



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Short Term Consultant, Monitoring & Evaluation

“Partnership for Literacy Enhancement for the Deaf”.

May 2017

Jamaica Association for the Deaf

PROJECT OVERVIEW

USAID Education priorities emphasize the importance of creating a productive and skilled workforce in developing countries to achieve economic growth. In particular, USAID seeks opportunities for underserved populations to develop their human capacity through basic education, higher education, workforce development and training.

A cursory glance at Deaf education in Jamaica reveals that inadequate instructional practices, low JSL communicative competence, poor parenting support and the absence of an appropriate Jamaican Sign Language (JSL) Curriculum have been identified as major contributing factors to the literacy development of Deaf Students. This project is being designed to address these issues and seeks to provide an innovative, cost effective method to open new opportunities for children in Jamaican public schools catering to the improvement of performance by Deaf and Hard of Hearing students.

The project will focus primarily on improving the language development of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students through guided language enrichment activities, introduction of JSL as a Subject Curriculum and training of teachers and parents in appropriate techniques for learning support. Emphasis will also be given to coaching and mentorship of school administrators and teachers to build confidence in the implementation of a sign bilingual approach and general instructional practices.

The direct and ultimate beneficiaries of the project will be the students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (D/HH) within all the schools for the Deaf in Jamaica. Their families, teachers and school administration will also be directly impacted by the project.

It is expected that after the life of the project, the number of Deaf students functioning at age appropriate levels in literacy will increase by 10 percentage points. Activities are also expected to enhance the bilingual approach to Deaf education through increasing the competence and confidence of instructors in delivering student-centred lessons using JSL as their language of instruction. An increase in the quality and volume of parental support to the literacy development of their Deaf child is highly anticipated.

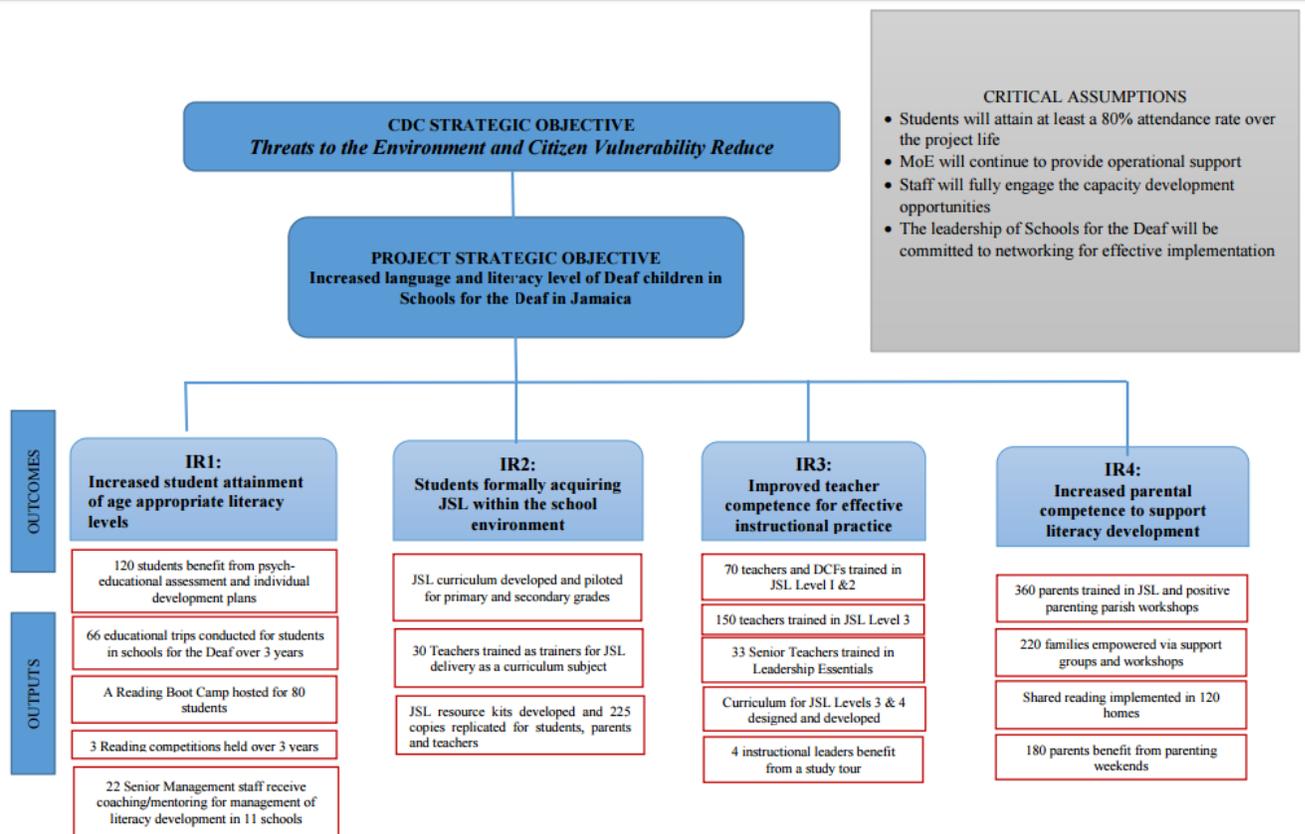
While the JAD will be the lead stakeholder, the project activities will include, teachers, students, parents and school administration from all others schools for the Deaf in Jamaica, thereby impacting 11 schools spread across 6 parishes. This collaborative approach evidenced by the partnership of all schools for the Deaf will be a strong commendable feature of the project, and it is expected to exponentially increase the potential for significant impact on Deaf Children across Jamaica. In the execution of the project, much consideration will be given to gender integration and sustainability of activities and gains beyond the life of the project.

Activity Goals and Objectives

The activity is aimed at increasing the literacy level of deaf children in schools operated by the four major service providers of deaf education in Jamaica. This will be realized through the attainment of the following main objectives:

1. Increase the number of deaf students functioning at age appropriate levels for literacy development by 10%;
2. Establish JSL as a subject within the schools for the Deaf by 2018;
3. At least 75% of all teachers advancing at least two levels of JSL Communicative Competence at the end of the three years from entry;
4. Provide learning forums for teachers in the areas of effective in-school transitioning and instructional practices for multiple disabilities; and
5. Foster the development of parents' communication skills through JSL.

The following represents a basic project Results Framework:



MONITORING & EVALUATION SHORT TERM CONSULTANCY

The Jamaica Association for the Deaf through its Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), seeks the services of a suitably qualified M&E Specialist to provide technical services to support the implementation of this program entitled *Partnership for Literacy Enhancement for the Deaf*. The overall objective of the M&E Consultant is to design and develop a robust framework to ensure that that the project activities are well monitored and evaluated, with appropriate indicators of success, impact measurements, and communication of results to the donor, government, and partners.

Scope of Work

Under the supervision of the Project Manager, the role of the consultant will be to:

- Provide expertise in M&E planning and methodology
- Develop a robust Monitoring and Evaluation Plan/Framework that will support rigorous and sound evaluation design and analysis of the project to include project design activities such as project theories of change and strategic frameworks (Results

Frameworks, Log-frames, etc.)

- Train project staff and relevant stakeholders in the use of the relevant M&E tools
- Complete Performance Management Plan according to the standards and guidelines of the Cooperative Agreement
- Design and review efficient and high quality Performance, Data Management and Reporting Tools and processes for use during the monitoring and evaluation process, including development of standardized quantitative and qualitative research tools to support achievement and measurement of project objectives.
- Support in designing and disseminating research studies by providing relevant input

Qualifications, Skills and Experiences

- Master's degree in a development field, education, social science, economics, or other relevant discipline.
- Minimum of five years of progressively responsible professional experience in a performance monitoring and evaluation role with an international development organization, preferably the USAID and within the educational and social development sector in Jamaica.
- Demonstrated ability in data analysis, project design, monitoring, and evaluation of development activities.
- Experience in developing results frameworks, logical frameworks, performance management plans or similar tools for project design is required.
- Knowledge of Disabilities and Deaf culture would be an asset.

Time Frame and Deliverables:

Deliverables	Due Date
Consultant's Work-plan	June 2
M&E Framework and Project Design	June 4
Learning and Sharing - Plan	June 4
Performance Management Plan and Data Management Tools	June 15
Learning and Sharing Implementation	June 7 & July 27

The consultancy fee is to cover all expenses of the consultancy. This short term consultancy is to be conducted within the 3-month period of June 1 – August 30, 2017.

Reporting Requirement

The Consultant will report to the Project Coordinator or his/her designate. The Manager will certify satisfactory completion of contract deliverables for payment. The contract will be signed between the Consultant and the Jamaica Association for the Deaf, executing agency for the Cooperative Agreement.

Prepared by the Jamaica Association for the Deaf

May 18, 2017