



## Terms of Reference (TOR)

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Development of Advocacy Strategy  
for a West African Campaign on Quality  
Education And TVET Policies For the  
Youth.

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## 1.0 CONTEXT / INTRODUCTION

Sub-Saharan Africa, of all regions in the world, has the highest rates of education exclusion. According to the United Nation Education, Scientific and cultural organisation (UNESCO), ‘Over one-fifth of children between the ages of about 6 and 11 are out of school, followed by one-third of youth between the ages of about 12 and 14. Almost 60% of youth between the ages of about 15 and 17 are not in school’

In the same vein, West Africa, bears the highest number of out of school youth and children globally for numerous reasons including violent conflicts, illiteracy, poverty among others. Most West African states are grappling with various and diverse challenges to overcome the education deficit and its resulting outcomes of poverty, unemployment among other. For a region with over 60 percent of its population being youth between the ages of 15 to 35years, the state of education in West Africa is disturbing.

The Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS), in addition to national efforts, has also embarked on various policies, programmes, projects and activities to improve citizens’ access to quality education and training by harmonising the different components of educational training systems in the Member States.

Some of those efforts include the adoption of the ECOWAS Protocol on Education and training and the convention on the recognition and equivalence of certificates by the Authority of the ECOWAS Heads of State. ECOWAS has also developed the ECOWAS Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Strategy For Skills Improvement And Employability (Esstie) which as adopted in 2017 by the head of states. There is currently an ongoing process to develop an implementation plan for the strategy. This strategy is crucial, considering the importance of (TVET) plays in producing the skilled workforce for industry and for propelling economic growth in West African countries.

Despite these positive efforts in the region to develop inclusive national and regional education policies and plans, the access to relevant quality education and skills training for marginalised youth, especially for girls and young women, is limited. Their economic and social empowerment remain more than ever major concerns and there is an urgent need to ensure that young women and men acquire the knowledge, capacities, skills and values required to participate actively in education governance across the sub-region.

Without urgent action to implement all these policies and protocols and where necessary develop or renew policies, the education situation will likely get worse as the region faces a rising demand for education due to a still-growing school-age population. TVET offers a huge opportunity for West African states to create employment for the youth, and bridge the vast inequality and poverty gaps. Active youth participation in the formulation and implementation of such policies that directly influence the lives of young people West Africans is likely to be useful.

Oxfam and its partners under the Youth, Education for Active citizenship and Gender Equality project are embarking on a regional level advocacy to influence the implementation of education protocols to improve education outcomes across the sub-region as well as ensure that TVET takes a center stage of education in education in ECOWAS states through active youth participation.

Oxfam's YEG Partners are based in Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali.

## 2.0 PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF CONSULTANCY

This assignment pertains to the development of a regional advocacy strategy to guide the advocacy work of YEG partners in West Africa specifically to influence ECOWAS' Work on Education, TVET and youth participation.

### 2.1 OBJECTIVES

The main purpose of this assignment is to develop a comprehensive results based regional advocacy plan which is pragmatic for implementation by YEG partners in the bid to improve the quality of education, the delivery of TVET and youth participation across West Africa. Specifically the Objective of this assignment include

1. To provide a comprehensive context analysis of education and TVET in the West African Sub-region
2. Develop an inclusive and result oriented regional advocacy Plan to guide the work of YEG partners in influencing education outcomes, TVET delivery and youth participation in governance processes, especially education governance across the sub-region.

### 2.2 THE SCOPE OF WORK

This assignment is expected to entail Oxfam and its partners on the YEG programme on Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso. The consultant is expected to facilitate and lead the process that will lead to the delivery of the following outputs.

### 2.3 Outputs/Expected Deliverables

- **Deliverable 1:** Inception report detailing the consultant understanding of the task and the methodology to be employed to complete the task;
- **Deliverable 2:** 1 Virtual validation of draft advocacy plan
- **Deliverable 3:** Final Advocacy plan including a comprehensive contextual analysis of the education and TVET in West Africa

## 3.0 DURATION OF THE CONTRACT

The exercise is executed in 15 working days at a rate agreed upon between FOSDA and the Consultant in a signed contract.

## 4.0 REQUIRED EXPERTISE AND QUALIFICATION

We are looking for a highly qualified consultant with demonstrable conceptual and practical knowledge and understanding of education and development work across the West Africa Sub-region

#### 4.1 APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Qualified and interested candidates are hereby requested to send their applications to [proposals@fosda.org](mailto:proposals@fosda.org). Application should contain the following:

- a. A technical proposal with detailed methodology, on how they will approach and complete the assignment
- b. Letter of Confirmation of Interest and Availability.
- c. Personal CV of the consultant.

All applications should be sent to [proposals@fosda.org](mailto:proposals@fosda.org) by 5.00pm GMT on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

#### 4.2 EVALUATION CRITERIA

The expert will be evaluated against a combination of technical and financial criteria (combined scoring method). Maximum score is 100% out of which technical criteria equals 70% and financial criteria equals 30%. The technical evaluation will include the following:

- Educational background and research experience: 10%;
- Demonstrated expertise, knowledge, and experience in the field Education in West Africa and understanding of ECOWAS protocols on Education development: 15%
- Demonstrated understanding of the overall subject-matter of the assignment 15%
- Demonstration of practical knowledge of governance and development work: 5%
- Demonstrated experience and practical knowledge in working and collaborating with stakeholders including ECOWA, Governments; civil society and countries in the ECOWAS sub region: 15%;
- Overall Methodology: 40%;

#### 5.0 PROPOSED TIMELINES

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Time line</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
<b>Advertisement of TOR</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wk of September	FOSDA
<b>Selection of Consultant</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> wk of October	FOSDA
<b>Inception Meeting</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> wk of October	FOSDA
<b>Inception Report</b>	3/4 <sup>th</sup> Wk of October	Consultant
<b>Signing of Contract</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> wk of Oct	FOSDA/Consultant
<b>Field work and Data Gathering</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> – 2 <sup>nd</sup> wk of November	Consultant/ FOSDA
<b>Validation of Draft Report</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Wk November	Consultant
<b>Final Report</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wk of December	Consultant

## 6.0 COVID-19

FOSDA promotes adherence to COVID Protocols to minimise the spread of the disease as well protect its staff, partners and others. In compliance with COVID-19 safety measures, our interview team comprise a two member crew with nose mask, face shields and hand sanitizers.

We also encourage interviews to be held in open spaces as much as possible with not more than 4 people in the same space. We are also ready to adhere to partners' and collaborators' organisational protocols to promote both the safety of their staff and ours.

