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DB Reference N°: IDB-P858791-11/21

Country: Jamaica

Institution: Inter-American Development Bank

Sector: General - Education and Training

Deadline: 2021-11-12T00:00:00.00-04:00

Status: Published

Loan N°./Financing: ATN/JO17753 JA Contract

Project: Innovative Approaches to the Development of Children with Intellectual Disability

Title: Development and implementation of a research design and monitoring and evaluating framework that will guide the implementation of a neuroplasticity therapeutic based intervention over a 12-months period as well as a feasibility assessment for the scalabil

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Borrower/Bid No:

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR NATIONAL INDIVIDUAL CONSULTING SERVICES

Institution: Inter-American Development Bank

Country: Jamaica

Project: Innovative Approaches to the Development of Children with Intellectual Disability

Project Sector: Health and Education

Title: Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist

Abstract: The Consulting Service entails the development and implementation of a research design and monitoring and evaluating framework that will guide the implementation of a neuroplasticity therapeutic based intervention over a 12-months period as well as a feasibility assessment for the scalability of the intervention.

Loan/Credit/Grant No.: ATN/JO17753 JA Contract No.:

Deadline*:* November 12, 2021

The Jamaican Association on Intellectual Disabilities has received financing from the Japan Special Fund (JSF) – Poverty Reduction Program (JPO) which is administered by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), toward the cost of the Innovative Approaches to the Development of Children with Intellectual Disability Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services (“the Services”) include the development and implementation of a research design and monitoring and evaluating framework that will guide the implementation of a neuroplasticity therapeutic based intervention in Jamaica. This entails the development of a research design to be submitted and approved by the Ethics Review Board. The delivering of four (4) monitoring

reports and one (1) evaluation report showing the evolution of all key indicators over the duration of the project's implementation. Conduct a feasibility analysis at the end of the intervention to objectively assess the outcomes/effectiveness of the intervention as well as the resources necessary for scaling up the intervention. The duration of the contract is 12 months. Payments will be made based on deliverables.

The Jamaican Association on Intellectual Disabilities now invites eligible Individual Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Individual Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank (*GN-2350-15 Section V, 5.2)* - "Individual consultants are selected on the basis of their qualifications for the assignment. Advertisement is not required and consultants do not need to submit proposals. Consultants shall be selected through comparison of qualifications of at least three candidates among those who have expressed interest in the assignment or have been approached directly by the Borrower. Individuals considered for comparison of qualifications shall meet the minimum relevant qualifications and those selected to be employed by the Borrower shall be the best qualified and shall be fully capable of carrying out the assignment. Capability is judged on the basis of academic background, experience and, as appropriate, knowledge of the local conditions, such as local language, culture, administrative system, and government organization." is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the policies.

An Individual Consultant shall be selected through comparison of qualifications of candidates among those who have expressed interest in the assignment as set out in the Procurement Policies.

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Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Expressions of Interest should include a cover letter and CV, and must be submitted vial email to the address below by November 12, 2021.

The Jamaican Association on Intellectual Disabilities

Attn: Marilyn McKoy

Executive Director

7 Golding Avenue, P.O. Box 224 Kingston 7,
Jamaica, W.I.

Tel: (876) 977-118 or (876) 977-0134

Fax: (876) 970-3182

E-mail: jaid@cwjamaica.com and jadevconsultant@gmail.com

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Non- Reimbursable Technical Cooperation No. ATN/JO17753-JA

Innovative Approaches to the Development of Children with Intellectual Disability

Consultancy Services for a Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist

Background:

The technical cooperation (TC) *Innovative Approaches to the Development of Children with Intellectual Disability* aims at supporting the Government of Jamaica with a framework for policy and evidence of actionable interventions to improve the social and health services for children with intellectual disability (ID). The primary objective of this TC is to provide direct support to children with intellectual disability (ID) and their parents, through identifying, adapting, and testing effective, neuroplasticity-based, therapeutic approaches, which involve parents.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) mandate monitoring the health and wellbeing of children to achieve optimal early childhood development. Therefore, it is within this mandate to address the social and health needs of children with developmental disabilities (DD) and their families.

Developmental disabilities (DDs) are conditions resulting from impairments that affect the child's physical, learning, or behavioural functioning. Children with DDs are at higher risk of poor health, lower educational attainment and wellbeing than children without disabilities. Furthermore, DDs are associated with social disadvantage and pose significant caregiving challenges. In 2016, there were 52.9 million children with DDs worldwide; 94.5% in low and middle-income countries. DDs include intellectual disabilities (IDs). The DSM-5 diagnosis of ID requires the satisfaction of three criteria (i) Deficits in intellectual functioning – reasoning, problem solving, planning, abstract thinking, judgment, academic learning and learning from experience – confirmed by clinical evaluation and individualized standard IQ testing. (ii) Deficits in adaptive functioning that significantly hamper developmental and sociocultural standards for the individuals' independence and ability to meet their social responsibility; and (ii) the onset of the deficits in childhood. Genetic abnormalities, pregnancy, and delivery complications are known as risk factors.

Children with intellectual disability are more likely than their nondisabled peers to have associated and/or secondary conditions. These conditions are most common with greater severity of intellectual disability. The most common is Down syndrome, while the most common secondary condition is speech and language impairments. Some secondary conditions are autism, physical disabilities, speech and language impairment and health problems.

The prevalence of IDs is difficult to ascertain due to variabilities in data sources, case definitions, and range of age. In 2016, the global prevalence of ID in under-fives was 1,983 per 100,000, and of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) was 723 per 100,000. In Jamaica, the number of estimated cases with ID was 4,073 (1,472.2 per 100,000) and with ASD, 2,106 cases (728.8 per 100,000). [1]

From a social perspective, children with ID face important challenges. Their parents often must coordinate on their own a variety of social, medical and educational support services, adding to the heavy financial, logistical and emotional challenges of raising a child with special needs.[2] A recurring problem is the delay in the diagnosis of ID, which in part might be due to denial of the parents, that keep their children in the mainstream, or they are unable to identify the condition of their child. [3] Also, screening activities are scarce in health clinics or day care centres, due to lack of training of health personnel or social workers to identify this condition in a timely manner.

The Government of Jamaica issued the Disabilities Act 2014 to ensure that people with disability receive fair and equal treatment. The implementing arm of disability policies is the Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities (JCPD) http://jcpdja.com/ whose responsibility it is to protect the rights of persons with all disabilities for social inclusion and accommodations (education, labour). Non-governmental organizations, such as the Jamaica Association on Intellectual Disabilities (JAID) http://www.jaid.org.jm/contact.html provide services for children and adults with ID including schools of special education; resources and professional partnership and adult continuing education programs.

The social and health needs of children with ID and their families require the provision of specialized social and health services. The situation can be broken down into four challenges. (i) Children with ID are a vulnerable group facing barriers to accessing healthcare, rehabilitation, social support services and have less opportunity for formal education due to weak functional health and social care systems. For example, access to effective therapeutic interventions remains a deficit. Speech, behavior and occupational therapists are few. (ii) Intellectual disability implies high lifetime costs of care and rehabilitation which are often inaccessible to low-income families. (iii) Children with ID are stigmatized and at risk of neglect and violence. (iv) Caregivers and families have a low quality of life and a heavy emotional burden. This often results in families not prioritizing the social /emotional development of the child with the disability and not treating schooling as critical.

Executing Agency:

The Jamaican Association on Intellectual Disabilities (JAID) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) established in 1956 to provide services to persons with Intellectual Disabilities and their families. JAID has a track record of established partnerships with National agencies including the Government of Jamaica and International organizations in the delivery of services to its clients. This partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank will focus on innovative approaches to build the capacity of young children with Intellectual Disability.

Components of the Project

1.- Design of the intervention. This includes (i) Systematic review of international experiences to ascertain the best applicable neuroplasticity programmes, interventions, international policies, and the most effective community and parent involved practices for children with intellectual disability. This review should serve as the scientific foundation over which the intervention will be designed (ii) Development of the intervention protocol comprising the objectives, sampling design, individualized program of services and developmental therapies that involve screening, recruitment, evaluation and medical work-up as well as the capacity building programme for parents (iii) Definition of the evaluation parameters of the progress of children in the areas of cognition, language and social competencies, among others. (iv) Adaptation of digital technology to train and support the intervention and follow up activities of participating children, parents, and providers.

2.- Implementation of the intervention. The implementation phase comprises (i) Training of parents/caretakers and professionals,

(ii) Screening, recruitment, comprehensive evaluation, medical work-up, application of individualized program of developmental therapies and parent counselling. (iii) The follow-up actions to promote adherence to the program activities by both health providers and parents/caretakers.

3.- Monitoring, effectiveness evaluation and feasibility analysis to scale-up the intervention. This component will monitor the quality of the interventions, evaluate its outcomes/effectiveness in improving intellectual function, measuring progress in children's cognition, problem solving, language, and social functioning. Also, it will assess parent/caregiver understanding of the condition, parent/caregiver acceptance of the child with the condition and parent/caretaker and providers satisfaction with the interventions. The feasibility analysis will identify the strengths and weaknesses of the program, the resources necessary to scale up the intervention and establish the basis to design a national programme.

Objectives of the consultancy

The objectives of the consultancy are:

1. To develop and implement a research design.
2. To develop and implement a monitoring and evaluation framework to guide the intervention.
3. Conduct a feasibility analysis and identify the necessary resources for scalability of the programme.

What the consultant will do:

1. Consult the findings and recommendations from the systematic literature review that was conducted for suitable neuroplasticity based approaches.
2. Work closely with the Intervention Design Consultant to develop a research design and to design and implement a monitoring and evaluation framework to guide the implementation of the intervention. This include:
    - Develop the research methodology for the intervention
        - Design the data collection instruments to track the progress of the participants in the intervention for the duration of the programme.
        - Sampling techniques
        - Track performance of participants
        - Outline research procedures
    - Define the criteria to monitor the quality of the intervention.
    - Conduct data analysis of the intervention.
    - Develop a monitoring plan for the duration of the intervention, along with the requisite tools and templates.
3. Deliver four monitoring reports and one evaluation report, showing the evolution of all the key indicators across the intervention period. The report should document aggregate as well as heterogeneous trends based on gender and family composition and document significant findings and implications of the intervention.
4. Conduct periodic data verification exercises.
5. Prepare End-of-Project Evaluation report using approved templates and tools.
6. Conduct a feasibility analysis to assess objectively the strengths and weaknesses of the intervention and the necessary resources required to scale up the intervention.

The consultant will collaborate with the Jamaican Association on Intellectual Disabilities (JAID), and other consultants working on the design of the intervention and on the adaptation of the software for intellectual disability.

The consultant will be entirely responsible for the presentation of all products and for obtaining all inputs necessary for the preparation.

Place of Work:

The consultant will be required to work mainly from home but will be required to visit the project site during the design phase.

Reports / Deliverables

The consultant must present the following products as documents with supporting data in acceptable format according to the indicated schedule.

	Products	Days/Months
1	Inception Report	15 days after contract signature
2	Research designed, documented, submitted and approved by Ethics Review Board	3 months after contract sign
3	Monitoring and Evaluation Framework	3 months after contract signature
4	Four interim monitoring reports	Every six months after the outset of the intervention
5	Final report of outcomes/effectiveness evaluation	2 months after the end of the intervention.
6	Feasibility study	3 months after the end of the intervention

Every report must be submitted to the executing agency in an electronic file. The report should include cover, main document and all annexes when appropriate.

Payment Schedule

The consultant payments match the products and schedule described in the previous section, as follows:

	Deliverables	Percentage	Requirements
1	Inception Report	10%	approval of the inception report
2	Research designed, documented, submitted and approved by Ethics Review Board	0%	Research Design Approved
3	Monitoring and Evaluation Framework	30%	Approval of M & E framework
4	Four interim monitoring reports	10%	Progress reports
5	Final report of outcomes/effectiveness evaluation	20%	Upon receipt and approval of the final version of the Outcomes/effectiveness evaluation protocol
6	Feasibility study	30%	Approval of the final version of the Feasibility Report

Qualifications

- **Education:**

  Post Graduate degree in clinical or applied psychology, public health, child development or epidemiology or a bachelor's degree in similar field with at least 10 years of relevant professional experience or the equivalent combination of education and experience degree.

- **Experience:**

  5 years' experience of strong research background survey methodology, sampling and statistical analyses, monitoring and evaluation, and impact evaluation.

- **Other requirements:**

  Ability to read, write and speak English fluently

Time Frame

The consultancy will be conducted over a 12-month period.

[1] Global Research on Developmental Disabilities Collaborators. Developmental Disabilities among children younger than 5 years in 195 countries and territories, 1990-2016: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of disease Study 2017. Lancet Global Health 2018:6:e1100-21

[2] National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine 2016. Ensuring Quality and Accessible Care for Children with Disabilities and Complex Health and Educational Needs: Proceedings of a Workshop. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. https://doi.org/10.17226/23598.

[3] JAID. The Jamaican Association on Intellectual Disabilities. Persons with Intellectual Disability. Annual Report 2016.