

USAID Basic Education Program
Technical Consultant: Pre-service programming in elementary education
Scope of Work (SOW)

General Project Information

The USAID Basic Education Program is a four-year (January 2020 – January 2024) program funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by RTI International in partnership with the University of Georgia, seven regional universities, and two local Georgian NGOs - Child, and Family Society (CFS) and the Center for Integration and Inter-ethnic Relations (CCIIR).

Through direct collaboration with the Georgian Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport (MOESCS), the Program seeks to implement sustainable student-centered reform in primary grades. As a system-wide reform, the Program will impact all stakeholders in the primary education sector in Georgia, including primary grade students and their families, teachers and administrators, universities, local organizations, and the Ministry.

The USAID Basic Education Program aims to institutionalize student-centered instruction through a far-reaching systemic reform of pre-service and in-service teacher professional development and use of research and data to inform policy and classroom practice. This goal will be achieved by accomplishing three objectives:

- (1) current teachers and administrators implement student-centered curricula
- (2) future teachers acquire student-centered teaching skills and future administrators acquire relevant instructional leadership skills
- (3) educational policies are developed with the use of data and evidence

At the end of the Program, the Georgian education system will have the capacity to sustain nation-wide reforms grounded in student-centered instruction. This reform will produce measurable improvements in reading and math learning outcomes as well as the critical thinking and problem-solving skills for all girls and boys in Georgia, including those with different learning needs and those whose mother tongue is not Georgian.

Consultant SOW

In Georgia, universities offer a five-year program which would compare to a combined bachelor's and master's degree program in the US. The universities award graduates with a master's degree in education; universities do not offer a bachelor's degree in education. The seven regional universities which work with the Program have master's degree programs in elementary education; however, the University of Georgia, the Program's primary partner, does not currently offer a graduate program in elementary education.

The USAID Basic Education Program is seeking a consultant with expertise in pre-service primary education university programs in the US. The consultant will present sessions at the Program Institute event to teach university partners about best practices in master's degree programs in elementary education. The university partners with existing programs can then update their programs to reflect these best practices. The consultant will also work with the University of Georgia to help them develop a master's degree program in elementary education.

1. Program Institute

The consultant will offer several sessions during the Program Institute Event, at the University of Georgia, in Tbilisi, currently scheduled for July 8-9, 2021. In-person attendance is preferable, but virtual participation will be considered. The Program Institute will be a two-day event attended by representatives from the Ministry of Education, USAID, the USAID Basic Education Program, and the university partners. The purpose of the Program Institute is for the university partners to learn about best practices in master's degree programs in elementary education, the value of peer-to-peer coaching, and the need for universities to conduct action research projects continuously. The consultant will lead plenary discussions among participants on the topics listed below. At the Program Institute the consultant will also provide guidance to the university partners on how they can update their master's degree programs in elementary education.

a. Offering a quality master's degree program in primary education

The consultant's first task will be to present best practices in a degree in a primary education program during the Program Institute forum attended by partner universities. A review of the universities' current degree programs conducted by RTI determined that universities were strong in pedagogical theory but lacked courses in topics such as educational assessment, instructional planning, child psychology, addressing the needs of diverse students, and children's acquisition of reading and math skills.

b. Value of peer-to-peer coaching

The consultant will present on the benefits of universities developing a peer-to-peer coaching program among university staff. An emphasis on linking the coaching model to curricular changes is needed.

c. Action Research Projects

The consultant will present a session on the need for universities to conduct research continuously. Session topics could potentially include: possible research topics, data collection, suggestions for tools and instruments, data analysis, and using results to affect curricular or instructional changes.

2. Creation of a master's degree program in primary education for the University of Georgia

The consultant's main task after the Program Institute will be to work with the University of Georgia to develop their master's degree program in elementary education. The University of Georgia will design their program with guidance from the consultant. The consultant will be expected to collaborate regularly with the University of Georgia via zoom or other online platforms. In addition, the consultant will be expected to travel to Georgia to work with the University of Georgia in person on the development of their program, preferably during the visit which includes the Program Institute.

The consultant will work with the University of Georgia to develop a master's degree program in elementary education according to the following criteria:

1. The courses must reflect:
 - a. Classroom-based practice over time
 - b. A shift from faculty "lecturing" to modeling effective student-centered instruction
 - c. Teacher/Student-coordinated research that includes reflective practice, relevant

topics, and use of assessment data

2. The program must be reflective of key best practices in master’s degree programs in elementary education that are currently in use in the US or internationally.

Communication and Travel

The USAID Basic Education Program will be in regular communication with the consultant regarding progress and any challenges related to this work.

All travel costs for trips to Georgia (State department per diem, lodging, flights, etc.) will be covered by the USAID Basic Education Program. The Program will arrange for lodging and transportation within country; the RTI home office will arrange airfare.

Deliverables

1. Three presentations for the Program Institute in Tbilisi
2. Suggested master’s degree program in elementary education for the University of Georgia
3. Final report outlining achievements and suggested next steps

Activities, Estimated LOE, and Timelines

No.	Activity	Estimated Level of Effort	Anticipated Timeline (dates are subject to change)
1	Initial discussions with Project Team	.5 days	April 26- 30, 2021
2	Research quality master’s degree programs in elementary education	3 days	June 1, 2021
3	Prepare three presentations for the Program Institute	3 days	June 15, 2021
4	Present at the Program Institute	2 days to attend+ 4 travel days	July 6-10, 2021 Virtually or in person in Tbilisi
5	Work with the University of Georgia to create and finalize their master’s degree program in elementary education	5 days of remote support+ 2 days of support in country (ideally after the Program Institute) + 4 travel days if traveling after the Program Institute	July 2021- November 30, 2021
6	Final report outlining achievements and next steps	2 days	December 15, 2021
	TOTAL	Up to 25.5 days	

Necessary Qualifications

- Expertise in pre-service programming in elementary education in the USA

- Experience working in educational settings outside of the United States.
- At least 15 years of experience in the education field
- Doctorate in Education

Submission Guidelines:

Please submit the CV and below requested documents to GeorgiaHR@rti.org. Please include “Pre-service consultant” in the subject line.

Please include in electronic submission:

- Recent CV
- Completed biodata form, including requested daily rate



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CVs will be accepted and considered on a rolling basis.