Chair, GPE Independent Technical Advisory Panel (Provisional)

STC Terms of Reference

*Are you interested in contributing to education systems transformation? GPE is recruiting seasoned professionals in international education development / policy planning to start-up and staff an Independent Technical Advisory Panel.*

1. **Background**

GPE is a multilateral partnership and fund dedicated to helping children in lower-income countries get a quality education, so they can unlock their potential and contribute to building a better world. GPE works with nearly 70 low income and lower-middle income countries, 30 bilateral, regional, and multilateral agencies; development banks; the private sector; civil society groups; and teachers’ organizations.

GPE recently approved its new operating model, which is grounded in a “system transformation” approach and seeks to source, support, and sustain education reforms with the potential for impact at scale. Within this framework, it was agreed to work with developing country partners to catalyze progress in four system transformation enabling factors:

- Equity, efficiency, and the volume of domestic financing of education;
- Gender responsive sector planning, policy, and monitoring;
- Use of data and evidence; and
- Sector coordination.

Assessment of country status against these enabling factors will be done by an Independent Technical Advisory Panel.

GPE is recruiting seasoned professionals to lead and staff a provisional ITAP. The panel will provide assessments for five countries piloting the new operating model starting from late March 2021.

2. **ITAP Role**

The ITAP will fill two main roles:

- **Assessment and advisory:** The ITAP will provide an independent assessment of country status against the GPE 2025 operating model requirements to local education groups at the country level and to the GPE Board.

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1 Global Partnership for Education
Reporting on lessons learned: The ITAP will also produce a lessons learned report including summary reflections on the functioning of the provisional ITAP and on GPE’s methodology for assessing operating model requirements in the context of the five country pilots.

3. ITAP Chair and member profile

The Chair will be a recognized leader in the field and practice of international education development with highly regarded technical expertise and prior experience leading global reviews/evaluations of development effectiveness in education and providing independent technical guidance to global governance structures.

ITAP members will be seasoned professionals with at least 15 years’ experience working in the field of international education reform, policy and planning at the global level and in developing country contexts. In addition to sound and up-to-date technical expertise, members will have broad experience working at senior levels in developing country contexts.

The ITAP will reflect the diversity of the partnership. Applications from candidates with different skills, experience, gender, and from all geographic regions are welcome. It will be particularly important that each country panel reflect gender diversity and include persons from the Global South.

To protect against real or perceived conflict of interest, individuals currently employed as staff of GPE member organizations will not be considered for these positions (i.e., staff of organizations and governments represented on the GPE Board of Directors). Individuals affiliated with non-member GPE grant recipient organizations (e.g., KIX and EoL grantees) are welcome to apply with conflict of interest reviewed on a case by case basis.

4. Skills, Experience and Competencies (Selection Criteria)

The Chair will have the following skills, experience and competencies.

Skills

- Strong knowledge across all operating model requirement areas and technical expertise (theoretical and operational) in one of the following areas: education systems reform, policy planning; education finance; gender equality in education; use of data and evidence; and sector coordination with a focus on basic, secondary and teacher education.

2 Country panels will be composed with due consideration of any potential, actual or perceived conflict of interest. ITAP members will be expected to disclose current and past consultancy assignments/employment to facilitate country panel selection.
• Advanced degree (PhD preferred) or equivalent experience in a field relevant to one of the above listed technical areas.
• Proven experience in producing and communicating strategic assessment to senior policymakers within and beyond the education sector.
• Advanced English language skills (required); advanced French language skills (desired); proficiency in Portuguese, Spanish, Arabic, or any other language is a major asset.
• Familiarity with state-of-the-art knowledge, innovative practices and up-to-date international guidelines in one of the above listed technical areas. (desired)

Experience
• Recognized leader in the field and practice of international education development.
• Demonstrated experience leading global reviews/evaluations of development effectiveness in education, including acting as a representative of a review panel and providing independent technical guidance to global governance structures.
• No less than 18 years’ experience working in the field of international education reform, policy and planning.
• Ten years’ experience working in education in a developing country context.
• Development, implementation, and/or evaluation of national education programs and sector plans, including working in complex operating environments and government-led multi-stakeholder initiatives in developing country contexts.
• Working with a broad range of organizations across multiple countries. (desired)
• Expertise in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, equity and education, teacher policy, public finance and development effectiveness. (desired)

Competencies
• In-depth understanding of and dedication to GPE vision, mission and core principles
• High ethical standards
• Experienced and nuanced judgement to provide technical assessment with due consideration to country context
• Strong analytical, synthesis and writing skills
• A facilitative and consultative approach with shown ability to lead and arbitrate decision-making in a multicultural team

5. Additional Information on Technical Areas

ITAP Members, inclusive of the Chair, will provide expertise in at least one of the following areas:
• *Education reform, policy, and planning*, including experience leading education sector analysis, sector planning, sector evaluation, or education reform at scale.

• *Education finance*, including experience in leading analysis of education financial modeling, sector analysis, or public expenditure tracking; with an emphasis on experience in communicating sector-level education finance messages to policymakers. Experience leading an education finance reform is desired.

• *Gender equality and education planning*, including experience hardwiring / operationalizing gender equality priorities into education sector reform, planning, budgeting and policy dialogue.

• *Use of Data and Evidence*, including experience integrating the generation and use of data and evidence into sector planning and education reform initiatives. Experience in innovative approaches to information / evidence generation, analytics and utilization a plus.

6. **Duties, Accountabilities and Timeframe**

The ITAP Chair will oversee the functioning of the ITAP and is responsible for ensuring the timely completion of five country panel assessment reports and a lessons learned report. The Chair will:

• Compose country assessment panels drawing on a pre-selected pool of consultants and ensure compliance with GPE Guidelines on country panel characteristics (i.e., expertise, diversity, experience).

• Lead the development and completion of country assessments, inclusive of the draft assessment shared with the local education group and a final report for the GPE Board.

• Ensure panelist contributions and conclusions are technically sound, contextually relevant and well-grounded in GPE’s Methodology for Assessment of Operating Model Requirements.

• Chair the internal deliberations of the panel, arbitrate disputes and support development of consensus around key messages.

• Work closely with the GPE Secretariat point of contact, where needed, to address ITAP member HR or contract compliance matters.

• Lead completion of Lessons Learned report, inclusive of presentation to the GPE Board and relevant committees.

The Chair is expected to lead four country assessment panels, with the option to delegate further country panels to a pre-identified Vice-Chair. The Chair will be contracted for an initial period of 50 days with country panels likely to convene between late March–July 2021, depending on country pilot timelines. It is expected that the level of effort required for the Chair to complete tasks required for each country panel is eight days total, with an additional 10 days to complete a report on lessons learned.
7. Reporting Relationship

The Chair will be appointed by the GPE CEO, who will inform the GPE Board of this appointment, and coordinate closely with the ITAP Coordinator, Finance and Grant Operations, GPE Secretariat. ITAP members will report to the ITAP Chair regarding technical work on country panels and coordinate with the GPE Secretariat for HR matters.

8. To Apply

Submit your CV and cover email to [gpe_fgo_candidates@globalpartnership.org] with the subject line “ITAP-Chair + [primary area of expertise]” no later than March 12, 2021. Identify one of the following areas of expertise in the email subject line: gender, evidence, finance, or planning. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

GPE is committed to achieving diversity in all areas, including but not limited to race, gender, nationality, culture, and educational background. Individuals with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply, with assurance that individuals with disabilities are provided reasonable accommodation to participate in the job application or interview process, to perform essential functions, and to receive other benefits and privileges of the consultancy position. Please contact us to request accommodation.