Terms of Reference
Short Term Consultant – Regional Advocacy and Public Policy (Africa)
External Relations Team – GPE Secretariat

Description:

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 achieve our shared vision that every child deserves to learn.

GPE currently supports 76 low and lower-middle-income countries to transform their education systems so that all children can get the education they need to thrive. We work where the needs are greatest and focus on reaching the children who are the most vulnerable, including girls, children with disabilities, and those who live in countries characterized by extreme poverty or conflict.

Transforming education is about creating lasting changes and achieving impact at scale. GPE’s new strategic plan, GPE 2025, sets out to deliver this transformative change by convening partners, mobilizing funds, and catalyzing reforms to help partner countries get more girls and boys in school, improve teaching and learning, and build equitable, inclusive, and resilient education systems fit for the 21st century.

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. In 2020, GPE was also the largest provider of education grants in the global COVID-19 response, rapidly providing partner countries with vital resources to ensure that learning could safely continue.

In July 2021, the Global Education Summit raised a record US$4 billion from donors for GPE’s Raise Your Hand campaign. This puts GPE firmly on the path to achieving its fundraising target of at least $5 billion over the next five years to transform education systems in up to 90 countries and territories. At the Summit, Heads of State and Government from partner countries also made historic commitments to domestic education financing, and GPE also mobilized an unprecedented number of pledges from businesses, private foundations and development banks.

A fully funded GPE would enable up to 175 million children to learn and help get 88 million more girls and boys in school by 2025. In the longer term, this investment could add $164 billion to economies in GPE partner countries, lift 18 million people out of poverty, and protect 2 million girls from early marriage.
The Africa region is where GPE has its largest financial footprint. On average, the region receives 2/3 of GPE’s grant financing to support Ministers of Education. GPE is also funding a significant number of advocacy projects and global public goods in the region through its Knowledge and Innovation Exchange and Education Out Loud funds.

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

The External Relations Team (EXR) responsibilities include donor relations, communications, advocacy, civil society outreach, private sector, and private foundation outreach. The consultant will work on the Global Advocacy Team within the External Relations Team. This position will report to the Lead, Regional Partnerships (Africa and the Asia Pacific). The Global Advocacy Team leads positioning of GPE in key global and regional fora and public policy discourse; development and management of relationships with advocacy partners, GPE youth leaders, and champions; management of relationships with global and regional CSOs, including support to CSO board constituencies.

The Consultant’s work will focus on GPE’s regional public policy, advocacy, and partnerships in the Africa region to position GPE, education, and the financing in regional and global platforms and public policy discourse. And ensure alignment as GPE pivots to service and support the rollout of GPE2025 operating model. **The ideal candidate would be located in Africa.**

**Timeframe:**

The position is as a short-term Consultant and will serve a total of approximately 115 days until June 30, 2022.

**Initial tasks and deliverables:**

Initial identification of tasks includes the following; however, additional tasks may be identified according to the needs of the team.

**Strategies and intellectual assets**

- In collaboration with Regional Lead, update the Africa advocacy strategy, and help take GPE’s regional advocacy to the next level by also ensuring cohesion with global moments, global thematic advocacy strategies, roadmaps, and donor actions
- Support development of briefings, and other intellectual assets

**Supporting relationship management**

- Support building and maintaining positive relationships with regional organizations, CSOs, influencers, and key partners, including working on convenings and joint
actions. Partners include AfDB, UNECA, ADEA, UNESCO regional bureaus (Central and West Africa, East and Southern Africa), RECs (e.g., ECOWAS, IGAD, EAC), Plan AU, ONE Africa, FAWE, Girls Not Brides Africa, and Africa CSO Forum

- Provide coverage for GPE and strategic contributions at regional partners meetings and working groups, including the Regional Coordination Group for West and Central Africa, and AU’s harmful practices working group (child marriage FGM, GBV)

**Strategic influencing and positioning**

- Identify public policy, political developments, strategic opportunities, and geopolitical challenges for GPE in the Africa region and provide strategic advice for policy positioning
- Provide quality strategic support to Regional Lead’s management of GPE’s participation and positioning in key regional public policy dialogues, platforms, campaigns, regional youth forums, and UN global convenings in the region, to ensure GPE is positioned as a key education player

**Internal coordination**

- Support effective internal coordination on regional champions, private sector voices, influencers, GPE youth leaders, and cross-functional collaboration with GPE teams to advance in support of advocacy and policy outcomes in the region and globally
- Coordinate with GPE Communications Team to ensure that regional advocacy engagements are amplified in external communications including social media, and partner-led blog series advanced
- Other duties as agreed between the consultant and the TTL.

**Selection Criteria:**

- Master’s degree or equivalent professional qualification in Business, Finance, Economics, International Relations, Education, or related field, plus more than 6 years of proven experience
- Sophisticated understanding of the global international development environment, key institutions and partners, and topical global policy issues.
- Substantive experience in education, public policy, and advocacy in Africa.
- Experience managing relationships with high-level partners.
- Political savvy, strategic problem solver, creativity, and strong conceptual and research/analytical skills with the ability to quickly analyze data and information from different sources and produce coherent reports.
- Proven strengths in written and oral communications, with a strong ability to convey sophisticated ideas in a clear, concise, direct, and lively style.
- Ability to work independently, operate under pressure, lead multiple tasks, deliver time-sensitive, high-quality work, and meet team objectives.
- Ability to communicate and write competently, and creatively in English and a solid understanding of French a plus.

**Competencies:**

- Lead and Innovate - Develops innovative solutions.
- Deliver Results for Clients - Proactively addresses clients’ stated and unstated needs.
- Collaborate Within Teams and Across Boundaries - Collaborates across boundaries, gives own perspective, and willingly receives different perspectives.
- Create, Apply and Share Knowledge - Applies knowledge across WBG to strengthen solutions for internal and/or external clients.
- Make Smart Decisions - Interprets a wide range of information and pushes to move forward.

Please send your resume and cover letter to vegbetayo@globalpartnership.org by 10 January 2022.