



WORLD BANK GROUP

Donor Funded Staffing Program

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| TOR No: | 2019 - 084 |
| Title: | Junior Professional Officer |
| Grade: | UC |
| Division/VPU: | Education Global Practice (GED06) |
| Duty Location: | Washington, DC |
| Appointment Type and Duration: | Two-year Term Appointment |

BACKGROUND

EDUCATION GLOBAL PRACTICE

Education is central to achieving the World Bank Group's (WBG) twin goals: it is a reliable route out of poverty and a prime vehicle for promoting shared prosperity. The main challenge in the education sector is to achieve "learning for all, learning for life" by ensuring that all children and young people acquire the knowledge and skills they need for their lives and livelihoods. The developing world has achieved great advances in education in the past two decades, most notably in enrolling and keeping children in school and in addressing gender equality. But challenges remain—among them are how to overcome educational barriers faced by the poorest people and those living in fragile states and how to improve the quality of education so that schooling leads to real learning.

The WBG and the broader education development community are increasingly shifting focus to helping improve learning outcomes for all. Because traditional input-driven programs often fail to promote learning, the WBG's education strategy highlights the need for a more comprehensive "systems approach" to education reform. This approach is about increasing accountability for results as a complement to providing inputs. It also requires strengthening the knowledge base on education to highlight where systems are achieving results, where they are falling short, and what the most effective solutions are targeted to each country context or situation. These efforts are increasingly guided by the need to invest early; invest smartly; and invest for all. Through high-quality analytical work, collection and curation of evidence, and practical know-how in these areas, the WBG is helping its partner countries accelerate their educational progress.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE UNIT

The Education Global Practice is seeking a Junior Professional Officer to be based in WBG Headquarters in Washington DC to support the work of the Global Practice in the South Asia Region (SAR). The South Asia Region comprises eight countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) that range in size from India (with a population of over 1 billion) to Maldives (with 0.3 million people). The region has experienced a long period of robust economic growth, averaging 6% a year over the past 20 years. It was the second-fastest growing region in the world in the aftermath of the global crisis. This strong growth has translated into declining poverty and impressive improvements in human development. Still, the South Asia region is home to many of the developing world's poor. According to recent poverty estimates, about 250 million people in the region are below the poverty line, and they make up more than 33% of the world's poor.

South Asia has played, and will continue to play, an important role in the global development story. It has the world's largest working-age population, a quarter of the world's middle-class consumers, more than 15 million people entering the work force each year, and persistent deep development challenges such as being the home for 42% of stunted children, the world's highest neonatal mortality and women anemia rates, huge tolls from natural disasters, a declining labor force participation and abnormal gender wage gaps. With inclusive and sustainable growth, and a focus on human capital development, South Asia has the potential to change global poverty, and education has a central role in making this a reality.

Staff in the SAR Education Team typically engage with clients in in-depth technical assistance and policy discussions; design, supervise and evaluate education sector projects; and lead and contribute to analytical products, such as Education Sector Policy Studies, Public Expenditure Reviews, Impact evaluations, Social Assessments, Institutional Assessments, and flagship Regional Studies. They also lead and contribute to multi-sectorial lending operations and knowledge products in collaboration with other Global Practices and units. Policy dialogue is often centered on topics dealing with equitable access to quality education, economics of education, skills for competitiveness, and education sector service delivery—including quality, relevance, efficiency, access, and financing of education.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Junior Professional Officer will be based in Washington DC and will work under the supervision of the Education Practice Manager for SAR. S/he will be expected to perform the following duties:

- Be an active member of task teams working on education projects, technical assistance and reimbursable advisory services being implemented and prepared in the region.
- Support analytical work in the education sector on specific topics as assigned by the Practice Manager.
- Contribute to written work, such as policy notes, reports, newsletters, etc.
- Interact with government counterparts, local education stakeholders, and other partner organizations on project-related issues as a member of the relevant task teams.
- Participate in visits to client countries to support the preparation or implementation of education projects and engage in policy dialogue.
- Work together with colleagues within diverse multi-cultural multi-disciplinary teams.
- Perform other duties and tasks as specified by the Practice Manager and the relevant project Task Team Leaders.

Note: The selected candidate will not be assigned to programs involving his/her own government such as donor coordination and trust fund management.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- At least a Master's Degree in education, economics, public policy, business administration, or a related field.
- A minimum of 2 years of work experience in international development, education policy, economic or business consulting, research, or a related field.
- Understanding of education and economic policy in developing and developed countries.
- Strong client orientation and proven ability to work with government agencies or similar clients.
- Ability to work as part of a team and independently in a diverse multi-cultural environment, seeking guidance when needed on complex issues from senior staff.
- Ability to juggle numerous competing demands and priorities, respond quickly to management requests, organize, prioritize and manage time flexibly and effectively.
- Strong results orientation, persistence, patience, positive attitude, enthusiasm and commitment to international development work.

- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English.
- Willingness to travel to client countries, sometimes on short notice.
- Strong analytical and data management skills, including econometric analysis.
- Proficiency on all standard operational software packages (including Excel and PowerPoint) and statistical software packages such as STATA, SPSS, etc.