

SSA - Support to Elementary Education, India

Project director	Shotton, John (JS)
Assignment	The assignment involves the provision of programme management and institutional development services to the SSA-Technical Cooperation Fund – Technical Services Agency (TSA) as part of the SSA (Support to Elementary Education) programme.
Client	National Council of Educational Research and Training (India)
Financing Agency	Department for International Development (UK)
Partners	Cambridge Education, Mott MacDonald India; IEA, Institute of Education University of London, Anglia Assessment, NFER, University of Cambridge Faculty of Education, University of Ottawa, Michigan University.
Composition of Team	<i>BMB Mott MacDonald</i> : Programme Manager <i>Partner(s)</i> : Team leader; Communication and knowledge management expert; Capacity building expert; 50 experts providing short term inputs
Period of Assignment	From June 2011 to October 2012 Staff months: BMB Mott MacDonald: 13; Partner(s): 188
Contract value	BMB Mott MacDonald: € 145,000 Partner(s): € 3,900,000
Background	Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), India's Universal Elementary Education for All programme, was launched in 2001 by the Government of India to provide access to eight years of quality education for all children between the ages of six and fourteen. SSA is the largest basic education programme in the world, involving over 1.25 million primary and upper primary schools, 1 million teachers and 1 million classrooms. It has ensured that there is a primary school within 1 km of (almost) every habitation in the country.
Description of project	SSA-Technical Cooperation Fund – Technical Services Agency (TSA) The TSA provides services to three areas: capacity building of central and state agencies, assistance to Programme Evaluation and methodological support for National Achievement Surveys. It does that by conducting studies, peer reviews, on-the-job training, classroom training, workshops, publishing best practices and promoting international sharing of knowledge and communication thereof. The TSA supports two departments in the National Council for Educational Research and Training: the Department of Elementary Education (DEE) for programme evaluation studies, and the Department of Educational Measurement and Evaluation (DEME) for national achievement surveys.
Services provided	BMB Mott MacDonald will be in charge of programme management, taking overall management responsibility for the timely and effective delivery of the operational, communications, logistics and financial aspects of the project. Specific tasks will be to:

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- i) Coordinate the preparation of detailed, costed annual and quarterly work plans in support of National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) activities, and take responsibility for ensuring their effective delivery, including scheduling of TA inputs, planning for study tours and conferences, and all field work in targeted states;
 - ii) Manage the administrative and operational staff appointed, including those appointed to work in the 5 selected Regional Institutes of Education (RIEs);
 - iii) Coordinate and support the organization of all in-country and out-of-country training and capacity development programmes, to ensure that programmes are managed in a timely, efficient and cost-effective manner;
 - iv) Work with core long-term TSA technical staff – e.g. psychometricians, assessment and evaluation specialists to programme and schedule activities in support of the NCERT;
 - v) Liaise with Cambridge Education and Mott MacDonald India, as relevant, in ensuring the timely contracting and mobilization of both national and international TA personnel;
 - vi) Ensure that administrative and accounts support staff in TSA undertake to provide monthly and quarterly project cash flow forecasts consistent with the work plan and projected and actual activities. Check all budget to ensure that accuracy and cost-effectiveness;
 - vii) Take responsibility for the delivery of the TSA Knowledge Management and Communications strategy to ensure the timely and effective advocacy and dissemination of the key findings from the NAS and Programme Evaluation Studies in the primary education sector.