

Terms of References (ToR)

for

Conducting Survey as part of the Study titled “How Effective is the School Feeding Program (SFP) in Improving Educational Outcomes of Primary Students in Bangladesh? An Empirical Investigation”

I. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALITY OF THE STUDY

School Feeding Program (SFP) is widely used as a social protection tool to address barriers to education and undernutrition among children. SFPs are being operated independently by states or through the assistance of external funding/or technical assistance in 70 out of 108 low and lower-middle income countries. The rationale behind SFPs is that the meals or snacks, often nutrient fortified biscuits are provided to incentivize school attendance. It intends to prevent or reduce short-term hunger of children and help them to concentrate in school and attend regularly, increasing their chances of primary school completion, which in turn comes with long-term gains such as increases in future income earning potential.

Pervasive hunger and undernutrition remain a major hurdle to the cognitive development of children across the most poverty-stricken areas of Bangladesh. In Bangladesh, more than one-fourth of the population are considered to be in hunger while more than 36 per cent of the children under-five are suffering from chronic undernutrition. SFP was introduced in Bangladesh in 2002 by WFP as an emergency response program to 350,000 school children from flood-affected families in Jessore district with the aim of bringing them back into school. Under SFP in Bangladesh, each child receives a pack of fortified biscuits weighing 75 grams, six days a week conditional to daily attendance. Each pack contains 338 kilocalories which meets about 67 per cent of the daily recommended nutrient intake of a child. At present, SFP (2010-2020) is being operated in 45 per cent of total districts in Bangladesh, covering about 30 million (17 per cent of total) primary school children.

In view of the importance of nutritional status of women and children, effective school feeding program at a larger scale is crucial for ensuring better educational outcomes for poor students. Effectiveness and efficiency in program implementation are also essential for sustainability of such foreign aided program. In this context, the current research will be undertaken in order to assess the impact of SFP in Bangladesh and its performance, and to make policy recommendations from the sustainability perspectives.

Evidence-based quantitative research studies as regards SFP in Bangladesh is limited. Ahmed (2004) conducted an impact evaluation of the World Food Programme (WFP) funded SFP in Bangladesh and found that SFP had increased school enrolment and school attendance while reduced the probability of dropping out of school. However, since 2004, there has been no comprehensive impact evaluation of SFP in Bangladesh. Thus, the current research will be a re-check of the validity of past results. Finally, majority of the previous studies were conducted mainly on academic interest or as part project evaluation purposes. The current research will have strong policy uptake prospect since the government of Bangladesh (GoB) is developing a national school feeding policy and strategy.

SFP in Bangladesh is currently transitioning from an externally-funded program towards full government ownership and implementation. GoB is also planning to transform the ‘biscuit based’ program into a school meal program. As part of this transition process, the GoB has a plan to formulate a national school feeding policy. The evidence generated through this research would strengthen the empirical basis on which the GoB and development partners

can make informed policy choices to refine the SFP in order to realize the higher benefits from the investments.

In this backdrop, the current study under the project titled “**How Effective is the School Feeding Program (SFP) in Improving Educational Outcomes of Primary Students in Bangladesh? An Empirical Investigation**”, being implemented by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) in collaboration with KDI School of Public Policy and Management, aims to assess the impact of SFP on educational outcomes of primary school children of Bangladesh.

II. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The broad objective of the proposed research is to provide an evidence based intellectual input for policy advocacy as regards ODA financed social protection interventions, with a focus on the school feeding program (SFP). To this end, the proposed research will seek to find answers to a number of questions which may include the following:

- i. Does SFP increase school attendance?
- ii. What are the effects of SFP on learning achievement or competency?
- iii. Do enhanced class sizes attributed to SFP participation have any impact on achievement test scores of the students?

Additionally, the proposed research will also attempt to make qualitative assessment of the governance effectiveness of the intervention. The relevant research questions to this end may include the following:

- i. Has the targeting been efficient in terms of reaching the extreme poor students/households?
- ii. How well is the current management framework functioning for SFP?

III. METHODOLOGY

The survey should follow integrated research approach that includes both qualitative and quantitative tools and techniques. All data, qualitative and quantitative, collected through the assessment must be disaggregated by location, age and sex. Data will need to be collected for both the treatment and control groups and related variables before and after the school feeding programme for the research questions mentioned above. Since the SFP started in 2017, the study team needs to collect data for 2016, 2017, and 2019 to have a robust analysis. This will include collecting:

- **Quantitative data:** Data will be collected among school going children and their parents for the treatment schools and control schools of Ukhiya upazila. Sample will be selected through (multi-stage) clustered sampling and the size will be determined through applying appropriate technique. The number of sample students and parents under control schools should at least be equal to the number sample students and parents under treatment schools.
- **Qualitative data:** Qualitative approaches, such as Key Informant Interviews (KII) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) should also be used in order to collect governance effectiveness of the intervention. KIIs will be collected from four types of respondents including Head teachers, members of School Management Committee (SMC), UP Chairman/Member and Project Officer. Among respondent categories, for the KII with Head teachers, data collector should meet the respondent physically by visiting the school and also to collect attendance record from the school.

IV. GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

In the current phase (2017-2020), WFP is operating the SFP program among 47,689 pre-primary and primary school children across 146 government primary schools and Ebtadayee Madrasas in Ukhiya and Kutubdia upazilas (sub-districts) in Cox's Bazar district of Bangladesh. The survey and FGDs will take place among the respondents of Ukhiya upazila.

V. SCOPE OF WORK AND DELIVERABLES

In view of above, CPD is looking for a consultant led team/firm. The deliverables are below:

1. Propose a survey design for the aforesaid study.
2. Support the CPD study team to prepare questionnaire for the household survey.
3. Prepare a manual which will compile necessary instructions for conducting survey incorporating the necessary precautions in view of COVID-19.
4. Take necessary measures for pre-testing survey at the places suggested by CPD study team.
5. Distribute responsibilities among enumerators and supervisors as per the sample areas selected in the sampling framework.
6. Conduct survey as per the sample suggested by CPD study team.
7. Take necessary measures for supervision and monitoring of enumerators in order to ensure quality and standard of data to be collected by the enumerators.
8. Undertake repeat survey by the enumerators if necessary, in order to ensure accuracy and authenticity of data to be collected by the enumerators.
9. Design the structure of data entry by using appropriate software as suggested by the CPD study team. CPD study team will provide necessary instructions in view of facilitating appropriate entry mechanism of the survey data.
10. Be liable for incorporation of the instructions and entry of survey data.
11. Compile the survey data of the respondents as per the design frame and software suggested by the CPD Study Team.
12. Coding and cleaning of the survey data.
13. Take precautionary measures to ensure entry of data in a corrected form.
14. After entry of data in the database, take necessary measures to ensure the accuracy of data entries and apply appropriate scrutiny tools for corrections as required.
15. Support CPD in receiving ethical clearance.
16. Submit one inception report with final work plan and protocol and one final report with final survey methodology and field report.

VI. TIMELINE

The timeline for completing the aforementioned deliverables will be from 10 September to 15 October 2020.

VII. ELIGIBILITY

- At least 5 years of professional experience in academic, development and action research, analysis
- At least 3 years' experience in conducting similar studies
- The applicant needs to have enough qualified human resources, i.e. research associates, data processors etc and other necessary logistics i.e. office space, accounts and administrative assistance and stationeries (if required) to do the assignment
- The applicant needs to have demonstrated experience of doing similar studies including studies on SFP or similar social safety programmes



- The study lead and her/his research associates engaged in the assignments essentially need to have relevant academic background i.e. economics, development studies, sociology, international relations, public policy etc.

VIII. APPLICATION REQUIREMENT:

The individual/firm must submit the following documents alongside a Technical Proposal along with survey implementation strategy and a GANTT CHART and Financial Proposal (including VAT and TAX) separately:

17. Maximum 2-page profile highlighting related assignment completed with client name, contract person and contact details
18. CV of the Lead Consultant's (who will lead the assignment) Maximum 2 page highlighting related assignment completed, role in the completed assignment
19. CVs of other team members (who will be involved in the assignment) in one page highlighting related assignment completed and role
20. Firm's Certificate, TIN and VAT registration (required only for firm)
21. TIN of Consultant (required only for individual)
22. Technical Proposal (maximum three to four pages): Understanding of the task to be accomplished according to the TOR as well as draft survey design and work plan (Gantt Chart)
23. Financial Proposal: The financial proposal should provide cost estimates for services rendered including daily consultancy fees excluding accommodation and living costs; transport cost, expenses for stationeries and supplies needed for data collection; costs related to persons that will take part from partners and government officers during survey etc. CPD will deduct income tax and VAT as per government rules.

IX. APPLICATION CLOSING DATE:

3 September, 2020

Interested consultant/firm, may submit their application to the following email address:
sabbih@cpd.org.bd.

Hard copies can also be sent to CPD office.

Address:

Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)
House-40/C, Road-11 (new),
Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209, Bangladesh