



## Early Grade Education Activity (EGEA)-Asas Consultancy Terms of Reference

### University Curriculum Consultant

#### **ABOUT IREX**

A nonprofit organization committed to international education and development, IREX has embraced a people-centered approach since 1968. The organization was created to bridge geopolitical divides by fostering the exchange of scholars, teachers, students, and ideas. IREX built on expertise and network of relationships to support people building bridges between societies, driving educational reform, leading newly empowered movements in civil society, and building effective and accountable governance. IREX became a leader in improving access to information technology, strengthening independent media, and empowering youth through education and leadership development.

#### **ABOUT ASAS**

Collaborating closely with partners in the Government of Jordan, ASAS seeks to strengthen the early grade education system by improving the quality of pre-service teacher education and in-service teacher professional development, enhancing early grade curriculum, and teaching and learning materials (TLM), building community engagement, and supporting evidence-based systems and policies that promote system-wide alignment and maximize return on investment (ROI).

#### **OUR VISION**

"Early grade learning for all is fun, inclusive, developmentally appropriate. It is differentiated and achieved through world-class educational practices based on research and within effective community participation."

#### **OUR GOAL**

ASAS aims to advance national efforts to strengthen the caliber of pre-and in-service education and improve public Kindergarten through Grade three foundational and socioemotional skills across the Kingdom of Jordan. It is to equip over 23,500 resilient early-grade teachers and education leaders to inclusively deliver enhanced curricula, teaching, and learning materials, and assessments proven to increase learning outcomes to over 1 million students over five years, including those most marginalized.

#### **RATIONALE**

The current state of early childhood education in Jordan faces significant challenges, particularly regarding the preparation of teachers. Research highlights a gap between the skills and knowledge teachers possess upon entering the classroom and the requirements of the educational environment. Pre-service programs in Jordanian universities are criticized for being outdated and lacking in content relevant to real-world teaching situations. There is a need

for a shift from traditional lecture-based teaching to student-centered instruction and the integration of updated pedagogical knowledge. Additionally, inclusive education programs are insufficient, leaving teachers ill-equipped to support vulnerable children. To address these issues, there is a call for enhanced coordination, data-driven planning, effective management, and the improvement of the quality of early childhood education programs at the university level. Improving teacher preparation is crucial for ensuring better outcomes for students in early childhood education and maximizing the return on investment in education.

## **THE CONSULTANT'S SCOPE OF WORK**

The consultant(s) is expected to work closely with the Asas team to fulfil his/her tasks to the expected quality and IREX standards. He/she will be assigned tasks as planned and deemed appropriate by IREX.

## **SPECIFIC TASKS INCLUDE**

- Participation of universities in a week-long retreat aimed at developing instructional courses based on the established framework (1<sup>st</sup> week of June)
- Review curriculum frameworks and course planning to ensure alignment with international best practices.
- Support the three universities in mapping existing curriculum to the national preservice framework.
- Assist the three partner universities in creating study plans for courses based on the updated program framework.
- Assist the three universities in aligning theoretical content with practical training by developing targeted activities for each course, and clarifying the method of implementing practical training
- Conduct a Curriculum Mapping Seminar for faculty members at the three universities.

## **QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE**

- Demonstrated experience in developing university curricula specifically in Child Education.
- Must hold the rank of Associate Professor or higher in Elementary Education, Child Education, or a related discipline from a top 300-ranked university.
- A minimum of 10 years' experience in university teaching and scientific research in Child Education is required.
- Candidates with a proven track record of working with universities to secure academic accreditation for educational programs are preferred.
- Candidates with teaching experience at universities ranked within the top 500 globally are preferred.
- Language proficiency requirement: Proficiency in English is mandatory, while proficiency in Arabic is considered advantageous.

## **REPORTING LINES**

Consultant will be reporting to the senior quality improvement manager for preservice.

## **MODALITY OF DELIVERY**

Some tasks will be delivered on campus; therefore, travel is expected for the first 2 weeks of June to be in Jordan and remote follow up work thereafter. (estimated 30 days)

**DURATION**

Consultancy of up to 25 working days with period of performance starting May 15, 2024, through September 30, 2024.