



GPE Secretariat - Education, Policy, and Learning Team Terms of Reference for Senior Gender Equality Specialist to Author Gender Recommendations for GPE's new Strategy (Short Term Consultant)

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) works with 67+ developing countries 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. GPE mobilizes financing for education and supports developing countries to build effective education systems founded on evidence-based planning and policies.

GPE is a global fund and a partnership whose members include developing country governments, more than 20 donor nations, multilateral development and humanitarian agencies, as well as organizations from the private sector, philanthropy, civil society and the teaching profession.

GPE's five-year Strategic Plan, GPE 2020, aligns with the new global development agenda. While GPE's vision mirrors Sustainable Development Goal 4, 'to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all', GPE recognizes that education is the foundation for reaching the full suite of agreed global goals. Focusing resources on securing equity and inclusion for the most marginalized children and youth, including those affected by fragility and conflict, and achieving gender equality are core principles.

Supporting Gender Equality in and through Education at GPE

Gender responsiveness is a core priority throughout the work of GPE given the vast mutual importance of gender equality and education. The promotion of gender equality is one of eight guiding principles of GPE 2020 and is featured in Strategic Goal 2, "Increased equity, gender equality, and inclusion". To further emphasize the importance of gender equality, GPE developed the 2016-2020 Gender Equality Policy and Strategy, which was approved in June 2016 with annual reporting to the Board's Strategy and Impact Committee (SIC). As GPE nears the end of GPE 2020 and begins developing a new strategic plan, there's an opportunity to define GPE's aspirations and added value in this area and to hardwire this into the new strategy and operating model. The SIC has recently established a light touch reference group on gender equality to help initial brainstorming on how to define, operationalize, and monitor a vision on gender equality for the new strategy.

Scope of Work and Deliverables

The objective of the work under this consultancy is to lead the GPE Secretariat and SIC reference group on gender through strategic thinking on how GPE can strengthen its focus on gender equality in GPE's next strategic plan

Responsibilities

It is expected that the consultant will:

- Act as a thought leader to drive GPE's thinking on lessons learned from current implementation of the Gender Equality Policy and Strategy in order to inform recommendations for GPE's new strategy;



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- Take part in, and support, a Brookings led workshop on gender equality in education;
- Work with the Gender Reference Group made up of nominated representatives from GPE board constituencies and gender focal points within the GPE Secretariat to develop a short report outlining options and recommendations for consideration in GPE's new strategic plan (2020-2025). Options and recommendations should propose ways in which GPE can best contribute to gender equality through its various levers, as a fund and a partnership. Proposals should be based on good evidence, easy to communicate and track progress over a 5-year period, with close attention paid to strengthening mutual accountability for operationalization of recommendations by all members of the GPE partnership. A small number of actionable priority recommendations will be submitted to GPE's Board as part of a Board strategy retreat to take place 3rd week of March.

Deliverables

1. Participation in, and support of, a gender equality in education workshop in early February 2020. The virtual/in person workshop will be convened and led by Brookings, and invitees will include the SIC gender equality reference group, members of the GPE Secretariat and outside participants as required.
2. Production of a report (no more than 10 pages) outlining: (a) headline lessons learned from the implementation of the current policy and strategy; (b) options and recommendations for consideration in GPE's new strategy and operating model (end February 2020). Methodology will include desk review of existing reports and select interviews.
3. Based on the report, agree with the reference group recommendations to be shared with the GPE Board as part of the March board retreat strategy options (format TBD, but likely to be 1-2 ppt slides, approx. March 6th)
4. Liaise with the SIC gender equality reference group on the report and recommendations, seeking inputs and suggestions.

Timeframe and Reporting relationships

This is a part-time contract from January 2020 to March 2020. 25 days will be allocated for this work. Option for additional days to be added depending on consultant's performance and internal demand. The consultant's first point of contact will be Christin McConnell.

Selection Criteria

- Masters or PhD degree with at least fifteen years' proven experience in education, public policy, or a related field, PhD preferred
- Demonstrated global expertise related to gender equality in education systems
- Familiarity with GPE grant-making processes and operating model strongly preferred



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- Experience with international or multilateral development agencies
- Ability to work independently, operate under pressure, deliver high-quality work within deadlines, and meet team objectives
- Exceptional written and oral communication skills, with demonstrated ability to convey complex ideas in a clear, direct, and lively style

All Interested candidates should send their CV and a cover letter to cmccconnell@globalpartnership.org by **January 23, 2020**.