1. Background

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease manifested by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). It was first identified in December 2019 in Wuhan, the capital of China's Hubei province, and has since then spread globally, resulting into an ongoing pandemic claiming people’s life and halting economic activities. As of 4 May 2020, more than 3.52 million cases have been reported across 187 countries and territories, resulting in more than 248,000 deaths. More than 1.13 million people have recovered. At this time, there are no specific vaccines or treatments for COVID-19. However, there are many ongoing clinical trials evaluating potential treatments.

Tanzania being part of the global village has not been spared from the outbreak of COVID-19. As of 29th April 2020, there were 480 cumulative confirmed cases of COVID-19, 160 confirmed recovery cases, and 16 confirmed deaths. Dar es Salaam has reported many cases than any other regions in Tanzania. Accordingly, the government has made remarkable efforts to control and contain transmission and spread of the disease such as; Mandatory quarantine for incoming travellers (visitors and Tanzanian Citizens) to undergo self-isolation for 14 days on arrival, Members of the public advised to avoid non-essential travel to COVID-19 affected countries and banned issuance of travel permits to all civil servants to countries that have reported to have the Coronavirus cases; Suspension of social gatherings, including seminars, forums, and festivals as well as sports activities, Closure of schools and colleges, Community engagement activities through social mobilization for sustainable public awareness and community sensitization to take preventive and control measure.

To some students’ home environment is not conducive for supporting learning. Parents and teachers are worried about the preparation of their children for the final National Examination for example standard VII, form 11, IV and form VI. Learning from home is one of major option encouraged however, students are not well prepared for self-learning at home and others do not have a supportive environment to make full use of this option. Additionally, most vulnerable students from poor families may involve in economic activities to support families at the expense of leaning. Tanzania Institute of Education has made easy for public and students to access online textbooks from pre-primary to advanced secondary education to facilitate online and distance learning. However, this may be more applicable to children or students whose family are able to support internet facilities, but for poor families is a challenge.

Based on that background, ActionAid Tanzania is planning to conduct a rapid assessment on efficacy of the distance learning programs launched by the government especially in rural areas. The assessment will help in generation of the information on issues of equality and equity in access to education during this period of COVID-19 pandemic in Tanzania. Though COVID-19 is an emergency, the government of Tanzania has responsibility to ensure equity in education access. Education programs are designed and delivered with consideration of needs of all children regardless their geographical location, gender etc., Moreover, the assessment is expected to produce or come up with recommendations for ensuring equality and equity in access to education during the COVID-19 pandemic for all.

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2. [https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_1](https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_1)
3. Tanzania Prime Minister’s Speech on Press Release (29th April 2020)
2.0: The objective of the assessment study is;

1. To examine the extent to which children in rural areas access the designed education programs.

2. To explore the best means of education delivery to ensure all children in the rural areas are reached during the time of COVID-19

3. To develop recommendations to hold the government accountable for respecting, promoting, protecting and fulfilling education right for all during the COVID-19 pandemic and post-pandemic.

4. To recommend to the government on how online learning can be made part and parcel of life as we swim in digital world

3.0. Methodology

The review should adopt a mixed methods approach, integrating quantitative and qualitative methods to ensure that data collected is triangulated, analyzed and generalized. The Consultant is encouraged to use participatory and innovative methods to collect and analyze data. Therefore, potential consultant is expected to:

1. Carry out a desk review, scan of new secondary data including strategies, laws, policies, plans and the like.

2. Applying limited WhatsApp/ Skype / Phone interviews with key informants from the community, partners, government sectors and AATZ staff.

3. Questionnaire- physical one or online questionnaires like the survey monkey or both?

4.0. Deliverables

A final report will be produced with the following guidelines:

- Executive summary
- Background
- Objectives of the assessment
- Methodology used and the process
- Main findings of the assessment
- Recommendations
- Conclusions
- References
- Appendices/Annexes

5.0 Timelines

The work/assignment is expected to take a total of 30 days from the date of signing the contract. There will be no time extension of the work due to time limitations. The total number of days for the assignment include the validation meeting and report submission.

6.0 Qualifications of the consultant

a) Must been in possession of a social sciences degree in fields such as Education, development studies and any related fields

b) Experience in research work and dissemination of research findings with similar assignments or related work

c) Possession of all required legal documents pertaining to the assignment including business certificate. If it is an academic institution, recommendation from the institution’s administration is encouraged.

d) Evidence of assignment of similar or related work

e) Curriculum vitae (CV) detailing experience from similar or related work.

f) Should be able to demonstrate competency and experience of more than 3 years in the field of interest.
g) Have no records of proven child abuse cases and should be able to sign ActionAid’s Child protection policy for compliance.

7.0 Expected output:
- Complete and final assessment report submitted to ActionAid Tanzania
- 3 pages executive summary with the key findings
- Soft copy of the report including the data analysis sets

8.0 Requirements & Application process
Interested consultant/s can apply for the assignment submitting the following documents:
- i. Expression of interest to take up the assignment
- ii. Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- iii. Testimony of experience in similar works
- iv. Technical and Financial proposal capacity
- v. Evidence of valid taxpayer’s identification certificate
- vi. Consultancy certificate/licence to run the services.

9.0 Deadline for submission
The deadline for submission of the application is 16th June 2020.

Applicants should submit their documents through the following address

Olympia Venance
ActionAid Tanzania
P.O.Box 21496
E-mail; olympia.venance@actionaid.org