Project: All Children Reading Asia (ACR-Asia): Technical Assistance to the Philippines Department of Education (ACR-Philippines)

Reports to: Sarah Pouezevara, Project Manager

Location: Anywhere

Period of Performance: up to 15 days, between approximately April 15 and June 15, 2021

SCOPE OF WORK : TEAM LEADER FOR EVALUATION OF EFFECTIVENESS AND REACH OF DEPED COMMONS OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES REPOSITORY

Background

RTI International is an independent international organization dedicated to conducting innovative, multi-disciplinary research that improves the human condition. RTI is currently implementing a portfolio of research and capacity building activities on behalf of USAID/Philippines and in collaboration with the Philippines Department of Education (DepEd) designed to improve education delivery with a focus on increasing impact, scale, and sustainability of early grade reading. All Children Reading (ACR)-Philippines activities will directly contribute to USAID's education goal to improve early grade reading skills for 100 million children by providing technical and logistical services to USAID/Philippines. Through actionable research, targeted training, and support for other DepEd priority activities, ACR-Philippines is building the capacity and leadership of DepEd to support high impact early grade reading programs.

The conclusions of a 2019 landscape review carried out by RTI and partners, FIT-ED, led to the formulation a program of research and technical assistance related to education technologies and the Digital Rise initiative of DepEd's ICTS Department.

In March 2020, nationwide enhanced community quarantine restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic closed schools for the 2020-2021 school year and a range of efforts have been put in place to ensure continuity of learning. RTI through the ACR-Philippines activity is supporting certain efforts to leverage technology for this purpose, in particular, the creation and dissemination of digital resources through the DepEd Commons repository for Open Educational Resources: https://commons.deped.gov.ph/ .

In May 2020, DepEd introduced the framework of the DepEd Commons to boost distance learning delivery modality in response to the Covid19 pandemic. The main objective was to have teachers actively creating original content and improving these for the DepEd Commons. DepEd Commons as an Open Educational Resource (OER) operates on the principles of access, collaboration and sharing and continuous development. It also operates in an ecosystem where other stakeholders are involved including students/learners, teachers/mentors, education officials, parents, education service providers, civil society organizations, international organizations, etc. It is utilized currently by teachers as a repository of learning resources that can be accessed by learners. As of January 2021, there are around 8 Million unique users of the DepED Commons.

DepEd Commons is a work in progress and a rapidly evolving and improving portal that needs to be accessed by more users anytime and anywhere. DepEd aims to expand its coverage and reach to continuously deliver basic education to Filipino learners amidst the health crisis. To contribute to DepEd's goal, RTI will conduct an evaluation of the usage of the DepEd commons in order to come up with evidence-based recommendations towards a fully sustainable and impactful DepEd Commons.

It is within the above context that RTI requires the support of an expert in Open Educational Resources and resource repositories to advise on a multi-pronged evaluation of the DepEd Commons and certain categories of resources on the platform. The work will be carried out by staff based in the Philippines, but we seek a team leader to advise on research design

Description of tasks

The consultant will work with RTI staff in Manila and internationally:

- To advise on research methodology and framework for review and analysis based on global best practices in national, at-scale e-resources repositories for K-12 basic education.

- Review and add to the literature review on best practices in evaluation of OER repositories.

- Guide local staff and consultants as they conduct interviews, desk review, and other data collection methods (as per the research methodology)

- Support the design and review of results from a broad-based mobile phone survey of the target demographic (families of school-aged children) to find out if they are using DepEd commons or not. Questions of interest for this survey activity include frequency of use, number of resources accessed, and perceived value of the site.

Deliverables:

- Concise and methodologically sound research design document, outlining data collection methods and analysis plan.

- Instruments and protocols for interviews and surveys with users.

- Analytical report on design and use of the DepEd Commons, and recommendations for improvements.

Qualifications:

Ideal candidates will have experience designing, evaluating or advising national governments on at-scale open educational resources repositories for K-12 education.[1] Familiarity with education technology policy and strategy, and basic education in the Philippines, including the most recent policy directives such as the Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan and DepEd Digital Rise program is a plus. The candidate should be very comfortable working with technology, including email, web

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[1] By OER repositories, we mean central sources of curated and freely available digital resources for download and use to support the national K-12 curriculum across subject areas, destined for teachers, parents and students.

conferences, and various networked software such as Microsoft Teams. The consultant will work from home and will be expected to be in possession of functional and reliable internet and computer equipment.

Specific justifiable qualifications include:

- Minimum of a Bachelor's degree in education or a related field;
- Direct experience with OER Repositories (design, implementation, evaluation);
- Excellent communication and report writing skills in English and Filipino;
- Fluency in at least one other national language is a plus;
- Proficiency in common productivity software (MS Word, MS Excel, MS Power Point, email);

Interested individuals should please send CV and a cover letter describing experience relevant to the scope of work to: ph-acr-recruitment@rti.org by April 15.