Evidence Maps and Showcasing Member Innovations

Background
Evidence gap maps are thematic evidence data bases / collections that cover specific issues such as foundational learning competencies, Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET), early years learning, girls’ education etc. These maps also identify “gaps” where little or insufficient research exists (especially from impact evaluations, Randomized Control Trials (RCTs), systematic reviews etc.). These gaps can be used as recommendations where future research can and should focus. Gap maps enable users (practitioners and policy makers) to explore findings, evidence quality, and thus support in informed judgment and decisions.

Evidence gap maps will be useful for PAL Network to (1) understand and explore the body of literature related to foundational learning, remedial learning, and children’s education in general, (2) Identify evidence-backed innovations and ideas that could be adapted and adopted in members’ action programs.

The Research and Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Sharing (MELS) units at PAL Network seek to develop Evidence Gap Maps that will support the Action Focus Area. Special emphasis is to be paid to pedagogies and strategies by governments and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) that have led to learning outcome improvements in young children, children in elementary grades, out of school children, and those most vulnerable to the condition on the ground. Special attention will also be on COVID-19 responses and adaptations.

Scope of the Evidence Gap Maps and Showcasing Member Innovations
The Evidence Gap Maps will be a searchable reference data set with a visual component to take users through the available research on foundational learning of children, technology for education, inclusion and equity, and systems-level interventions that have improved children’s learning. The themes will be discussed finalized after discussing with consultants. The scope of the systematic review that will feed into the evidence gap map is not limited to the PAL Network member countries. Additionally, the tool will also present innovations by PAL Network members as a special category.

Objectives
The objectives of the consultancy are:
1. Review the report of the systematic review of literature related to education themes (foundational learning, technology for education/Ed-Tech, inclusion and equity in education, and systems level intervention to improve children’s learning)
2. Create a searchable and visually navigable map of the available research based on review
3. Develop an Open-Source Evidence Gap Map which can be expanded to include newer topics and extended further
4. Create a ready reckoner for PAL Network personnel doing research

Responsibilities of Parties
The Evidence Gap Maps will be created by consultant(s) with the support of PAL Network personnel. The Consultant(s) is responsible for delivery of the product.

The responsibilities of PAL Network are outlined below:
1. Connect Consultant(s) to people or resources for required information
2. Provide usability and development guidelines to the Consultant(s)
3. Provide feedback on time
4. Provide payments as per schedule

Responsibilities of the Consultant(s) are given below:
1. Develop evidence gap maps
2. Create micro-site for evidence gap map
   • Should function as a KMS for PAL Innovations also
3. Train staff members on the use of the system

The Platform
The product will be web based. The micro-site will be connected to the PAL Network website. The reading content will be downloadable to allow for offline reading while the videos and links for further reading will be accessible based on the terms and conditions of the host. The design of the platform will incorporate tagging functionality to allow for learning to easy search through content they are interested in. The micro-site should also be available in the official languages of the network (English, French, and Spanish)

Who will have access to the Evidence Gap Map?
Accessibility will be user-defined:
1. The systematic review and Evidence Gap Map microsite will be publicly available
2. Access to research papers, grey literature and publications will be limited to PAL Network (often the content will be license based)
3. Access to PAL Network Member Innovations will be made public unless otherwise specified
   - The Evidence Gap Map, Systematic Review paper and user manual will be available in ALL PAL languages (English, French, and Spanish)
4. Literature will be available in their original format / language
5. Literature review will be primarily based on English language sources

Consultant Specifications
The consultant is expected to meet at least two requirements listed below:
1. Have a strong background in the specific content area
2. Experienced consultant with experience in the domain
3. Have experience in developing high quality outputs on time
Intellectual property
Materials produced shall be considered the property of PAL Network. Ownership details will be made available in the contract. Information produced by the Consultant(s) shall not be disclosed to the public nor used in whatever circumstance without written permission of PAL Network in line with the national and international Copyright laws applicable.

Submission and Evaluation guidelines
Selection of the Consultant(s) will be based on Quality Cost Based Selection (QCBS). The evaluation methodology employed will aim to identify the strongest technical proposal at the best price. Hence, each submission’s technical proposal scores and financial proposal scores will be weighted, based on the quality-cost balance set by the procurement team, and the weighted scores summed, the final results will be produced. The following weighting will be used:

- Weight assigned to Technical Proposal: 80%
  - Technical score will be out of maximum possible 80 points (see evaluation matrix)
- Weight assigned to Financial Proposal: 20%
  - Formula to be used (for technical scores > 80%):
    - Financial score = 20 x 1 / (Big value / Lowest bid)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation Dimension</th>
<th>Maximum Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Team and Experience</td>
<td>20 points</td>
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<td>Understanding, Approach and methodology</td>
<td>20 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overview of modules</td>
<td>20 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identification of risks</td>
<td>10 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workplan and timeline</td>
<td>10 points</td>
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Interested vendors/consultants are requested to send their applications to jobs@palnetwork.org and copy to akaburu@palnetwork.org with the subject line Proposal for Research / MELS for Evidence Gap Maps and Showcasing PAL’s Innovations - Vendor name.

Application deadline is 30th September 2021.
Consultancy is expected to end by November 30, 2021.