



Models of Best Practice – Inclusive Quality Education in West Africa - Consultant

About Plan International Ireland

Founded in 1937, **Plan International** is an independent organisation with no religious, political, or governmental affiliations. Our vision is a just world that advances children’s rights and equality for girls. We work with girls and their communities to build schools, educate teachers, end child marriage, and much more. In emergencies, we save lives and ease suffering by providing shelter and sanitation, while also creating safe spaces to protect and keep children in school. We work at local, national, and international level across 70 countries to influence governments to tackle the root causes of child poverty and to create a more equal world for girls.

Established in 2003, **Plan International Ireland** is a dynamic organisation that supports Plan International’s work worldwide. Plan International Ireland priority is to contribute to access to Safe Inclusive Quality Education for all in development and emergency contexts. In addition to its work overseas, Plan International Ireland strives to raise awareness of development issues in Ireland through media relations, key events, advocacy and global citizenship education.

Inclusive Quality Education in Plan

Plan International Ireland plays a key role in driving the agenda of safe inclusive quality education, in both a development and humanitarian context. Since 2012 Plan International Ireland has been implementing a regional programme called EQUIP (Education: Quality, Inclusion, Participation) in West Africa. Countries currently targeted by the programme are Burkina Faso, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, and Mali.

Through an integrated, multi-level programme, EQUIP’s goal is to ensure that children fulfil their rights to inclusive quality education in line with SDG 4 global commitments. Excluded children, particularly girls and children with disabilities, will have their rights met through a strengthened education landscape. Strategies that anchor programmes in the community, hold state actors accountable and build capacity within the education system, strengthen civil society, engage in advocacy, and work in partnership are reflected in the approach to the four overarching programme objectives – a fifth objective was added to the Programme in 2020, cognisant of the COVID-19 context:

1. Strengthen equitable access to education for children, with attention to girls and the most marginalised.
2. Improve inclusive quality education for all children.
3. Improve meaningful participation of children and communities in educational decision-making at all levels.
4. Strengthen an inclusive education system and enable change in education policy and practice.
5. Promote resilience of the community to COVID-19 and to support educational continuity during the pandemic.

Since the beginning of the programme, all target countries have developed particular models of best practice that have been developed and, in some instances, adopted by the system and incorporated, for example into the teacher training curriculum, or the national education strategy plan.

- Early Reading (Burkina Faso)
- Accelerated Education
- Active Pedagogy (Guinea)
- Inclusion Policies (effective advocacy)
- Early Childhood Development (ECD) and Education (ECE) (Guinea Bissau)
- Active citizenship (school clubs/children parliament) (Burkina Faso)

In order to maximise our learning, we are commissioning this work to fully articulate the Plan International examples of best practice, will be transferrable to other projects and programmes.

Purpose of consultancy

A consultant is being commissioned to undertake a Desk Study to review the material that has been generated in relation to each model of best practice. A suitable format will be developed and agreed with Plan International Ireland, for the short guides, so that they can be finalised and published as a series, available for organisational use, and sharing more broadly in the sector.

Responsibilities:

The consultant will be responsible for developing the short guides outlined below. There is no travel in this consultancy.

The required research methods are as follows:

- Desk based review of relevant material in relation to the development and implementation of the models of best practice developed in the EQuIP Programme by Plan International in West Africa;
- Some key informant interviews with relevant stakeholders (internally in Plan country offices and externally in target countries, eg with the in-country Education Advisor or Programme Manager).

The consultant will report directly to the EQuIP Desk Officer and will work in close collaboration with relevant staff in Plan International West Africa Regional Office and Country Offices, and the wider Plan International Federation.

Expected Outputs

The following outputs are required from this consultancy:

- A series of short guides (maximum 20 pages) articulating the Plan International models of best practice employed as per the outline above, in a country specific context, transferrable to other programmes/projects.

The final reports will be property of Plan International Ireland and will be used to support the implementation of the EQuIP programme and in the design of future education programmes.

Timeframe

The consultant is expected to develop a detailed timeline for this piece of work; however. an indicative timeline is mid-October – mid-December 2021, with the final guides available for formatting and publication in late December 2021.

The full budget will not exceed €6,000.

Desirable Attributes

- A commitment to promoting and supporting child and girls' rights;
- Excellent understanding of education and children's rights in both development and emergency settings;
- Experience with rights-based programme approaches;
- Proven background in articulating models promoting safe, quality, inclusive education;
- Demonstrably strong analytical, writing and communication skills, with a track record of writing policy briefing papers for external audiences.
- Conversant with child protection, gender, child rights and advocacy.
- Fluent spoken and written communication skills in English. As source documents will mostly be in French a good comprehension of French is required. Interviews are undertaken will most likely be in French, so a level of fluency is required, or indeed the use of a translator needs to be budgeted.
- Ability to deliver on tight time frames and meet deadlines within agreed budgets.

To apply

All interested applicants should submit the following document to tenders.ireland@plan-international.ie :

- a) CV;
- b) Short proposal (max four pages) detailing;
 - Approach and methodology;
 - Links to some previous similar pieces of work;
 - 2 recent referees (ideally for similar kind of work);
- c) Indicative budget;
- d) Indicative timeline.

Closing date for applications: Wednesday 6th October 2021.