**Call for Institutional Partnership, EITA South Asia**

**Partnership/role title: Quality Assurance**

**Location:** *Bangladesh*

**Apply by:** *20 March, 2015*

**Start date:** *01 April, 2015*

**End date:** *31 March 2016, with possibility for extension if programme continues*

**Project description – about the project**

English and IT skills are strongly connected to the labor market but the opportunities to develop and strengthen these skills in Bangladesh are limited, especially for adolescent girls. Girls and women in Bangladesh have less access to education and ICT than boys and men, and less access to learning English. This is resulting in a gender digital divide – which could lead to a serious gendered skill imbalance and unequal life chances for girls and women in the future. There are 28 million adolescents aged 10-19 years in Bangladesh which make up about one fifth of the total population. This is a big challenge for Bangladesh in terms of employability and skills development.

BRAC ADP and the British Council initiated the English and ICT for Adolescents (EITA) project in 2012, to stimulate the educational possibilities for young girls in Bangladesh. The project creates and provides easy access to education by offering English and ICT education for adolescents at their doorstep through non-formal after school clubs. The long term goals of the EITA-project are to stimulate adolescents’ chances of future employment as well as to contribute to the social and economic empowerment of women and girls in Bangladesh.

Since the project started, almost 700 girls have been reached directly through approximately 50 clubs within the network of over 8,000 clubs BRAC currently manage (these reach 250,000 adolescents, 90% of whom are girls). The British Council has accessed some funding in 2015-16 to scale up this project, and to pilot a similar model in India and Nepal. To this end, a robust review of the project is planned in March 2015 by an externally appointed reviewer (already appointed), the findings of which will inform the design of the project in the second phase, as well as the pilots in India and Nepal.

**Role description – about the role**

The British Council is seeking an institutional partner to work alongside them and country partners to support the project design, quality assurance and ongoing research, monitoring and evaluation of the second phase of the programme across the three countries in the region. We hope the relationship would evolve if the programme is successful so that the British Council and the selected HE Institution could jointly bid for donor funding to extend the programme from 16-17.

The partner would be expected to put forward experts in the following areas to contribute to different elements of the programme as required by the implementation plan: gender and education, uses of ICT for education, skills and language skills capacity building initiatives, non-formal education, educational research, monitoring and evaluation (with a specific focus on impact evaluation). Ideally the team of experts would be led by one individual who would decide, in consultation with the British Council and country partners, which expert(s) would be required for each deliverable.

Some of the key deliverables anticipated are as follows (note these would be finalised in an inception workshop with British Council):

1. **Review of project design in relation to literature and project reports**
	* Literature review to prepare an evidence base for the second phase project design
	* Review pilot phase project documentation and give recommendations for improvements for the second phase
2. **Contribute to the development of a detailed M&E strategy and plan, through consultations and workshops with stakeholders, to include:**
	* Development of Theory of Change for the regional programme with specific variations for targeted countries
	* Development of a project logic/logical framework for the programme with specific variations for country variations, including objectively verifiable indicators of progress and achievement
	* Recommendations for an M&E toolkit and approach, including reporting on M&E, for the programme, taking into account programme scope and budget and team/partner capacities and British Council organizational approach to M&E
	* Development of a realistic impact evaluation approach for EITA, taking into account programme scope, duration and budget
3. **Lead on a small-scale research project:**
	* Identify and agree priority research questions and lead researcher
	* Set-up small-scale research project within agreed budget and timelines
	* Co-write research articles for publication in journals/websites
4. **Quality assurance**
	* Review materials against agreed pedagogical principles and approach
	* Review external reports before they are published
	* Review and validate M&E data
5. **Capacity building for project teams**
	* Assessment of the M&E capacities of the project delivery team and key delivery partners from each of the participating 3 countries and development of a realistic capacity strengthening plan for M&E
	* Assess and train co-researchers from country-teams

**Qualifications and experience required for experts put forward**

***Essential\****

* Post-graduate qualification in relevant subject (ELT/Linguistics and / or Education)
* Specialist qualification and / or significant experience of evaluation theory and design in the education sector, preferably in developing contexts
* Knowledge and experience of the challenges relating to improving English and ICT skills at secondary level, preferably in developing and non-formal contexts
* Knowledge and experience of gender related issues in developing contexts
* Experience of designing project logic models / logframes
* Experience of conducting capacity building activities in M&E and educational research for project teams

The institution should also have experience of taking on such assignments as well as managing and deploying internal teams of experts.

***Desirable***

* Knowledge of the education sector in South Asia, with a focus on Bangladesh, India and Nepal

*\*Please note that experts may have some or all essential criteria, but the team should demonstrate expertise in all.*

**How to apply**

Interested institutions should send a short covering letter tailored to the above requirements, expert CVs, and a short three page proposal indicating how the institution would approach this partnership to Gaynor.Evans@britishcouncil.org by 5pm local time on Friday 20 March, 2015

*Unfortunately we will not be able to respond to every application and will only contact those who meet the required standards by the deadline for CV submission.*