GPE Secretariat – Country Support Team
Short Term Consultancy for Education Specialist
100 days from July 2017 – December 2017

Terms of Reference
May 2017

Background

Established in 2002, the Global Partnership for Education ("Global Partnership" or GPE), formerly the Education for All Fast Track Initiative, has grown and evolved to become the premier partnership focused on basic education in developing countries. Its members include 65 of the world's poorest developing countries, over 30 bilateral, regional, and multilateral agencies; development banks; the private sector; civil society groups; and teachers organizations. The Board of Directors is the Global Partnership’s governing body, sets its policies and strategies and approves all funding.

The mission of the Global Partnership is to galvanize and coordinate a global effort to ensure that every child receives a quality basic education, prioritizing the poorest, the most vulnerable and those living in fragile and conflict-affected countries. To that end, the Global Partnership helps its member countries to develop and implement sound education sector plans and has allocated approximately $4.4 billion in education grants to date. The Global Partnership mobilizes international financing and promotes/efficient use of international and national resources to support developing countries' education goals and sector strategies.

With about 85 staff, the GPE Secretariat is hosted by the World Bank in Washington, D.C. As a consequence of the partnership taking a greater leadership role in achieving international development goals in education, the Secretariat is developing its capacity to support country-level processes and to meet expectations from the partnership’s stakeholders to achieve concrete results and education outcomes for children in developing countries.

The partnership in December 2015 approved an ambitious new Strategic Plan for the 2016-2020 period. The plan includes a strategic objective focused on more and better financing of education. In September 2016, the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunities (“Education Commission”) released a report calling for significant scale up in domestic and international financing for Education including a call to increase GPE funding to US$2 billion per year by 2020.

Roles and Responsibilities

The selected short term consultant (STC) will serve as an Education Specialist. Education Specialists support “Country Leads”, who manage the Secretariat’s support to Developing Country Partners. Country Leads
each have a portfolio of countries where they promote the Partnership goals and facilitate processes related to aid effectiveness, sector planning and monitoring, and grant financed programs and activities. Working with other Country Support Team staff, the Education Specialist STC is expected to support the Country Leads in the following areas for which the Country Leads retain primary responsibility:

- Develop knowledge of the country education sector in order to identify bottlenecks—in particular related to equity, efficiency and learning outcomes—and solutions for reaching international education goals in general and GPE strategic goals in particular;
- Work with Coordination Agencies and country-level Local Education Groups to achieve improved cooperation and harmonization, in compliance with the international aid efficiency agenda;
- Support the development of education sector plans to assist countries in meeting the requirements of the Global Partnership’s funding model, monitor the endorsement of these plans by Development Partners, and support sector monitoring by reviewing implementation reports, participating in Joint Sector Reviews and other exercises and analyses;
- Inform partners about and facilitate the GPE Grant process, working with the Local Education Group in their choice of modalities to channel the GPE funds, identifying potential supervising and managing entities, and providing guidance during the grant application process;
- In collaboration with the Strategy, Policy and Performance team and the Finance Team, support quality assurance reviews of program documents relevant to the Grant process, facilitating dialogue with Local Education Groups to agree measures to strengthen them as needed;
- Monitor the implementation of grant-financed programs and GPE support to sector planning and monitoring, including ensuring country logbooks are up to date and providing inputs to the annual Portfolio Review;
- Provide information to other Secretariat teams to facilitate knowledge management and communications.

The Education Specialist STC will have direct responsibility for the following:

1. Play a key role in the quality assurance process of selected education sector plans, specifically:
   a. Act as a peer reviewer and provide an assessment of draft Education Sector Plans and where relevant, Education sector analyses.
   b. Where needed, provide support to the Country Lead in drafting feedback to the country.

2. Play a key role in the quality assurance process of selected Program Implementation Grant applications, specifically:
   a. Assess draft program documents and provide recommendations for programmatic improvement.
   b. Where needed, provide drafting support to the Country Lead during the three stages of the quality assurance process to produce the summary reports that detail Secretariat feedback on the application, improvements made during the quality assurance process, and final readiness of the country to receive funding.
   c. On occasion, provide more hands-on technical support to the country may be required during the development of the country’s application, including mission travel.

3. Provide technical support to some countries on strengthening the country’s Joint Sector Reviews. Mission travel may be required to this end.

4. Any other tasks as required.

**Timeframe**

This is a 100-day Secretariat (Washington, DC)-based consultancy from July 2017 to December 2017.
Reporting Relationships
The consultant will report directly to the Deputy Manager of CST.

Selection Criteria
- Master’s degree in a relevant field of study (education, international development, etc)
- At least five years’ experience in international development, ideally in the education sector, with a strong understanding of education sector analysis and planning, program management and reporting.
- Country knowledge on fragile countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia will be considered an asset.
- Ability to communicate and write competently in English. The ability to communicate professionally in French will be a strong asset and also in Spanish will be an asset.
- Ability to operate effectively in a changing environment and work well alone and in a team.
- Ability to reach consensus, meet deadlines, and implement processes to produce practical results.

Interested candidates should send a cover letter of no more than 1 page and a CV of no more than 3 pages to Wapoenje Evora wevora@globalpartnership.org by 12 noon on Friday May 26. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.