

CONDUCTION OF A DIAGNOSIS OF GENDER AND GENDER EQUALITY ISSUES AND A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE SUPPORT PROJECT FOR THE EDUCATION SECTOR INVESTMENT PROGRAM (PISE 2)

Call for Expression of Interest

Text

General information

[Back to the list of reviews](#)

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Missions

- **80100000 - Primary education services**
- **80200000 - Secondary education services**
- **80210000 - Technical and vocational secondary education services**

Original text

CONDUCTION OF A DIAGNOSIS OF GENDER AND GENDER EQUALITY ISSUES AND A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE SUPPORT PROJECT FOR THE EDUCATION SECTOR INVESTMENT PROGRAM (PISE 2)

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

GABON

CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION FOR THE MISSION

The Gabonese Republic has received funding from the French Development Agency (AFD) of 101 billion CFA francs for the implementation of a support project for the Education Sector Investment Program (PISE). The Ministry of National Education, Civic Instruction and Vocational Training (MENICFP), the project owner, intends to use part of these funds to make payments for the services of a firm to carry out a diagnosis of gender and gender equality issues and a feasibility study for the project to support the Education Sector Investment Program – phase 2 (PISE 2).

Indeed, as part of its 2018-2022 Strategic Orientation Plan, the AFD has adopted a 100% Social Link strategy, thus committing to combating inequalities through a renewed commitment to gender equality. AFD's objectives regarding gender and reducing inequalities between women and men are part of France's International Strategy for Gender Equality and are measured annually using the OECD's DAC Gender Equality Marker. In AFD-funded projects, the integration of gender and gender equality issues is supported by the "Sustainable Development Analysis and Opinion" system and methodology. Furthermore

, the Gabonese education sector is characterized by a relatively high net enrollment rate of around 70%, compared to the average for sub-Saharan African countries of 51%. However, this indicator masks a difficult reception of students in general education and a poorly developed offer in technical education. Two areas for improvement have been identified to address this need: reducing the classroom deficit in general and technical education and improving the quality of sectoral management.

Indeed, the 2.4% population growth pushes the average number of students per class to around 60. This situation is the starting point of a vicious circle: the large number of children per class creates a climate that is not conducive to learning. As a result, the number of repeaters is high (more than 30%, one of the highest rates in the world), and contributes to overcrowding the level the following year, amplifying the problem. Creating new classrooms helps reduce the number of students per class and break this vicious circle. This benefits the most vulnerable, as children from the middle and upper classes are educated in the private sector where overcrowding is less pronounced (69.7% of establishments for 46% of students).

However, improving the quality of education does not only involve reducing class congestion, but also requires effective sectoral management. However, in this regard, Gabon still suffers from certain shortcomings according to the Strategic Plan for Emerging Gabon (PSGE), which lists them as follows:

- insufficient management, administration, strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation capacities of the education system;
- poor control of steering and monitoring functions resulting from the relative unavailability of statistical data and the absence of a reliable school map.

A first financing agreement of €154,000,000 was signed in 2016 between Gabon and the AFD, for PISE 1. Apart from providing separate latrines for girls and boys, the agreement at the time did not sufficiently take into account the issue of gender during its instruction and implementation.

The high incidence of teenage pregnancies in Gabon can be partly explained by the onset of sexual activity in pre-adolescence or adolescence and by inadequate sex education in schools, and therefore, by extension, adolescents' limited access to reliable information. This results in limited use of contraceptive methods and a high propensity for unprotected sex. The girls most affected by teenage pregnancies are mainly from the most disadvantaged backgrounds, growing up in sometimes fragile family structures. Teenage pregnancies limit the

attendance of the girls concerned and constitute a significant factor in academic failure.

In addition, the specific issue of gender promotion in science classes and towards the profession of mathematics teacher remains unresolved in Gabon. Social gender norms weigh on the orientation of adolescent girls, leading to strong segregation of sectors, to the detriment of girls.

Building on the "initial" PISE, PISE 2 is intended to be a more demanding project in terms of climate and gender objectives, themes planned to be consolidated during the appraisal. A specific study devoted to the energy efficiency of buildings is already available. The feasibility study integrating the analysis and consideration of gender and gender equality issues within the education and technical education sectors and covering all components of the project is the subject of this call for proposals; this study will be financed by a Sector Project Support Fund (FAPS).

The MENFC invites consultants to express their interest in providing the Services described above.

The eligibility criteria for AFD financing are specified in Article 1.3 of the "Guidelines for the Award of Procurement Funds Financed by AFD in Foreign States", available online on the AFD website www.afd.fr.

In order to confirm their eligibility for AFD funding, consultants must attach the duly signed Declaration of Integrity to their application.

Interested consultants must provide information demonstrating that they are qualified and experienced to carry out these services. As such, they must provide proof that they have references for recent and similar services. To do this, they must provide the following documents:

- a presentation brochure of the Candidate and each of the members if it is a Group with elements of financial capacity
- the references of the Candidate and each of the members if it is a group in similar services (technical assistance contracts including residential in sub-Saharan Africa, in particular with donor funding). The telephone and/or email contacts of the beneficiaries or donors must be specified for each experience
- any other information deemed relevant and enabling the assessment of the capabilities of the Candidate or members of the Group of the geographical context (knowledge of the region)

Candidates are asked to provide this information in a maximum of approximately 15 pages. Candidates may join forces to strengthen their respective skills. If necessary, each member of the group must provide the required information.

The similarity of the firm's experiences will be analyzed based on:

- the nature of the service: having already supported a Ministry of Education in the formulation and feasibility study of a project integrating a logical framework;
- the scale of the contracts: having already carried out a feasibility study in the education sector for a minimum amount of EUR 80,000;
- the technical field: have already carried out a diagnosis on the issues of gender and gender equality in the education sector;;
- the geographical context: have already carried out a feasibility study of a project in French-speaking Africa in general or in Gabon in particular (in Gabon in particular).

The choice of Candidates to be included in the Shortlist must comply with the rules defined as follows:

- The Candidate must have at least one reference for each criterion; otherwise, his application will be rejected;
- The ranking of Candidates is based on the greatest number of criteria met (checked boxes);
- In the case of a Group, the references of all members will be added together.

The MENFC will also examine the relevance of the expressions of interest in light of the following information:

- nature of the Candidate's activities;
- number of years of experience;
- qualifications of the Candidate in the field of services and in particular references concerning the execution of similar contracts;
- technical and managerial organization of the Candidate;
- general qualifications and the number of professional staff.

The Ministry of National Education will draw up a shortlist of up to 6 candidates, pre-selected on the basis of the applications received, to whom it will send the Request for Proposals File for the provision of the required services.

Expressions of interest written in French in three (03) copies (01 original and 03 copies + 1 USB key) must be submitted to the address below in person or by mail no later than July 9, 2025 at 3 p.m., local time.

The opening of bids will take place on July 10, 2025 at 9 a.m. at the premises of the Project Management Unit.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT

National Coordinator of the PISE Project

To the attention of Mr. Luc NGABA,

Tel: 00241 77 59 98 30

Email: ngabaluc@yahoo.fr / donastellealidarose@yahoo.fr

Interested consultancies may obtain in writing 7 days before the application submission date, the annex (declaration of integrity) of the CEI and additional information, at the above address, on working days between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m.

All expressions of interest must be accompanied by a duly completed and signed declaration of integrity.

The National Coordinator

Luc NGABA

