

# Monthly Progress Report: August/September 2017

Dated: September 29 2017

Sl. No.	Areas	Description
1	Progress and key tasks accomplished	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobilisation of ISA team at SCERT. 6 consultants joined in August. 3 consultants including the Team leader mobilised in September.</li> <li>• Orientation of ISA team so that there is a clear understanding of how the GOB Terms of Reference and the key Result Areas map onto the WB DLIs and how the DLI Verification Protocol needs to be adhered to at all times.</li> <li>• Developing a working relationship with SCERT</li> <li>• Situation Analysis is being carried out to develop detailed Action Plans in each Result Area which includes: Analysis of DIET data Initial Field Visits to Teacher Education providers in the state Meetings with key stakeholders including MD, BSEIDC, Director DRT, DIET principals and teacher educators. Reading key background research papers such as TEIDI and WB Report on Teacher Performance in Bihar.</li> <li>• Work has begun on improving the communication on the existing SCERT website, making it more user-friendly and dynamic.</li> <li>• Participated in the revision of the SMC module and provided inputs to mobile phone school monitoring app undertaken by CfBT.</li> <li>• Reviewed the work undertaken by AMC on a TNA to assess current levels of ICT competence of elementary schools teachers and teacher educators of Bihar. Identified gaps and provided actionable feedback as to how the sample size can be increased and the data interpretation made more useful.</li> <li>• Provided inputs towards the development of RFP for TEMIS</li> <li>• Draft Action Plans developed for each Result Area.</li> <li>• Participated in World Bank Mission 20-21 September</li> </ul>
2	Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a severe shortage of staff within SCERT and DIETs. Need for urgent recruitment to enable SCERT to fulfil their core mandate. ISA will assume a proactive role in taking each area forward to mitigate these staff shortages but in the interests of sustainability we recommend that SCERT takes measures to recruit further staff at the earliest opportunity.</li> <li>• Decisions regarding changes in the delivery objectives of ISA with respect to the ODL programme in the light of the involvement of NIOS should be made at the earliest to prevent any delay in implementing the modified strategy.</li> <li>• SCERT has requested ISA to focus on the development of A/V materials for teachers to use in their classrooms, not just materials for Teacher educators. Further discussion is needed</li> </ul>

		<p>with World Bank on whether this request can be accommodated and funded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval on replacement of consultants in ISA team is still awaited so that ISA can work at full strength.</li> <li>• Office allocated to ISA team is inadequate. It needs complete refurbishment, the allocation of separate office space for private meetings etc. plus the provision of proper office furniture and equipment. A detailed proposal has been submitted to MD for approval (22 September)</li> </ul>
3	Support required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval of replacement consultants by MD</li> <li>• Expeditious refurbishment of office space for ISA within SCERT.</li> <li>• SCERT staff allocated by Director SCERT to work with ISA in carrying out actions defined in each result area.</li> <li>• Further SCERT collaboration in finalization of draft action plans</li> </ul>
4	Plan for next month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ISA to finalize an overall action plan and submit for SCERT, SPD and World Bank approval by 20 October. This will be part of the Inception Report also scheduled for submission on this date. In particular:</li> <li>• ISA works closely with CfBT to ensure a rollout plan is developed for actual training of SMCs, and for the enhancement and deployment of the Mobile School Score Card software. The SMC training will include a day-long module on gender empowerment based on the Jeevika model.</li> <li>• ISA to review base-line data and start preparing for a mid-line review on teacher performance indicators targeting a 2% improvement on language and maths scores.</li> <li>• Begin work on developing a contextualized curriculum for pre-service education, revised ODL modules with appealing graphic designs, a dynamic Online platform for CPD, and Capacity building of Teacher Educators in ICT tools (refer to detailed action plans)</li> <li>• As urgently requested, internal audit of 14/15, 15/16 and 16/17 SCERT accounts will be initiated by ISA by 5 October.</li> <li>• Plan Launch of programme on a date to be agreed in early November 2017</li> </ul>
5	Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment of new staff to SCERT and other TEIs may take a long time, weakening the effectiveness of the core capacity building remit of ISA and the overall outcome of the programme.</li> <li>• Weaknesses in current SCERT financial management capacity may lead to delays in programme implementation.</li> <li>• Inadequacies in procurement systems including limited bidder participation and lack of understanding of best ICT fit-for-purpose solutions may lead to poor procurement practice.</li> </ul>