

## Q&A for RFQ-SOT-2021-003: Subject Advisor Research Study

2 December 2021

- 1) **How do we read the sample sizes for focus group interviews? Does “3 Focus Group Interview” mean one focus group interview with three participants or three focus groups with an undefined number of participants?**
  - a) For Focus groups, the sample shows the number of participants in the one focus group.
  
- 2) **It is our understanding that the deliverables shall include a report for the desk review but the analysis of and reporting on the interviews and observations fall outside the scope of work. Is this correct?**
  - a) Yes this is correct, the desktop review requires a report while the remaining data collection activities requires a summary report/fieldwork report on how the data was collected, and the completeness of data but the analysis and interpretation of the data analysis is outside the scope.
  
- 3) **For purposes of a budget, can you please give us an indicative minimum or maximum number that we may need to do? If we conduct focus groups, are we to assume a standard number of 8-10 individuals in a single sitting, or, as suggested in the RFQ, mostly one-on-one interviews with subject advisors and/or HOD advisors? Is this number restricted to the 6 schools identified to implement HOD coaching or also a sample from the baseline data collection reports?**
  - a) The figures provided in the RFQ are based on the existing participants identified for the work.

The sampling details should be understood as one focus group with the number provided under the sample column as the number of anticipated participants in the focus group. For example the first focus group will be one focus group with 5 people. While the interviews will be one-on-one as stated in the RFQ “data to be collected” table.

Subject Advisors and Coaches are not attached to 6 specific schools but support schools broadly. The school-based aspects will be the 15 teacher and HOD interviews (5 per study) and 5 observations.

The 6 case studies have already happened and data from these will be shared to provide background data and help guide piloting generally.

- 4) **We assume the desktop review of the pilot data and feedback will be fairly extensive. We do not have any idea how many people we may need to deploy. Your suggestion as to the rough estimate of the human, physical and financial resources we may need may aid us in giving a meaningful budget.**

- a) The pilot feedback will be limited to the analysis and reporting on instruments responses and distributions, with proposals on which questionnaire items to retain or remove based on responses. It is anticipated that the piloting effort will take approximately 10 days for the pilot, analysis and may be accomplished by 2 midlevel researchers with support from 1 more senior researcher for some oversight.
- 5) While we may assume that subject advisors and HOD coaches speak English, since they are second language speakers, they do tend to resort to their First Language when absorbed in conversation or even to translate their language verbatim to English, thus making the English logical sequence redundant, 'lost in translation' so to speak. The word for word transcription may still need another 'translation' in order to be meaningful and understandable to an English Language speaker.**
- a) Agreed, we propose that some of the midlevel researchers have knowledge of the two main languages in the provinces – Setswana for North West and isiZulu/Siswati for Mpumalanga.
- 6) Who will be responsible for selecting the schools and participants for data collection?**
- a) The DBE will be responsible for selection based on the historical participation of interviewees and schools in the reading projects. The rationale will be shared with the appointed researchers with the opportunity to expand/revise the selection where reasonable.
- 7) Will data collection happen in all districts of North West and Mpumalanga?**
- a) The data will only be collected from the districts where the Early Grade Reading Study or Programmes have taken place. In Mpumalanga this is Gert Sibanda and Ehlanzeni. In Mpumalanga this will be in Dr Kenneth Kaunda, Ngaka Modiri Molema and Vryburg.
- 8) Will data collection happen in English or local language?**
- a) The data collection will be in both the Home Languages taught in the schools – Mpumalanga: isiZulu and Siswati, North West: Setswana – as well as English. This will be particularly for the observations, while interviews will largely be in English.
- 9) Who is responsible for obtaining ethics approval?**
- a) The DBE will provide permission for the work and liaise with participants and schools, no additional ethical approval is required.
- 10) Should budget include reimbursements for participants?**
- a) A small token of appreciation for the interviews as well as refreshments/lunch may be provided. However travel reimbursements are not required.