Consultancy Terms of Reference:

KIX Peer Reviews of National EMIS Systems through National dialogues to be held in Gambia and Tanzania

1. Background on addressing the Data Challenge in Education in Sub Saharan Africa

The KIX Africa 19 hub facilitates cross-country knowledge exchange and mobilization, learning, synthesis, and collaboration among national education stakeholders in 18 Global Partnership for Education partner countries in eastern, southern, and western Africa. Based on the 2020 KIX 19 assessment of Developing Country Partner’s (DCPs) needs, a KIX Data Challenge strategy, coordinated by the African Union’s Institute of Education for Development (AU IPED), was developed in 2021. As part of this Data Challenge strategy, AU IPED has been organizing a series of learning and capacity building events with DCP’s Directors of Planning and EMIS staff to exchange knowledge on challenges, lessons learnt, and strategies for improving practices in education management information systems needed for sector wide improvements in the delivery of education and training.

The first phase of the strategy was to develop a Community of Practice among DCP’s via an AU IPED platform of knowledge/research documents and an e-Group of focal points of all participating Ministries’ staff dealing with education data. This phase was used to launch a series of virtual learning engagements on promoting the use of Learning Assessment Systems (LAS) and the lessons learnt on its data integration into national EMIS and best practices on its use for informing quality improvements from school levels upwards to national policy. The second phase of the KIX Data Challenge strategy, which directly spoke to a predominant need expressed by countries in the May 2020 requests, was focused on understanding international best practices on data quality and enabling conditions of policy, methodology and resourcing. DCPs worked on reviewing and updating the continental data quality assurance framework, the AU EMIS Norms and Assessment Framework (2012) which had been politically endorsed by Ministers of SADC, EAC, ECOWAS in each of the regional economic communities (RECs).
This component of the Data Challenge Strategy targeted high-level support from the Regional Economic Communities on the KIX Data Challenge Strategy and their support for updating their regional EMIS Norms and Standards frameworks. A series of high-level dialogues, both virtually with the RECs and partners (UIS and UNESCO) and through face-to-face missions by the African Union Commission and IPED, ensured their buy-in and cascade of the initial KIX update of a continental framework would be cascaded further by them with member states.

Over 18 KIX member states participated in reviewing and updating the existing AU EMIS Norms and Standards Framework (2012) to accommodate new norms and standards on sector wide policy, data privacy, cyber security, learner unit record systems, data storage protocols, new technology platform integration and dashboards, data warehousing, disaster recovery, integration of IDP/Refugee data, learning assessment data integration, submission of SDG 4 and CESA indicators, among others. Member states jointly refined and reviewed the framework through various virtual engagements.

A third component of the strategy was that, KIX DCPs' were invited to assess their national systems in terms of the revised KIX AU EMIS Norms and Standards Assessment framework and produce a national report and action plan. AU IPED facilitated an online version of the revised Assessment Framework which allowed countries to complete and generate their national assessments.

A final aspect of the approach was to invite the EMIS representatives of KIX member states who had collaborated in the refinement and updating of the AU EMIS Assessment framework to participate in an online examination which was a rigorous assessment of their knowledge of best practices, norms and standards that comply with the framework. This would qualify them as knowledgeable assessors for peer reviewing and supporting other countries in determining their compliance with the revised continental EMIS data quality assessment framework. Some 18 EMIS personnel in Developing Country Partners completed the assessment with pass rates of over 70% indicating their overall knowledge of best practices and standard in effective EMIS.

The Regional Anglophone Africa Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) Hu

The Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) Africa 19 Hub has been established through the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and with funding from the International Development and Research Centre (IDRC) whose purpose is to collect, generate, exchange and facilitate the effective use of data, knowledge and innovation for education policy formulation and implementation among 18 Anglophone African countries in six thematic areas. These include (i) strengthening learning assessment systems, (ii) improving teaching and learning, (iii) strengthening early childhood care and education, (iv) achieving gender equality in and through education, (v) leaving no one behind, and (vi) meeting the data challenge in education.
The Anglophone Africa Regional KIX Hub provides a timely opportunity to catalyze the provision of quality education through facilitating evidence-based developments in policy and practice, and through identifying and contextualizing evidence in education agendas unique to the region.

Given that the Anglophone region has a number of countries affected by conflicts, other context-specific education innovations deemed pertinent to the member states to foster inclusivity, such as education for crisis-affected and displaced populations, including education for children on the move, will also be included with the overall goal to contribute to SDG 4 aspirations and the realization of GPE’s strategy.

2. Purpose of the Consultancy

The main purpose of the consultancy is to seek facilitate a national dialogue intended to foster a shared understanding on the role and functioning of the regional KIX Africa 19 Hub towards strengthening data systems at national level with respect to accelerating educational progress. The meeting will discuss the national data challenges and the institutionalization of the KIX EMIS Norms and Standards that have been developed the AUC – IPED in collaboration with KIX Africa 19 Hub consortium partners.

The dialogue will result in a synthesis and documentation of promising practices on existing data systems, strategies to support the institutionalization of the KIX EMIS Norms and Standards and how these can be utilized to inform policy improvements in the Gambia and Tanzania as well as other regional KIX Africa 19 countries.
A call to action with a clear road map will be prepared to stimulate an immediate response on how to address the data challenges faced by the Gambia and Tanzania through the KIX Africa 19 Hub and the developed KIX EMIS Norms and Standards.

3. Objectives of the National Dialogue:

This dialogue will specifically provide participants with the opportunity to:

a) **Deliberate on the role, platform, and functioning of the KIX Africa 19 Hub** towards strengthening the national data systems for the Gambia and Tanzania with respect to policy improvement and implementation in order to accelerate educational progress;

b) **Map and synthesize existing knowledge, promising practices and priorities** at the national level that will inform the strengthening of exchange of knowledge and innovation (KIX) within Tanzania, the Gambia through the institutionalization of the KIX EMIS Norms and Standards and across the region;

c) **Provide a platform for local education group members to present their national interests** to ensure knowledge and lessons learned on addressing the data challenge at the local and practice levels are shared to support policy dialogue and implementation; and

d) Through a call to action, **document the meeting outcomes which will define priorities and strategies to address policy challenges towards meeting the data challenge** through the use of the KIX EMIS Norms and Standards.

4. Target group for the national dialogue

The national dialogue will target, experts from the Ministries of Education – Education planning and policy planning, and other relevant line ministries, non-governmental organisations, local education groups, UN agencies such as UNICEF, UNESCO UIS, UNESCO IIEP (virtually), data analysts, researchers and many others. A total of 40 participants from each country will be expected to attend the national dialogue in person with up to 20 per country more participants expected to attend virtually. The meeting will specifically target representatives from the Regional Economic Community Education Officers, KIX DCPs EMIS focal persons, ministry of Education officials responsible for policy in the six thematic areas of the Hub; education experts from the government, civil society organisations, the academia, representatives from local education groups, bilaterals, multilaterals, and UN agencies present in the country. Participants from outside the DCP will include other DCPs, donor representatives, RECs, African Union and IICBA.

5. Timeline

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<th>Activities</th>
<th>Deliverable</th>
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4.
6. Expected Outcomes

a) **A platform created to deliberate on the role, platform, and functioning of the KIX Africa 19 Hub** towards strengthening the national data systems for the Gambia and Tanzania with respect to policy improvement and implementation in order to accelerate educational progress;

b) **Promising practices and priorities and synthesize existing knowledge mapped**, at the national level that will inform the strengthen the exchange of knowledge and innovation (KIX) within Tanzania, the Gambia through the institutionalization of the KIX EMIS Norms and Standards and across the region.;

c) **A platform provided for local education group members to present their national interests** to ensure knowledge and lessons learned on addressing the data challenge at the local and practice levels are shared to support policy dialogue and implementation; and

d) **Meeting outcomes documented through a call to action**, which will **define priorities and strategies to address policy challenges towards meeting the data challenge** through the use of the KIX EMIS Norms and Standards.

5. Organization and Format of the National Dialogue

The national dialogues will be organized in collaboration with the KIX Africa 19 National focal points and in collaboration with the relevant sectors in the Ministries of Education. The format of deliberations at the dialogue will be a combination of plenary presentations and focused group
discussions. In addition to presentations, there will be a series of group activities to strengthen the interaction between members from the government, local education groups, and educational organizations. The meeting will follow a blended approach with a limited number of key participants present physically, and additional guests participating virtually through an interactive live stream.

6. Deliverables

a) An Inception report and concept notes with approved agenda and confirmation of participants list
b) National dialogue reports with clear recommendations on the data challenges and the institutionalization of the KIX EMIS Norms and Standards
c) d) An end of project report with approved National Action Plans with clear strategies on how to address the Data Challenges in Tanzania and the Gambia

7. Eligibility of the Consultant/Consultancy firm

The institution or individuals
- must be in the business of supporting education sector transformation, ideally experienced in EMIS and ICT integration in teaching and learning.
- Has institutional capacity to organize and facilitate all conference related logistics.
- An organisation that has strong networks in EMIS in the targeted DCP countries is an asset.
- Must be a legally certified and registered institution with headquarters based in Africa.
- Copies of professional CVs and experiences of key staff proposed for this project should be shared

Team Profile for consultancy firms
- At least 5 years’ experience in the education sector, with a high level of relevant expertise in EMIS, education sector planning, policy support and results-based management or other relevant areas.
- Minimum 5 years of working experience in integrated information management systems development, data science projects and demonstrated technical expertise in a relevant field.
- Proven technical expertise and experience in facilitation of policy dialogue engagements
- Experience working in facilitating national Data Quality Assessments is an asset.
- Work experience with the United Nations or a specialized agency of it or with an international organization is an asset
10. How to Apply

Please send your application and budget to jajil@africa-union.org, v.kisaakye@unesco.org and copy b.demere@unesco.org by 7th July 2023