

**Terms of Reference
LCG Education Working Group**

2nd draft, January 2013

1. Background

The Government of Bangladesh (GOB) and its development partners (DPs) meet regularly to discuss development issues in Bangladesh through the Local Consultative Group (LCG) mechanism. The basis for the discussions is the national strategy for poverty reduction and other sectoral strategies and policies.

The LCG mechanism is underpinned by several GoB-DP working groups (WG) covering the key development sectors and themes in the country. The LCG WG on education provides a forum for information exchange, coordination and collaboration among GoB and DPs in the area of education and skills development.

2. Objectives

The objective of the LCG Education WG is to contribute towards effective and coordinated implementation of national policies, strategies, plans and programmes in the relevant sectors in Bangladesh through joint results targets and a monitoring framework.

The specific objectives are to:

- **promote harmonisation and alignment of activities** to enhance aid effectiveness, avoid duplication and encourage complementarity in programming; provide feedback to the government, concerned agencies, and the main LCG;
- **exchange information with GoB** related to the progress and constraints in the achievement of goals set by GoB in the sector
- contribute to **ensuring accountability** amongst development partners for their engagement within the sector;
- **facilitate common understanding** and integration of policies, approaches and efforts of development partners in the sector; this would include an inventory of GoB and donor activities in the sector to be updated regularly;
- **coordinate with other relevant LCG working groups;**
- **act as Local Education Group (LEG)** for the education global initiatives;
- lead in **disseminating best practice** in operational approaches/practices with demonstrable, measurable and effective impact.

3. Membership

Members of the Working group are representatives of the Government of Bangladesh, development partners and civil society involved in the sector. In addition to these regular members, resource persons will be invited from relevant organisations/agencies as appropriate.

4. Organisational Set-Up

The attached LCG Working group Guidelines (<http://www.lcgbangladesh.org/pages/guidelines.htm>) will guide the overall functioning of the Working group in the context of the LCG mechanism. Two co-chairs will lead the Working group, of which one will represent the development partners and the other will represent GoB. The co-chair representing the

development partners will be appointed by general consensus of the members of the Working Group for a recommended period of 2 years, following the LCG mechanism.

The LCG Education WG will meet quarterly and more often if required. Ad-hoc meetings, if required, may be called for by either of the Co-Chairs. Draft minutes will be circulated after each meeting. Either of the co-chairs may call for ad-hoc stakeholder or thematic meeting as required.

The outputs of the LCG Education WG are to be defined in annual work plans prepared by the Co-Chairs and approved by all the members.

The Working group's Terms of Reference will be reviewed and revised as appropriate and at least every second year.

5. Tasks and Responsibilities

The LCG Education WG will focus on the following tasks and responsibilities:

- A. • **To facilitate common understanding on the country's education related issues.**
This will require exchange of information on education related matters, including a regularly updated inventory of GoB and DP activities in this area. Topics for discussion will include results and recommendations emerging from different studies as well as activities and progress under DP funded assistance programs.
- B. • **To promote harmonisation and alignment of activities** as well as joint work/programmes, analyses to enhance aid effectiveness, avoid duplication and encourage complementarity in programming. Accordingly, the LCG Education WG will provide feedback to the GoB, concerned agencies, and the LCG Plenary, as deemed necessary.
The WG will also prepare an annual plan, tentative agenda and year-end summary and present those at the Bangladesh Development Forum.
- C. • **To provide a forum for establishing consensus on education priorities.** The Education WG will seek ways of translating the commitments of the GoB while taking into account Paris and Accra in the context of Bangladesh.
- D. • **To support communication and dissemination of best practices** in operational approaches/ practices with demonstrable, measurable and effective impact.
- E. • **To prepare a matrix outlining GoB's reform plans and individual DP commitments and support to broader education aspects.** The matrix is intended to promote coherence of support and engagement between GoB and DPs for improved performance in the areas of education. Simultaneously, the WG will **monitor and provide support to ensure effective and efficient implementation** of intended activities.
- F. • **To monitor education results indicators.** The LCG Education WG will contribute in monitoring the education related indicators to the joint Development Results Framework between GoB and DPs.
- G. • **To discuss implementation or any other emerging issues related to education.** These discussions can be related to DP funded projects and programs, but can also be related to GoB's activities. The group may agree on common action to address these issues.
- H. • **To establish an action-oriented character,** the LCG Education WG will have smaller thematic task teams or sub-groups to help achieve its objectives. Currently there exist two sub-groups (namely – (i) PEDP 3 Consortium and (ii) Skills Development WG under the LCG Education WG.

LCG Education Working Group
Action Points : Progress and Way Forward / Working Plan
Draft January 2013

| Agreed Action point | Next steps | Timing | GoB / DP lead | Progress (as on 31/1/2013) | Way Forward (for 2013) |
|---|--|---|-------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Nominate members for the groups | Government to nominate line ministries as members of the group | As soon as possible | GoB | | |
| 2. To become a regular event for reviewing achievements and agreeing future priorities | Revise TORs Donor programmes review progress Finalise and update action plan | Reactualise TOR Continuous Continuous | GOB +DP Co-Chairs | | Revised action plan to be agreed upon and adopted as a living document |
| 3. Align DP's assistance with GoB priorities as set out in the Sixth Five Year Plan, NEP and NSDP | | Continuous | | | |
| 4. To develop comprehensive education sector plan | | | | | |
| 5. Mainstream DER in Education | | | | | |
| 4. PEDP 3 Consortium | | | | | |
| 5. Skills Development Sub-group | | | | | |