM Laboratory School there was no infrastructure to host pedagogical innovations. Teachers make independent adjustments to their practices, but not in a system wide structured or systematic manner. The main assumption associated with the STEAM Laboratory School is that teacher professional development in pedagogy will lead to improvements in teaching practices. A second assumption is that improving teaching practices will lead to gains in student learning. To address the stark gender gaps in mathematics and science learning at the secondary level, the teacher professional development provided through the STEAM Laboratory school encompasses training in how to build girls' confidence in STEM, including supportive learning environments, role models and mentoring.
- 1.3. The GOB has named the laboratory school [Itz'at STEAM Academy](#). The new secondary school is located on the Belize City Institution for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ITVET) Campus and will open its doors to students in September 2023. Teacher training through the school has already initiated through the training of 92 mathematics and science secondary education teachers from 26 high schools.

2. Objectives

- 2.1. The objective of the consultancy is to conduct an experimental evaluation of the effect on student learning in the STEAM Laboratory School, and the effect on teaching practices in Belize's secondary schools.

3. Scope of Services

- 3.1. The evaluation should encompass some 200 students and teachers.

4. Key Activities

- 4.1. The consulting firm will carry out the following activities:
- a. Process the application for an IRB for human subject research.
 - b. Develop a work plan.
 - c. Design and maintain a pilot database in September 2023, at the beginning of the school year, with information on participating students and teachers.
 - d. Collect quantitative data on two other occasions: end of the school year 2023/24 and end of the school year 2024/25. The data collection will include training of enumerators, coordination, and monitoring of the work of the consultants contracted for test application and data entry.
 - e. Clean and analyze the data to assess whether the model has an impact on pedagogical practices.
 - f. Participate in the dissemination of the results, including the co-drafting of publications targeted at teacher training practitioners, educators, development institutions and academia.

5. Expected Outcome and Deliverables

- 5.1. The evaluation consultant will submit the following reports:
- a. A detailed work plan.
 - b. Three progress reports.
 - c. A 2023 baseline report and IRB.
 - d. A database and database report.
 - e. A monitoring report.
 - f. A final evaluation report including all databases with code books.

6. Project Schedule and Milestones

- 6.1. The project will be implemented between 2023 and 2025.

7. Reporting Requirements

7.1. Reports must be submitted in electronic files. The databases should be submitted in STATA and must include code books.

8. Acceptance Criteria

8.1. Acceptance of consultancy products will be based on international practices for human subject research, and experimental evaluations.

8.2. Consultancy products will need to be approved by the Team Leader.

9. Other Requirements

9.1. n/a

10. Supervision and Reporting

10.1. The consultancy firm will report to Emma Näslund-Hadley (emman@iadb.org), including regular meetings with the IDB and the MoECST during the treatment phase.

11. Schedule of Payments

11.1. Payment terms will be based on project milestones or deliverables. The Bank does not expect to make advance payments under consulting contracts unless a significant amount of travel is required. The Bank wishes to receive the most competitive cost proposal for the services described herein.

11.2. The IDB Official Exchange Rate indicated in the RFP will be applied for necessary conversions of local currency payments.

Payment Schedule	
<i>Deliverable</i>	%
1. Work plan	20%
2. Progress report	10%
3. Baseline report	20%
4. Progress report	10%
5. Mid-term report	10%
6. Progress report	10%
7. Final evaluation report with databases	20%
TOTAL	100%

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Education Division Economics Consultant

The IDB Group is a community of diverse, versatile, and passionate people who come together on a journey to improve lives in Latin America and the Caribbean. Our people find purpose and do what they love in an inclusive, collaborative, agile, and rewarding environment.

[The Social Sector \(SCL\)](#) is a multidisciplinary team convinced that investing in people is the way to improve lives and overcome the development challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean. Jointly with the countries in the region, the Social Sector formulates public policy solutions to reduce poverty and improve the delivery of education, work, social protection, and health services. The objective is to advance a more productive region, with equal opportunities for men and women, and greater inclusion of the most vulnerable groups.

The IDB Group helps Latin American and Caribbean countries promote skills development and lifelong learning as a strategy to ensure that citizens can contribute productively to society, improve their well-being, and be good citizens. To this end, it works with the countries of the region in [five lines of action](#):

- i. ensure that people have equitable access to relevant, high-quality learning opportunities throughout their lives.
- ii. strengthen quality and relevance assurance mechanisms.
- iii. consolidate and develop better financing and co-financing mechanisms to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and coverage of skills development opportunities.
- iv. take advantage of the use of technology to increase equity and access to skills development opportunities and improve the efficiency of skills development systems; and
- v. actively promote the generation and use of evidence to inform decisions about skills development.

What you'll do:

- Develop a technical note based on the findings of an experimental evaluation on the effect of the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics Laboratory School on student achievement and sense of belonging in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields.
- Produce an updated draft of the technical note including comments from responses to reviewer comments for WP and paper.

Deliverables and Payments Timeline:

Click or tap here to enter text.

<u>Deliverable #</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Planned Date to Submit</u>
Workplan	10%	Upon signature of contract and approval of workplan

Draft Paper	50%	Upon completion draft paper
Final Paper	40%	Upon completion of revised final paper in English

What you'll need

- **Education:** Master's degree (or equivalent advanced degree) in Economics, or other fields relevant to the responsibilities of the role.
- **Experience:** At least 5 years of progressive experience in data analysis, and education policy analysis
- **Languages:** Proficiency in English

Key skills:

- Learn continuously
- Collaborate and share knowledge
- Focus on clients
- Communicate and influence
- Innovate and try new things

Requirements:

- **Citizenship:** You are a citizen of one of our 48-member countries.
- **Consanguinity:** You have no family members (up to the fourth degree of consanguinity and second degree of affinity, including spouse) working at the IDB, IDB Invest, or IDB Lab.
- **COVID-19 considerations:** the health and safety of our employees are our number one priority. As a condition of employment, IDB/IDB Invest requires all new hires to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Type of contract and duration:

- **Type of contract:** Products and External Services Consultant (PEC), Lump Sum
- **Length of contract:** 30 days in a period of 6-week period
- **Travel:** No

What we offer

The IDB group provides benefits that respond to the different needs and moments of an employee's life. These benefits include:

- A **competitive compensation** package.
- A flexible way of working. You will be evaluated by deliverable.

Our culture

At the IDB Group we work so everyone brings their best and authentic selves to work, willing to try new approaches without fear, and where they are accountable and rewarded for their actions.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) are at the center of our organization. We celebrate all dimensions of diversity and encourage women, LGBTQ+ people, persons with disabilities, Afro-descendants, and Indigenous people to apply.

We will ensure that individuals with disabilities are provided reasonable accommodation to participate in the job interview process. If you are a qualified candidate with a disability, please e-mail us at diversity@iadb.org to request reasonable accommodation to complete this application.

Our Human Resources Team reviews carefully every application.

About the IDB Group

The IDB Group, composed of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), IDB Invest, and the IDB Lab offers flexible financing solutions to its member countries to finance economic and social development through lending and grants to public and private entities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

About IDB

We work to improve lives in Latin America and the Caribbean. Through financial and technical support for countries working to reduce poverty and inequality, we help improve health and education and advance infrastructure. Our aim is to achieve development in a sustainable, climate-friendly way. With a history dating back to 1959, today we are the leading source of development financing for Latin America and the Caribbean. We provide loans, grants, and technical assistance; and we conduct extensive research. We maintain a strong commitment to achieving measurable results and the highest standards of integrity, transparency, and accountability.

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