



Call for expression of interest

UNESCO is seeking the services of a contractor to support the development of scripted lesson plans for sensitive topics in Life Skills Education.

1. Background

Namibia has made major strides towards the incorporation of Life Skills-based Health Education (LSHE) in school curricula. The school-based life skills education program is designed to counter the threat of HIV and other STIs, help protect young women against unintended pregnancy, provide the necessary skills to develop effective decision-making and communication skills, explore values and attitudes, and ensure that young people are made aware of risk-reduction skills. The investment in the sexual health and development of adolescents is central to achieving the SDGs, promoting public health and ensuring national economic development. In short, LSHE can offer the knowledge, life skills and values required to promote and protect the sexual health of young people well beyond their adolescence, and form attitudes that will positively condition their adult sexual health and support meaningful relationships. Furthermore, Life Skills is offered from Grade 4-12, as a compulsory support (non-promotional) subject.

Despite ongoing efforts, high rates of learner pregnancy, SRGBV and HIV infection persist, suggesting a lack of significant change in learners' behaviors. Additionally, many teachers remain uncomfortable with teaching sexuality education topics. UNESCO has been actively supporting the Ministry of Education, Arts, and Culture to strengthen the delivery of Life Skills-Based HIV/Health Education. This includes conducting of the Sexuality Education Review and Assessment (SERAT) and providing capacity-building programs for pre- and in-service teachers.

UNESCO, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, is committed to enhancing the quality and effectiveness of life skills-based health education. Recognizing the vital role that life skills-based health education plays in fostering healthy, informed, and resilient citizens, UNESCO seeks to address the need for well-structured and sensitive lesson plans. These plans will be instrumental in guiding life skills teachers through the delivery of complex and sensitive topics within the life skills curriculum. The aim is to create a safe and supportive learning environment where learners can engage with these topics thoughtfully and constructively.

2. Objectives

The primary objectives of this consultancy are to:

- I. Develop comprehensive scripted lesson plans for the delivery of sensitive topics within the life skills curriculum.

- II. Ensure that these scripted lesson plans are age-appropriate, culturally relevant, and aligned with the national curriculum.
- III. Provide teachers with clear, practical guidance on how to use the scripted lesson plans.

3. Scope of Work

The consultant will be responsible for the following tasks:

- Review the existing life skills curriculum and identify areas that require scripted lesson plans.
- Conduct consultation workshop with curriculum panel members, life skills teachers to understand the challenges and needs related to teaching sensitive topics.
- Provide a comprehensive report summarizing findings and recommendations from the consultation meeting with panel members.
- Develop detailed, step-by-step lesson plans for each identified sensitive topic.
- Ensure that each lesson plan includes objectives, key messages, instructional activities, discussion prompts, and assessment strategies.
- Integrate culturally appropriate and context-sensitive approaches to address the diverse needs of learners.
- Implement pilot testing of the lesson plans in selected schools.
- Gather feedback from the teachers and learners to refine and improve the lesson plans.
- Incorporate feedback from pilot testing and finalize the lesson plans.
- Develop practical guides to support teachers in using the scripted lesson plans effectively.
- Conduct workshops or training sessions with curriculum panel members on the use of the new lesson plans.
- Provide a final report detailing the process, outcomes, and recommendations for future implementation and scaling.

4. Deliverables

1. Comprehensive needs assessment and recommendations report. This report will detail the findings from a thorough review of the existing life skills curriculum and stakeholder consultations. It will identify the specific areas that require scripted lesson plans for sensitive topics and provide detailed recommendations for addressing these needs.
2. A set of scripted lesson plans for the identified sensitive topics designed to facilitate thoughtful and respectful engagement with the topics, tailored to the diverse cultural and contextual needs of students, including a practical guide for using the lessons.
3. A final report summarizing the consultancy process and outcomes, with recommendations for further action.

5. Required competencies and experience of the consultancy

The ideal candidate shall possess the following qualifications and experience:

- Advanced degree (Masters) in Education, Curriculum Development, Social Sciences, or a related field.
- At least 5 years of experience in curriculum development, particularly in life skills or related areas.
- Proven expertise in creating educational materials for sensitive topics.
- Experience working in diverse cultural and educational settings, preferably in the context of developing countries.
- Strong understanding of pedagogical approaches for teaching sensitive topics.
- Excellent writing and communication skills.
- Ability to engage effectively with a wide range of stakeholders.
- Proficiency in designing and delivering training programs for educators.

5.1.Desirable

- Prior work with the Ministry of Education Arts and Culture
- Prior work with UN Agencies will be an added advantage.

6. Duration and timeline

The consultancy is expected to be completed over a period of 4 months. A detailed work plan with timelines for each deliverable will be developed in consultation with UNESCO and MoEAC upon commencement of the contract.

7. Application process

Interested consultants are requested to submit an expression of interest with a curriculum vitae including a proposed budget and timeframes within which the proposed work can be concluded. Applications are to be submitted to UNESCO via: windhoek@unesco.org by 23 August 2024.