

TERMS OF REFERENCE

SHORT-TERM CONSULTANT (STC) - EDUCATION POLICY AND LEARNING TEAM

MARCH 2023

BUILDING THE KNOWLEDGE BASE ON EQUITY AND INCLUSION IN GPE

1. About GPE

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) works with 70+ 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.

The partnership is supported by the GPE Secretariat, which is hosted by the World Bank with headquarters in Washington DC and offices in Paris, France and Brussels, Belgium. Within the GPE Secretariat, the *Country Engagement and Policy Team (CEP)* serves as the primary interface with developing country partners. The CEP has a sub-team – the *Education Policy and Learning Team (EPL)* – whose primary objective is to consolidate a solid evidence base on the challenges and what works in GPE's priority policy areas, including identifying cross-country needs and curating relevant knowledge across the partnership. This also includes the development of robust technical products (guidance, methodologies, tools and resources) across *thematic and education policy areas* for the benefit of all GPE countries and country partners in view of contributing to improved country engagements and support to accelerate education progress.

2. Context and Purpose of the Consultancy

Within the Education Policy and Learning Team, this consultancy will support the **equity and inclusion thematic area**. At GPE, equity and inclusion covers a wide range of policy sub-themes, including: inclusion of children with disabilities; school health and nutrition; safety from violence in and around the school; inclusion of refugees, internally displaced persons and other conflict-affected populations; inequalities in access and learning by wealth and location; participation and discrimination in the classroom; equitable finance and the allocation of teachers and resources to schools and districts.

The purpose of this consultancy is to provide technical support to the GPE Secretariat's work on equity and inclusion in education. The consultancy will also support building a knowledge base in other thematic areas such as learning, teaching, and early childhood development. Under the supervision of the thematic lead on equity and inclusion, the consultant will help to build GPE's knowledge base in order to strengthen the Secretariat's support to partner countries in building equitable and inclusive education systems. The consultant's work will include 1) supporting technical work on equity and inclusion in education; 2) maintaining a knowledge base on equity and inclusion, and other thematic areas, in GPE; 3) tracking new research; and 4) participating in and supporting networking and knowledge sharing events.

3. Duties and deliverables

Based on overall directions provided by the thematic lead for equity and inclusion, and the EPL Team Lead as needed, the Consultant will have the following tasks and responsibilities:

- i. **Support technical work on equity and inclusion in education.** The consultant will assist with the development, coordination, production and review of policy-focused research on equity and inclusion in education, with the aim of strengthening the Secretariat's support to partner countries in educational planning and implementation. This will include support to the pilot countries for the new GPE operating model. Other projects may include, for example, analysis of systemic bottlenecks that exclude children from disadvantaged backgrounds and developing options for work on redistributive financing. The consultant will review research in these areas and assist with analysis, writing, and coordination and management of the research.
- ii. **Maintain knowledge base on equity and inclusion in GPE.** The consultant will review education sector plans, partnership compacts, grant documents, and other documents, and talk to colleagues working with countries, to maintain and build a database of how equity and inclusion is covered in GPE partner countries' planning documents and how GPE supports the implementation of these plans. The consultant will act as knowledge manager for the thematic area, maintaining a well-organized shared folder housing all documents relevant to the sub-team, and providing information to colleagues to inform GPE's work with partner countries as well as its advocacy and external relations. The consultant will also support the building and maintaining of a knowledge base in other thematic areas, such as learning, teaching, and early childhood.
- iii. **Track new research on equity and inclusion in education.** The consultant will keep up to date on the latest global research related to equity and inclusion in education, including specific pieces of research and broader trends, and share this with colleagues, including through a bibliographic database, informal discussion sessions, contributing to an email newsletter, and occasional blog posts. S/he will support GPE's work with partner countries, ensuring that up to date evidence on equity in education is available and accessible to Secretariat colleagues and partners.
- iv. **Participate in and support networking and knowledge sharing events.** The consultant will liaise with networks and working groups through which GPE engages with its partners. These include networks on out-of-school children, disability inclusion and on school health, nutrition and safety. S/he will participate in meetings, webinars, and other events organized by the GPE Secretariat and its partner organizations, and also support colleagues to participate in such events by preparing briefing notes and presentations.

- v. **Conduct an informal stocktake on GPE support in the area of foundational learning**, building off of results & performance data/coding as well as thematic repository in the area of learning.

4. Timeframe

This is a full-time contract from May 22nd 2023, to June 30th, 2023, with a possibility of extension thereafter. Up to 30 days will be allocated for this work. This consultancy will be based in Washington, D.C.

5. Working and reporting relationships

The consultant will report directly to the equity and inclusion thematic lead, Stuart Cameron, and will eventually report to the EPL team lead.

6. Selection criteria

- Master's degree or higher in education, social sciences, public policy, economics or related field.
- At least 5 years of professional experience working on basic education in developing countries.
- Excellent research, writing, and communication skills in English (writing and communication skills in French will be considered an asset).
- Ability to meet deadlines and deliver high quality work.
- Effective time management and organizational skills.
- Attentive to detail.
- Commitment to improving education for the most disadvantaged children in developing countries.
- Good knowledge of research on education in developing countries, preferably on areas relating to equity, inequalities, marginalized groups, disability, gender, refugees and displaced people, inclusion, and/or teaching and learning.
- Demonstrated ability to understand, interpret and analyse both quantitative and qualitative research on these themes.
- Knowledge of international educational statistics and data issues.
- Familiarity with education sector planning processes in developing countries and knowledge and experience of the Global Partnership for Education will be considered assets.

How to apply

Please apply by **May 17th 2023** using the application form here: <https://forms.gle/TFTFxHXFkt7eY8d39>

As part of the application, you will be asked to upload your CV and a recent sample of your writing. If you have any difficulty please write to scameron@globalpartnership.org.