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An Assessment of Foreign Aid Effectiveness: Sources, Uses, and Development

1. Background

ActionAid International Nepal (AAN) is a member of the global federation of ActionAid, working for human rights, poverty eradication, and gender equality. It is a non-governmental national social justice organization established in 1982 and working locally in different provinces of Nepal. It is also a part of national and global social justice movements and other civil society networks, alliances, and coalitions. The Organization works for transformative and structural social changes through people's active agencies, guided by our set values, visions, and missions. The Organization believes in a Human Right Based Approach to fight against poverty, injustice, inequality, discrimination, and exploitation. The Organization prioritizes four thematic areas: women, education, resilient livelihoods, and emergencies. As one of the thematic priorities, the organization focuses on public education to eliminate the crises in providing quality education, ensuring child rights in schools, and further corroborates that there are increased priorities from the government towards quality education in Nepal.

2. Objectives

- Review the **overall trend and structure of aid by source and nature of at least the last ten years** and closely assess, if any, the changing pattern in the aftermath of launching SDGs,
- Review the **aid effectiveness global agenda and its changing nature** together with an **examination of Nepal's development cooperation policies in a comparative manner**,
- Assess to what extent **the four principles of aid effectiveness have been implemented in Nepal** and contributed to improving the development effectiveness of aid and thereafter **identify the major internal and external factors constraining the effectiveness** taking political economy factors into account,
- Undertake a **small case study of the education sector as a testimony to gauge** what extent the four principles of aid effectiveness are utilized in the mobilization and use of aid, and
- **Draw policy implications from the standpoint of enhancing development effectiveness in aid** which at the same time could lead to a gradual reduction in dependency on the aid.

3. Consultant deliverables:

The consultant will work on the following areas to produce the study report:

- 3.1 Jointly work on the concept and finalize ToR.
- 3.2 Initial consultation meeting with Social Welfare Council (SWC) for input and finalization on ToR.
- 3.3 A comprehensive analysis of the overall trend and structure of foreign aid effectiveness by source and nature of at least the last ten years.
- 3.4 Consultation workshop among key actors of aid and financing on the draft of the report.
- 3.5 Submission of the final report (full and Summary) in English version.
- 3.6 Brief presentation of key findings and recommendations of the report in dissemination workshop.

4. Scope of Work

The work will be the first comprehensive study after the launching of the SDGs and the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing Ukraine war. Importantly, it will assess the effectiveness of aid from larger development perspectives beyond customary practices. As such, it will gauge the effectiveness of aid taking, among others, the SDGs, funding sources and progresses into account. As an offshoot, it will also investigate the effect of the Covid-19 and Ukraine war on the direction and behavior of the aid to be highly useful from the future aid policy perspectives.

Similarly, the study findings derived, and policy implications ascertained will be useful to the policymakers, development practitioners, researchers, and development partners. The case study on education will provide more insights into the underlying reasons for poor outcomes, returns, and deliveries of aid. The overall case study findings would also be useful to the provinces and local governments in a way toward mobilizing aid by ensuring its impact on development effectiveness. Similarly, the updated data set on aid and other related areas could be the basis of further investigation and research in his critical area.

5. Methodology

The study will have both qualitative and quantitative methodological approaches. Both secondary and primary data sources will have to be the bases of analysis and assessment. First, it has to follow a qualitative approach to analyze the underlying factors contributing to the global aid effectiveness agenda and assess how the aid behavior and pattern of the multilateral and bilateral agencies have changed over time. The examination of changing developed cooperation policy of the government of Nepal will have to be the major area of comparative analysis and investigation. For validating how the aid effectiveness agenda has been made operational, a detailed quantitative analysis of changing aid sources, composition, and use patterns based on secondary data has to be made by taking commitments and disbursements into account. The focus of the analysis has to be on assessing the effectiveness of aid in the light of changing global and national aid policy agendas. In addition, a short case study of the education sector will have to be part of the study as a testimony to gauge the implementation of four principles of aid effectiveness committed by both Nepal and its development partners.

6. Outputs of the Assignment

It will be a comprehensive first report on aid effectiveness in the printed book form after the launching of SDGs, the Covid-19 pandemic shocks, and the Ukraine war. The book will be widely disseminated among policy influencers and development actors.

7. Time Frame

This consultancy agreement is effective from **1st June 2023 to 15th November 2023**. The following timeline is proposed for the expected outcomes:

S.N.	Outcome	Timeline
1	Initial task (Finalization and agreed-on ToR) and consultation with relevant actors	1 st June
3	MoU sign up and agreed on the timeline	20 th June

	Deskwork, study, analysis, fieldwork and draft preparation	June- July-Aug
4	National-level consultation workshop on the draft report	First Week of Sep
5	Submission of the final copy of the report	Second Week of Oct
6	Presentation of key findings and recommendations in national dissemination workshop	Last Week of Nov

The Consultant will work closely with the Education and Youth Specialist with regular insight from the Head of Programme Policy (HoPP).

8. Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Key Areas for Proposal Evaluation	Weightage
Technical Proposal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of assignment and delivery approach (10 points) • Demonstrated minimum 5 years of experience in related field (10 points). • Demonstrated the capacity to carry out the assignment (10 points) • Evidence of customer/ client satisfaction in terms of services provided in past (10 points). 	40%
Financial Proposal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear financial proposal linked to the technical proposal, highlighting key costs and any reimbursable expenses (if any) points). 	60%

Application Instructions

Proposal Submission Guideline Interested consultancy firms/ individuals who meet the above requirement should send their technical and financial proposals to jobs.nepal@actionaid.org by 25th May 2023. Please provide. At least three positive references/recommendations from past clients. Upon reviewing the Proposal, only short-listed companies will be contacted. Please note that ActionAid Nepal reserves the right to reject any proposal.