

Terms of Reference for: Review of Education Out Loud (EOL)

About GPE

GPE is a shared commitment to end the world's learning crisis. It is the only global partnership and fund dedicated entirely to helping children in lower-income countries get a quality education, so they can unlock their potential and contribute to building a better world. We bring together governments, teachers, civil society, donors, United Nations agencies, development banks, businesses and private foundations to transform education systems so that every girl and boy can have hope, opportunity and agency.

GPE helps low- and lower-middle-income countries to build stronger education systems so that all children can get the education they need to thrive. We currently support nearly 90 countries where the needs are greatest and focus on reaching the children who are the most vulnerable, including girls, children with disabilities and those affected by extreme poverty or conflict. Our unique approach works. Since 2002, 160 million more children in GPE partner countries have set foot in classrooms for the first time, more than half of them girls. GPE is also the largest provider of education grants in the global COVID-19 response, providing partner countries with vital resources to ensure that learning can safely continue.

Now, GPE is working to help governments transform their education systems to get the most vulnerable children in school, improve teaching and learning, and build equitable, inclusive and resilient education systems fit for the 21st century. Between 2020-2025, GPE will support transformative change in up to 90 countries and territories, which are home to 1 billion children. Transforming education is about creating lasting changes and achieving impact at scale. GPE sets out to deliver this transformative change by convening partners, mobilizing funds and catalyzing reforms to help partner countries accelerate access, learning outcomes and gender equality.

About EOL

[Education Out Loud \(EOL\)](#) is GPE's fund for advocacy and social accountability. Designed and funded by GPE, EOL is being managed by Oxfam Denmark as grant agent and supervised and supported by the GPE Secretariat. EOL began its work in 2019. It supports civil society to be active and influential in shaping education policy to better meet the needs of communities, especially of vulnerable and marginalized populations. EOL aims to enhance civil society capacities to engage in education sector planning, policy dialogue and monitoring and to promote transparency and accountability of national education sector policy, program implementation, and financing. It also seeks to create a stronger global and regional enabling environment for civil society advocacy and transparency efforts in education.

The civil society role is both implicit and explicit in the achievement of [GPE's Strategic Plan 2025](#) goal and objectives and is critical to GPE success. EOL provides an important platform for GPE to secure the delivery of its principles of country ownership and mutual accountability and provides a foundation for GPE's inclusive policy dialogue aspirations that seek to promote civil society as a partner in education policy dialogue. As such, EOL grantees are critical players in ensuring that citizens, especially marginalized groups of women, youth, and rural populations, participate in civic engagement and social accountability activities. A total allocation of USD 133 million have been made for EOL for the **2019–2027** period (including operationalization, design and wrap up).¹

Purpose, Objective, and Timing

The purpose of this review is to inform decisions by the GPE Board in December 2024 and June 2025 about the future direction of GPE's support for civil society engagement and advocacy.

Specifically, the objective of the review is to collect evidence and lessons to (i) inform the GPE Board's decision on the continuation of EOL past its current phase and related strategic parameters; (ii) inform adaptations to the design and operations of the successor EOL program; and (iii) feed into GPE 2030 strategy to ensure alignment.

The roadmap for the next phase of EOL includes a series of decisions by the GPE Board and related activities: a) Decision on the continuation of EOL (December 2024); b) Provisional allocation of funds for EOL (June 2025); c) Competitive call for grant agent and decision on grant agent (June to October 2025); d) Approval of a program proposal from the competitively selected grant agent (June 2026).

The review will run between **April 2024** (or as soon as a review vendor is contracted) **and September 2025** (approximate end of all dissemination activities). The review will be divided into two phases:

- **Phase 1:** A desk review with limited global stakeholder interviews (results to be presented to the GPE Performance, Impact, and Learning Committee (PILC) in October 2024 and the GPE Board in December 2024). This phase seeks to understand the extent to which EOL is a sound strategic and programmatic investment and what design features need to be enhanced, if any, in a next phase.
- **Phase 2:** A more in-depth assessment that includes stakeholder interviews (results to be presented to GPE PILC in April 2025 and to the GPE Board in June 2025). This phase seeks to go deeper and understand the effectiveness of current EOL operations and mechanisms and provide a detailed analysis on parameters that need to be enhanced in a next phase.¹

¹ <https://educationoutloud.org/>

This phased approach will help provide timely evidence to the GPE Board and Performance, Impact, and Learning Committee (PILC). At the same time, this approach builds in some flexibility for Phase 2 of the review based on the conclusions from Phase 1 and the outcomes of the GPE Board meeting in December 2024².

Uses by Audience

Primary audience	Intended use
GPE Board	Inform decisions on the next phase of EOL
PILC / FRC	Inform design and financing elements of next phase of EOL
GPE Secretariat	Inform the design of the next phase of EOL, and ensure alignment with GPE 2030
Oxfam Denmark (Grant agent), EOL grantees	Learn from the implementation experience so far and identify areas for operational adaptations during the current implementation period

Key Questions

The following questions define broad areas the review should address and will be further refined jointly with the GPE Secretariat and grant agent during the inception phase, including adding sub-questions.

Phase 1 (Desk-based review with limited global stakeholder interviews ³)	
MTR recommendations	Q1. To what extent and how well have recommendations from the 2022 MTR been addressed?
Effectiveness	Q2. Is EOL fulfilling its overall goal, i.e., the promotion of inclusive, gender responsive and equitable national education policies and systems through enhanced civil society capacities and participation in social accountability and policy advocacy processes? ⁴
Coherence	Q3. How well does EOL align with and add value to, the broader advocacy and social accountability architecture (globally, regionally and at country level)? ⁵

² This is not to overhaul the design for phase 2 but to incorporate any modest adjustments to the contents of the phase 2 report depending on data availability and timelines.

³ EOL program teams at the Secretariat, and Oxfam Denmark.

⁴ This not only involves looking at progress toward the program's objectives but also the results achieved to date, and whether there are any unanticipated results— positive and negative – and lessons that need to be considered.

⁵ In terms of gaps the programs currently fill, any potential overlaps with other comparator programs, and future opportunities to fill gaps/new demand to make them a continuously sound investment.

Phase 2 (In-depth analysis that builds on Phase 1⁶ and includes stakeholder interviews⁷)	
Relevance	<p>Q4-a. Is EOL fit for purpose vis-à-vis GPE's strategy and operating model⁸?</p> <p>Q4-b. How well does EOL respond (and has been able to adapt its approach) to countries' needs for capacity building for advocacy and social accountability?</p> <p>Q4-c. Which architecture and operational elements of EOL are working /not working well and should be adapted/redesigned to ensure stronger impact against program objectives and GPE strategy?</p>
Coherence	Q5-a. How complementary are OC1, 2 and 3 in together covering and fulfilling the objectives of EOL?
Efficiency	Q6. To what extent and how have the EOL teams (Secretariat and grant agent) used and adapted grant management and planning in terms of costs, timeliness, monitoring mechanisms, clarity in roles and responsibilities?
Sustainability	Q7. To what extent and how has EOL contributed to building EOL CSO grantees' capacities, (both financial and programmatic) at the country, regional and global levels to ensure results and gained capacities are sustained in the long term?

Methodological Considerations

This review will be based on a mix of quantitative and qualitative data.

Travel will not be required for collecting primary data. Primary data collection will be conducted at a distance through interviews, focus group discussions, surveys, etc. as appropriate based on the review questions to be addressed. All data should be collected per ethical standards and collected data organized, secured, and preserved for potential re-analysis in other GPE evaluation efforts. As such, the review's data (with full anonymity preserved) will remain the property of GPE at the conclusion of the review.

For each review question, it will be required to:

- Assess the **evaluability and feasibility** of sub-questions during the inception phase, Phase 1, and Phase 2.

⁶ Questions from Phase 1 that need additional evidence such as country stakeholder interviews can be carried forward to Phase 2, similarly some preliminary desk review for questions related to Phase 2 can start in Phase 1

⁷ Grantees, beneficiaries, other country level stakeholders

⁸ The question on the alignment to GPE's strategy and operations relates to the fact that EOL was designed during GPE 2020 but continued being implemented under GPE 2025. The adaptations to align with GPE 2025 took place based on the 2022 EOL mid-term review recommendations. Review of these adaptations are also within the scope.

- Explore the **'how and how well', 'why or why not', and 'so what' aspects** to understand the underlying causes, effects, and relative importance of the evidence in specific contexts. For example, it will be required to provide examples of parameters that make EOL successful or not so successful in specific country contexts.
- Embed **illustrative examples or short case studies** within the analysis to allow for a contextualized compare/contrast approach.
- Explore, for each question, the corollaries of the findings in terms of follow-up **actions or recommendations to be considered by relevant stakeholder groups**.
- Consider in what ways current efforts are embedding **gender equality, equity, and inclusion** and what opportunities exist for strengthening this.
- For EOL, provide **portfolio-level** and **component level** (Operational Components 1, 2 and 3) data analysis whenever possible, and recommendations on how to strengthen these aspects to improve future design.
- As available and based on sampling, it will be required to provide analyses at the **beneficiary level** (e.g., disaggregating any survey results by beneficiary or stakeholder type).

Suggested approach for the primary data collection sample(s) (to be discussed during inception):

- Interviews (or focus group discussions):
 - Phase 1: GPE Secretariat, Oxfam Denmark's EOL team, and 3-5 comparator organizations
 - Phase 2: sample of National, Regional, and Global EOL grantees, and sample of learning partners
- If a survey is to be administered:
 - All National, Regional, and Global EOL grantees, and learning partners

The EOL team at the Secretariat and Oxfam Denmark will facilitate sharing of relevant documents such as progress reports, annual reports, concept notes, grant documents, previous evaluations and reviews of the programs in a timely manner. For a preliminary list of EOL documents to be consulted, refer to appendix A. They will also facilitate access to stakeholders for primary data collection.

Services

Services will include the following:

- 1) During the inception phase:
 - a. Participate in a brief **onboarding session** to kick start the review. This session seeks to provide broad background about the program and the review, especially clarifying questions, sub-questions and immediate next steps

- b. Ahead of the inception report, participate in a **methodology workshop** (2–3 hours maximum) with the Secretariat and grant agent, to further hone in the questions, sample, overall approach, and possible timeline.
- c. Develop an **inception report** (draft and final; maximum 15 pages excluding annexes). This report will present the methodology (i.e., sub-questions, review matrix with review criteria and specific data sources); instruments for data collection; sample and sampling strategy for the case studies (if any); anticipated challenges/limitations (if any); timelines and responsibilities; early literature review; analytical framework. This report will also provide an evaluability assessment, which will specify what questions can and cannot be answered through the review based on existing evidence to date, and what additional data collection would be required to do so satisfactorily. The method to approach the comparator initiatives against which EOL can be benchmarked will also be explained.

2) For Phase 1 of the review :

- a. Conduct a **desk review** of existing secondary data and a **limited number of global interviews** (mainly, with the GPE Secretariat and Oxfam Denmark Teams).
- b. Prepare and facilitate a **workshop on early findings and recommendations co-creation**.
- c. Prepare a **short Phase 1 report**, edited and designed (draft and final; maximum 15 pages excluding annexes). This report will include an executive summary; brief introduction (incl. program description and abridged methodology); analysis and findings; conclusions; and recommendations specified for each group of stakeholders; limitations and views on further analyses needed.
- d. Prepare a **long and a short version of a PowerPoint** describing review findings and recommendations for Phase 1.
- e. Conduct a **presentation of the Phase 1 results** with varied key stakeholder groups (incl. GPE Secretariat and Oxfam Denmark, GPE PILC and Board).
- f. Present at a **learning session** to disseminate the Phase 1 results to other audiences.

3) For Phase 2 of the review:

- a. Collect **primary data** and conduct **analyses**.
- b. Prepare and facilitate a **workshop on early findings and recommendations co-creation**.
- c. Prepare a **short Phase 2 review report** (draft and final; maximum 30 pages excluding annexes). Sections of the Phase 2 report will be similar to those in the Phase 1 report.
- d. Prepare a **long and a short version of a PowerPoint** describing review findings and recommendations for Phase 2.

- e. Conduct **presentation of the Phase 2 results** with varied key stakeholder groups (incl. GPE Partnerships Team and Oxfam Denmark, GPE PILC and Board, and GPE Management Team).
- f. Present at a **learning event** to disseminate the Phase 2 results to other audiences.

Please note:

- The reports and PowerPoints should be written clearly and be impartial and constructive in tone. Each draft should be professionally edited. There should be creative use of tables and high-quality graphics.
- The findings will be presented to the GPE Board and PILC and/or GPE Secretariat Management Team. This would take place via teleconferencing and travel will not be required.
- Periodic meetings (bi-weekly, or as needed) will be organized between the GPE Secretariat, the review team, and the Oxfam Denmark Evaluation Team.

Deliverables and Timelines

The following products will be delivered:

- (i) One **inception report**: Draft due May 2024
- (ii) Two **review reports**:
 - a. One report for Phase 1: Draft due September 2024
 - b. One report for Phase 2: Draft due February 2025
- (iii) Two **PowerPoint presentations**:
 - a. One long and one short PowerPoint for Phase 1: Draft due September 2024
 - b. One long and one short PowerPoint for Phase 2: Draft due February 2025
- (iv) Two **workshops** on early findings and recommendations co-creation:
 - a. One Phase 1 workshop: September 2024
 - b. One Phase 2 workshop: February 2025
- (v) Four **dissemination events**:
 - a. Two Phase 1 events: After the December 2024 GPE Board meeting (i.e., around January 2025)
 - b. Two Phase 2 events: After the June 2025 GPE Board meeting (i.e., around July 2025)

Appendix A – Key documents and data to be reviewed (List to be finalized during inception period)

- List of EOL grant recipients and their key characteristics
- GPE Strategies 2020 and 2025
- Relevant GPE Board and Committee documents
- Oxfam Denmark EOL proposal (original 2019, top up 2021 and extension 2022)
- ASA blueprint (2018)
- EOL Global Results Framework
- Progress reports and annual narrative and financial reports from the Grant Agent
- CSEF evaluation report
- EOL OC1 rapid review report (2021)
- Mid-term review of EOL (2022)

(Individual reports from projects, initiatives, and grantees will be provided once the sample is determined, during the inception phase)