



Terms of Reference (ToR)

Study on Sustainability of CLCs

Background

DVV International is the German Adult Education Association. It has been supporting adult education and lifelong learning in Lao PDR since 2009, which meant, to a large extent, supporting the non-formal education sector. The lowest structure of the non-formal education system in Lao PDR are the Community Learning Centres (CLC). The CLC concept has been developed by UNESCO in the 1990s and has been adapted to the Lao context within the last twenty years. CLCs are to answer education needs of the population in villages, in many cases in rural and remote areas. They are supposed to have local ownership and also serve as an important meeting place for the respective village community. According to official figures, there are about 350 CLCs in Laos, with about 100 actually being functional.

DVV International itself has been involved in establishing and supporting CLCs in Nong and Sepon Districts in Savannakhet Province for the past ten years. During this time many challenges have been identified in terms of the availability of resources and of sustainability. With the envisaged study DVV International would like to seek more information and recommendations how CLCs can function sustainably with local ownership and within the national NFE system.

Objective:

The contractor is expected to conduct a study on the sustainability of CLCs giving practical recommendations on how CLCs can function sustainably given a context with limited (human/material/financial) resources. The contractor is thereby expected to answer the following questions:

- What are the success factors of CLCs?
- What makes CLCs stand out as providers of non-formal/adult education?
- What are the current difficulties that CLCs face in operating sustainably?
- How can ownership of CLCs be strengthened?
- How can integration in the NFE system be strengthened?
- What more needs to be done to ensure that CLCs can operate sustainably?

Output:

1. A short inception report outlining the detailed research methodology (5-6 pages)
2. A detailed report comprehensively answering the questions raised above including practical and realistic recommendations of sustainable operation of CLCs
3. A final presentation to a large audience of stakeholders

Methodology

The research should start with a short inception phase in which the inception report is produced. In this phase, the contractor should familiarise himself/herself with relevant documents provided by DVV International on DVV's experiences as well as documents from the NFE system and about the general CLC context. After approval of the inception report, the contractor should conduct interviews, ideally also in the field, with relevant stakeholders in order to be able to produce the final report.

The following number of working days is foreseen for the study:

- Inception Phase: 4 days
- Research Phase: 12 days
- Writing Phase: 4 days
- Presentation: 2 days

Envisaged Timeline:

Selection of contractor: 10th November 2021

Inception Report: 25th November 2021

Final Report: 20th January 2022:

Presentation: February 2022

Selection criteria:

The contractor will be chosen based on the following criteria:

- Experience in conducting similar studies (20 %)
- Experiences in (non-formal) education in Lao PDR (20 %)
- A convincing methodology (30 %)
- Budget (30 %) based on the cost of one working day

Applications including a draft methodology, a CV of the expert (s) and a proposed budget should be sent to the Regional Director of DVV International, Dr. Johann Heilmann by email (heilmann@dvv-international.la) until 4th November 2021. Questions for clarification can be sent until 26th October 2021.