

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST 2021 GEM Regional Report on non-state actors in education in South Asia Region

Procurement Process :	Call for proposals
Office :	UNESCO - PARIS
Deadline :	20 April 2020
Posted on :	2 March 2020
Reference Number :	GEM/RFP/20/01

Documents :

- GEM Report Concept Note – 2021 Report on non-state actors
<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000372188/PDF/372188eng.pdf.multi>

Overview :

The Global Education Monitoring Report (or GEM Report), formerly known as the Education for All Global Monitoring Report (GMR), is an editorially independent, authoritative, and evidence-based annual report that monitors progress in education in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which have been adopted as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Report is funded by a group of governments, multilateral agencies and foundations and published annually by UNESCO to serve the international community. It is widely recognised as an indispensable advocacy and technical tool supporting the achievement of SDG 4, which aims to ensure “inclusive and equitable quality education” and promote “lifelong learning for all” by 2030. With its renewed mandate, established in the Incheon Declaration of the World Education Forum in May 2015, the annual GEM Report series will identify effective education policies and analyse major education related themes.

The 2021 GEM Report, the fifth in this new series, will focus on the role of non-state actors in education. The State has ultimate responsibility for its citizens’ education. However, a wide range of modes of education provision and financing exist today around the world that involve non-state actors. Non-state stakeholders are envisioned as playing a crucial role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through providing additional financial resources and accountability to meet education needs. The growing influence of non-state actors in provision and policy direction in the education sector present opportunities and challenges for the sector that need to be unpacked to help achieve SDG 4.

In the 2019-2022 GEM Report strategy, greater emphasis is placed on making research and evidence more readily available and relevant at the regional and national levels. Since 2019, a new series of regional reports is being piloted to better serve audiences and promote policy dialogue. In 2019, a regional report was launched in the Arab States on migration, displacement and education; in 2020, two regional reports are planned for launch on inclusion and education in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Eurasia respectively; and in 2021 the GEM Report intends to launch a regional report on non-state actors in South Asia¹.

According to UIS data, the share of enrolment in private institutions rose between 1990 and 2018 from 23% to 42% in pre-primary education and from 9% to 18% in primary education. In secondary education, the share increased from 19% in 1998 to 26% in 2018. At all three levels, Central and Southern Asia is the region with the highest share, reaching about half of total enrolment in pre-primary and secondary education.

To better understand the role and issues related to non-state actors in the region in terms of education provision, financing, regulation, innovation and influence at all education levels, the GEM Report team is looking to collaborate with organizations for the preparation of the 2021 Regional Report on non-state actors in the South Asia Region. The GEM Report therefore invites applications/proposals from registered enterprises, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and academic institutions.

¹ South Asia covers nine countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.

The project should be implemented for a period ranging of 18 months and would result in a report of an estimated 50,000 words.

The following is an indicative outline the areas to be covered by the Report:

1. Introduction and context
2. Provision
3. Governance and regulation
4. Finance
5. Influence and innovation
6. Early childhood
7. Tertiary education
8. Technical, vocational and adult education

This call for expressions of interest focuses on the following outcomes:

- Carry out high quality and in-depth primary and secondary research on issues of non-state actors in the education in at least two countries in South Asia and in particular:
 - How are non-state actors engaged in the provision of core and support education goods and services?
 - What are the effects of non-state provision of education on access, equity, inclusion, quality, learning and efficiency?
 - How is non-state activity in education funded?
 - Is regulation of non-state activity in education fit for purpose?
 - What influence do non-state actors exert on education systems in the field of ideas?
- Support outreach, dissemination, communication and advocacy activities related to the regional report.

Priority will be given to proposals that respond to the following aspects:

- Proven record in the field of research in education and the role of non-state actors in South Asia
- Consistency with the approach outlined in the concept note
- Capacity of the organisation to implement the project (institutional and financial)
- Comprehensiveness of the project proposal including the workplan and budget
- Staff competencies
- Advocacy skills
- Value for money demonstrated (monetary or in-kind contribution to the project)

Proposals (technical and financial including timeline) must be submitted along with:

- Proof of registration as a non-governmental/private organisation including copies of registration certificate(s)
- Organisational chart
- Last two annual audited accounts

All applications should be submitted in English to gemreport@unesco.org by no later than 18:00 hours (Paris time) on 20 April, 2020.

Any requests for additional information should be addressed in writing by 16 March 2020 at the latest to gemreport@unesco.org. All responses to any queries or clarification requests will be made available to all the applicants before the deadline for submission of applications.

Applications will be assessed by an evaluation committee to identify organisations based on the criteria outlined above.

Participation to this Call for expressions of interest does not guarantee the organisation will be ultimately selected. Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their submissions by communication sent out to the email no later than May 20th, 2020.