



Implementation Support
Agency for SCERT, Bihar

Monthly Progress REPORT

November 2017

Joint Project Managed by







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November 30, 2017

Sl. No.	Areas	Description
1	Progress and key tasks accomplished	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 new consultants have joined the ISA team, Prakash Dutt to work on CPD and Rashmi Sinha to work on ODL and to function as a Senior Technical Adviser. Nalin Mishra (CPD) and Shivendra Suman (Software development) are due to join the team on 1 December.• Further Situation Analysis carried out to inform ongoing work included:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Field Visit to DIET in Sheikhpura 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.• Contact made with a number of education organisations some of which directly recommended by the World Bank: Teacher Foundation, Jodo Gyan and Creatnet Education, Adhyayan and Kaivalya plus international resource persons in the field of School Leadership to discuss with them how their work can assist ISA and SCERT Bihar. Meeting with R.V Educational Consortium to provide technical assistance in revision of ODL SLM materials and also in preparation of Project assignments for pre-service Education. Meeting with Regional Institute of English South India, Bangalore to explore provision of technical assistance to revise ODL English Self Learning materials and training of 190 resource persons in English.• Work has continued on substantially improving the existing SCERT website, making it more user-friendly and dynamic and looking at how this work can be extended to include development of websites for all the DIETS.• ICT training has been set up at CIET Delhi for 70 ICT staff from DIETS for 11-15 December.• Work has begun on cataloguing all existing ODL print materials held by SCERT.• ISA participated in a 3-day pilot undertaken by CfBT to trial the SMC module in schools in Patna and submitted a brief report on its observations to WB. Master Training has been delayed by SCERT

		<p>stipulation of further committee to be formed to review final module.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISA continued to monitor the 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 on 29 November the draft TNA document was submitted. ISA will submit comments on the quality and adequacy of the report on 1 December. • ISA has reviewed the base-line data and submitted to WB a draft design for a mid-line review on teacher performance indicators targeting a 2% improvement on language and maths scores. • Plans to 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 have been delayed with two postponements of proposed dates in November due to failure to obtain approval of overarching activity unit costs document by SCERT senior management and agreement on suitable dates. • 9 Nov Visit of British Council representatives to initiate discussions on how they can assist the programme, particularly in the area of SLMs in English Language. • 8 Nov Courtesy call to State Minister of Education to brief him on work of ISA with SCERT and to explore dates for an official launch. ISA Launch Concept paper developed but decision taken to postpone launch until 2nd half of January 2018. • Work on informal internal audit of FY 14/15, 15/16 and 16/17 SCERT accounts completed. Submission to AG has been delayed as ISA still requires sign-offs and additional documentation from SCERT as requested on 20 and 23 November. • Development of on-line ANAR system devised to be used by ISA and SCERT to plan and manage all aspects of the administration and finance of the Programme.
2	Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting proactive engagement of SCERT senior management and timely approval of proposed activity as agreed in ISA Action Plan • 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. • 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. • 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.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 on 22 September and again on 17 October. Approval has now been given and the tender process is underway but completion of this work cannot be expected before the end of the first quarter of 2018.
3	Support required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactive engagement of SCERT senior management with ISA work including approval of key files in a timely fashion. SCERT staff allocated by Director SCERT to work with ISA in carrying out actions defined in each Result Area Expeditious refurbishment of office space for ISA within SCERT.
4	Plan for next month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue developing SCERT website to make it fully functional. Facilitate ICT training for appropriate DIET staff at CIET Delhi 11-15 December Run delayed Consultative workshops with Teacher Educators and teachers to corroborate the gaps and needs in ODL, CDP and ICT support identified during the field visits. (12-14 December) Training of Master trainers in SMC module Plan Launch of programme on a date to be agreed in January 2018 ISA to begin managing SCERT WB finances while their own staff are recruited, as soon as requisite documents have been provided by SCERT as requested on 23 November. Introduction of on-line ANAR finance and administration Programme Management system. Giving advice and guidelines to BSEIDC on development of ERP system for finance, administration, HR and procurement
5	Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Weaknesses in current SCERT financial and general management capacity may lead to delays in programme implementation. 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.

