



Terms of Reference - Short-term consultancy (STC)

Education Specialist – Planning and finance

(Strategy, Policy, and Performance Team of the Global Partnership for Education)

Background

Established in 2002, the Global Partnership for Education ("Global Partnership" or GPE), formerly the Education for All Fast-Track Initiative, is a partnership focused on supporting and financing basic education in developing countries. In practice, the Global Partnership provides its developing country partners support to build and implement sound education plans. The Global Partnership aims to achieve quality and equitable learning outcomes for all children by efficiently using international and national resources and matching donors' priorities with developing countries' own education goals and strategies.

The Charter of the Global Partnership for Education sets out the basic compact and structures that govern the work of the Partnership. In addition, the GPE Board of Directors has adopted a new Strategic Plan 2016-2020. This Strategic Plan clarifies the scope, focus, and direction of the Secretariat's work and provides a theory of change and set of accountabilities for the Secretariat and broader partnership. Collectively, these actions will help position GPE to deliver on the new Sustainable Development Goal on education (SDG 4) for the post-2015 period.

As a result of a 2014 Organizational Review, GPE's Board of Directors mandated the creation of GPE's first Quality Assurance (QA) function as a means of strengthening the quality of the processes and products GPE supports, fulfilling GPE's strategic plan, and assuring GPE investments. Over the past year and a half the QA function has developed new and revised existing quality assurance processes within the Secretariat and has now begun implementing a strengthened Quality Assurance Review process for Education Sector Plans and a strengthened Quality Assurance Review process for Education Sector Program Implementation Grants. As a result of these major processes, the Quality Assurance function is currently looking for a consultant to support the unit with its work.

Purpose of the Consultancy

The individual selected for this consultancy will support the Quality Assurance team with the coordination and implementation of the Quality Assurance Review process for Education Sector Plans and Education Sector Program Implementation Grants.

Duties and Responsibilities

The consultant will have the following specific responsibilities:

- Working with the Quality Assurance team and Country Support team, supports quality assurance and technical review processes required as part of GPE's new results based funding model. This includes processes for reviewing the quality of Education Sector Plans, for ensuring partners meet requirements for strengthened data systems and financing; and for monitoring sectoral outcome.

- Supports analysis and quality assurance of education sector plans and sector monitoring tools and activities in particular by supporting the running of various education sector monitoring methodologies and tools outlining quality standards, such as the education sector plan assessment methodology; joint sector review assessment methodology;
- Supports the use of methodologies and tools to ensure the quality of GPE financed programs through the running of the quality standards assessment for program documents and the application of the guiding questions for the assessment of variable financing.
- Supports the development of procedures, guidelines and tools for quality assuring GPE's portfolio of grants and activities, working closely with members of the Country Support Team to ensure alignment between the Partnership's strategic goals and its country facing activities.
- Supports coordination of quality assurance review panel meetings to support key phases of the country quality assurance review process as outlined in the QA operations manual.
- Contributes to the improvement of GPE quality assurance processes and tools by providing inputs to the development or strengthening of methodologies and commenting on other GPE publications and tools
- Contribute to other tasks as needed.

Selection Criteria:

- Master's degree in education or a related discipline or the social sciences (public policy, economics, sociology etc.), training and work experience in education sector policy, basic education, with supporting skills in both quantitative and qualitative analysis;
- At least five years of prior experience in conducting research and/or evaluations, ideally within the education sector in developing countries. Experience with analysis of education policies, and quality assurance and validation of technical excellence in education sector programs, projects and initiatives a plus.
- Proficiency in English and French, meaning the ability to work (converse, read, and write) in both languages a plus;
- Ability to communicate clearly and accurately both verbally and in writing;
- Experience in education sector related research, monitoring and evaluation would be an asset.

Timeframe

A total of 20 days (with a possibility of extension in July) are planned for this assignment. The assignment will commence June 01, 2017 and will end no later than June 30, 2017. Interested candidates should send their CVs and a Cover Letter to Wapoenje Evora at wevora@globalpartnership.org by no later than Wednesday May 24, 2017 (reposted)

Reporting Relationships

The consultant will report to the Deputy Chief Technical Officer in the Strategy, Policy, and Performance Team.