

## Monthly Progress Report: October 2017

Dated: October 30 2017

Sl. No.	Areas	Description
1	Progress and key tasks accomplished	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval gained for 9 replacement consultants for the ISA team. They will be mobilised as swiftly as possible.</li> <li>• Working relationship with SCERT further strengthened through meetings to discuss ISA Action Plans.</li> <li>• Further Situation Analysis carried out to inform detailed Action Plans in each Result Area which included:</li> <li>• Field Visits to 5 DIETS in Bihar state to conduct focus discussions on the perceived strengths and weaknesses of current pre-service curriculum, perceptions of ODL materials and of the CPD programme currently being rolled out, and the ICT needs of teacher educators.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visits in Delhi to a number of national level education organisations: NUEPA, NCERT (CIET), NIOS to discuss with them how their work can assist ISA and SCERT Bihar.</li> <li>• Meeting with Deputy Director DRT to understand progress to date in a number of areas including staffing provision and development of Operational Guidelines against World Bank DLIs.</li> <li>• Work has continued on improving the existing SCERT website, making it more user-friendly and dynamic.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• ISA participated in a workshop to review and further revise the SMC module work undertaken by CfBT including the incorporation of a component on gender empowerment drawing on material from Jeevika.</li> <li>• ISA monitored progress of the work undertaken by AMC on a TNA to assess current levels of ICT competence of elementary schools teachers and teacher educators of Bihar and agreed to new deadline for submission of draft report of 31 October.</li> <li>• Work on informal internal audit of 14/15, 15/16 and 16/17 SCERT accounts ready for submission to AG.</li> <li>• Action Plans finalized and Inception Report produced and circulated.</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 work with DRT to seek measures to recruit further staff at the earliest opportunity.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 ICT materials for teachers to use in their classrooms, not just materials for Teacher educators. Further discussion is needed with World Bank on whether this request can be accommodated and funded.</li> <li>• Office allocated to ISA team is inadequate. It needs complete refurbishment, the allocation of separate office space for private meetings, adequate working space for the full team of 19 consultants plus the provision of proper office furniture and equipment. A detailed proposal was submitted to MD for approval (22 September) but approval and action is still awaited.</li> </ul>
3	Support required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> </ul>
4	Plan for next month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>• Continue developing SCERT website to make it more effective.</li> <li>• Run Consultative workshops with Teacher Educators and teachers to corroborate the gaps and needs in ODL, CDP and ICT support identified during the field visits.</li> <li>• Developing guidelines and identifying project areas to carry out Project based assignments in Pre-service education,</li> <li>• Training of Master trainers in SMC module</li> <li>• Plan Launch of programme on a date to be agreed in 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>