TOR

**Request for Proposal - Procurement of IT Equipment**

September 2022

1. British Council

The British Council is the UK’s international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We create friendly knowledge and understanding between the people of the UK and other countries. Through our arts, education and English programmes, we give opportunities to hundreds of millions of people worldwide each year. We are on the ground in six continents and over 100 countries. British Council is operating in Nepal since 1959.

The British Council’s education work is far-reaching and covers nearly all 110+ countries in which we do business. Our education programmes, which are core to our charitable purpose, are built to give people opportunities, make connections to the UK and ultimately engender trust. The British Council believes that by delivering education programmes that are mutually beneficial to the UK and other countries, we will create more understanding and links between peoples, making a brighter future for all of us.

1. Background

Young girls in Nepal get fewer opportunities than boys and can face more difficulties in accessing and completing formal education. While there has been improvement in gender parity in access to education for most of the population, there is still gender inequality among the most excluded (MOEST, 2021). During adolescence, girls face different challenges including socio-cultural and economic challenges which affects their education. Girls tend to drop out of schools due to issues like early marriage, childbearing, or lack of gender sensitive facilities at schools. Recent closure of school and interruption in learning continuity due to the effect of the pandemic has increased risk of girls dropping out from schools.

Underprivileged girls in rural areas are not as fortunate as their urban counterparts in getting the opportunities to enhance their confidence in communicative English, digital skills and 21st century skills/ social skills as institutions which provide such facilities are often prevalent only in cities, hence further marginalizing the disadvantaged ethnic groups and communities in rural Nepal. Research on ‘Livelihood Opportunities for Girls’ (The Research Base 2017) has described this gap as a gender digital divide, which could further exacerbate gendered skills imbalances in the labour market, leading to poorer life chances for girls and women in the future. Nepal’s Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Education Master Plan, 2021-2026 (final draft) has acknowledged this and envisioned to minimise the gender digital divide ensuring access of online learning and e-resources through community learning centres (CLCs). Similarly, Educational Equity and Inclusion is also one of the main focuses of the new School Education Sector Plan (2021–2030) (SESP), to ensure access and participation of all children and young people in education and to overall respect social justice.

According to the Livelihood Research (British Council, 2017), lifelong learning opportunities are very limited in Nepal. The adolescent girls, especially in rural and disadvantaged communities, have limited awareness of the knowledge and skills needed to pursue their future ambitions. SESP has also accepted that the capacity development of the system, institutions and personnel for non-formal education and lifelong learning have received inadequate attention and has aimed to ensure access to opportunities for inclusive and equitable literacy and lifelong learning for all citizens. Additionally, it has also aimed to strengthen CLCs as a platform for lifelong and skills development learning and develop digital learning materials, learning tests and certification in accordance with level-wise curriculum, learning modules and linguistic diversity.

Marginalization and discrimination are acute among girls, ethnic minorities, Dalits and children with disabilities. The case is relatively worse in Madhesh and Karnali provinces. Presence of patriarchal and deeply rooted caste system and gender discriminatory norms creates challenges for these marginalized girls in accessing education and health services that is required for their dignified living. Children lack voice to raise their concerns due to inadequate access to quality education and enabling family and social environment. At the family level, parents tend to invest more in the education and health of boys than girls, especially as students transition to secondary school and they reach adolescent age.

Unfortunately, child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) still remains a challenge as Nepal Demographic Health Survey (NDHS) has revealed that 13% of women are married by age 15. Due to early pregnancy and other household burden, these girls are not able to continue their education thereby losing their opportunity of accessing livelihood services. It clearly indicates that there is a need of holistic, systematic and integrated approaches as the problems of dis-empowerment of girls are caused due to various challenges. Therefore, it is essential to integrate at least health and educational interventions together for increasing leadership role of women and girls.

Active and meaningful engagement of women, girls, persons with disabilities and youth should be ensured to promote inclusive sustainable development. It is essential that networks and organizations representing these marginalized group should be capacitated for amplifying these unheard concerns of these marginalized communities. Volunteers’ networks should also be strengthened to ensure stronger engagement of the volunteers in the development and policy reform endeavours.

Girls Empowerment and Mainstreaming Sustainably (GEMS) is a project in partnership with VSO Nepal which aims to enhance the enabling policy environment and accountability for a gender-responsive and inclusive education and health system, improve self-efficacy and life skills of marginalized adolescent girls and enhance agency, networks, and collaboration for enabling girls to claim their rights.

VSO is one of the world’s leading independent international development organizations that works through volunteers to empower communities in developing countries to create lasting change.

1. Objective

The Girls Empowerment and Mainstreaming Sustainably (GEMS) Project aims to meet the following objectives:

**Impact**: Inclusive society and equitable development in Nepal by strengthening girls’ education, Health and empowerment of women and girls.

**Outcome 1:** Enhanced enabling policy environment and accountability for gender responsive, inclusive education and Health system.

**Outcome 2:** Improved self-efficacy and life skills of marginalized adolescent girls

**Outcome 3:** Enhanced agency, networks and collaboration for enabling adolescent girls to claim their rights.

1. Goods and Service Specification

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| **S.N.** | **Item** | **Units required** |
| 1. | Laptop | 15 |
| 2. | Projector set (multimedia) | 16 |
| 3. | Mouse | 40 |

Specification of Laptop:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **SN** | **Subject** | **Description** |
| 1 | Brand / Model | To be mentioned. Branded and widely used models. |
| 2 | Processor | 11th Generation Intel® Core™ i3-1115G4, 6 MB Cache, 2 Core, 4 Threads, 3.00 GHz to 4.10 GHz, 15 W |
| 3 | Operating System | No Preinstalled Operating System |
| 4 | Graphics | Integrated: Intel® UHD Graphics |
| 5 | Display | 15.6-inch, FHD, 1920 x 1080, 60 Hz, anti-glare, non touch, 45% NTSC, 220 nits, wide-viewing angle |
| 6 | Memory | 8 GB, 1 x 8 GB, DDR4, 2666 MHz with Integrated Graphics |
| 7 | Storage | M.2 2230, 256 GB, PCIe NVMe Gen3 x4, Class 35 SSD |
| 8 | Ports, Slots & Chassis | 1 USB 2.0 port  1 Headset jack  1 HDMI 1.4 port\*   1. Flip-Down RJ-45 port 10/100/1000 Mbps 1 SD 3.0 card slot 2. USB 3.2 Gen 1 ports |
| 9 | Input | Full-size, spill-resistant keyboard with numeric keypad |
| 10 | Multimedia | 2 tuned speakers Headset Jack  Integrated widescreen HD (720p) Webcam with Single Digital Microphone |
| 11 | Wireless | 802.11ac, Bluetooth, 1x1 |
| 12 | Battery | 3-cell, 41 Wh, lithium-polymer (integrated) |
| 13 | AC Adapter | 65 W AC adapter, 4.5 mm barrel |
| 14 | Dimensions & Weight | Height: 17.5 mm-18.9 mm (0.69 in-0.74 in) Width: 358.50 mm (14.11 in)  Depth: 235.56 (9.27 in)  Starting Weight: 1.69 kg (3.72 lb) |
| 15 | Security | 1 wedge-shaped lock slot |
| 16 | Warranty | 1 Year Manufacturer Warranty |

Specification of Projector:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **SN** | **Subject** | **Description** |
| 1 | Brand / Model | To be mentioned. Branded and widely used models. |
| 2 | Native Resolution | 800 x 600 |
| 3 | Maximum Resolution | 1920 x 1200 |
| 4 | Standard Mode Brightness | 4000 lm |
| 5 | Standard Mode Brightness | 0.16875 |
| 6 | Contrast Ratio | 20,000:1 |
| 7 | Throw Ratio | 1.96 to 2.15 (1270 mm@2000 mm) |
| 8 | Digital Zoom | 2x |
| 9 | Vertical Keystone Correction | -40°/+40° |
| 10 | Maximum Vertical Sync | 120 Hz |
| 11 | Maximum Horizontal Sync | 100 kHz |
| 12 | Minimum Vertical Sync | 24 Hz |
| 13 | Minimum Horizontal Sync | 15 kHz |
| 14 | Colour Supported | 1.07 Billion Colors (30-bit) |
| 15 | Minimum Lens Aperture | f/2.56 |
| 16 | Maximum Lens Aperture | f/2.68 |
| 17 | Minimum Projection Distance | 1 m |
| 18 | Maximum Projection Distance | 12 m |
| 19 | Lamp Type | UHP |
| 20 | Normal / Eco / Extreme Eco | 5000 Hour / 10000 Hour / 15000 Hour |
| 21 | Interfaces/Ports | HDMI: Yes  Number of USB Ports: 1 USB: Yes  USB Connector Type: 1 x Mini-B Composite Video: Yes  Number of VGA Inputs: 1 VGA In: Yes  Number of VGA Outputs: 1 VGA Out: Yes  Number Of Audio Inputs: 1 Number Of Audio Outputs: 1 Audio Line In: Yes  Audio Line Out: Yes  Total Number of HDMI Ports: 1 |
| 22 | Projection System | DLP |
| 23 | Projection Method | Ceiling Front Rear  Rear Ceiling |
| 24 | Speaker Output Power | 3W |
| 25 | Warranty | 1 Year Manufacturer Warranty |

\* Items with similar specifications can also be proposed.

Consulting Team

NB: Please note that the British Council will identify a Team Leader for this assignment, so the proposal by the bidding Service Provider/Company should NOT include the position of the Team Leader for this assignment.

1. Consultant/Firm Specifications

Applicants should be able to provide evidence of how they meet the following specification:

* Demonstrable experience in the IT procurement sector

1. Implementation Arrangement

The IT equipment organisation will be responsible for the implementation of the procurement. A project manager from the British Council will be assigned to monitor the procurement.

1. Cost and Financing

The British Council will finance the purchase of the IT equipment and other costs associated with the procurement. Please fill out the pricing approach in Annex 3

1. Duration of Assignment

The procurement will be implemented from 14 October 2022 till 13 November 2022