CONSULTANCY CALL:

Education Partnership and Stakeholder Engagement in Sierra Leone

BRAC International
Founded in Bangladesh in 1972 as a small relief effort, BRAC is now one of the largest development organizations in the world, reaching over 100 million people living in poverty every year. In 2009, BRAC International was set up as a nonprofit foundation in the Netherlands to govern and manage BRAC’s programs outside of Bangladesh. BRAC International currently operates in six countries in Africa (Liberia, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Uganda) and three countries in Asia (Afghanistan, Myanmar, and the Philippines). Our interventions aim to achieve large scale, positive changes through economic and social programmes that enable men and women to realise their potential.

About BRAC Sierra Leone
BRAC Sierra Leone is a legally registered branch of BRAC International. Since its inception in 2008, BRAC Sierra Leone has implemented various programs in youth empowerment, agriculture, health, emergency response and microfinance. In 2017, BRAC Sierra Leone was awarded the ‘Best NGO for Women’s Empowerment’ by the Council of Chief Executives, a leading association of business leaders in Sierra Leone that is committed to sustainable economic growth and human development. Currently BRAC Sierra Leone is following an integrated approach to development across 12 districts of Sierra Leone.

About BRAC’s Early Childhood Development Technical Assistance in Sierra Leone
BRAC has championed the importance of early childhood development for decades. Since the 1990s, BRAC’s pre-primary programs have reached millions of children in Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Liberia, the Philippines, Tanzania, and Uganda. Building on this experience, BRAC developed the Play Lab model for quality, playful early childhood development in 2015 in partnership with the LEGO Foundation. Through the Play Lab project, BRAC has worked closely with governments in Bangladesh, Uganda, and Tanzania to strengthen national approaches to play-based learning in early childhood development.

Through this project, BRAC will work in collaboration with Right To Play, a Canadian International NGO that works with partners to integrate play-based learning into policy, curriculum and pedagogy. This project will use a technical assistance model to support Sierra Leone’s Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSEE) as it begins to implement its newly-approved Integrated ECD policy and build the education system back better in light of COVID-19. Together, BRAC and Right To Play will support the MBSEE in providing high-quality, play-based early childhood development and primary education to children. BRAC will support the MBSEE in developing quality, playful early childhood development services, while Right To Play will work at the primary level in order to provide a strong foundation in play-based learning starting in early childhood and extending throughout their early school experience.
Objective of the Consultancy

The main objective of the assignment is to support government and other ECD stakeholder engagement in Sierra Leone and facilitate partnership building efforts in order to support BRAC in providing technical assistance to the MBSSE, aligning with partners like Right To Play, and strengthening coordination among other key ECD stakeholders in Sierra Leone. Specific responsibilities are as follows:

Responsibilities of the consultant

1) Coordinate technical support from BRAC’s Early Childhood Development (ECD) experts
2) Build strong working relationships with counterparts at Sierra Leone’s Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) and other Ministries as needed to ensure that BRAC’s technical assistance to the MBSSE moves forward efficiently, effectively, and in line with government priorities and BRAC’s strategic objectives
3) Develop and maintain proactive and collaborative partnerships with ECD stakeholders and technical working groups in-country like the Teaching Service Commission (TSC), Ministry of Technical and Higher Education, Global Partnership for Education, UNICEF, Education Outcomes Fund, and others to ensure that BRAC’s support builds on the existing education projects and ecosystem
4) Coordinate between BRAC and Right To Play, a core partner on the project to ensure that the two organizations’ support to the government is aligned
5) Support a longer-term partnership by participating in or leading discussions with the current and prospective donors and partners for this initiative
6) Represent the project and BRAC Sierra Leone in relevant country-level coordination groups that focus on ECD (e.g. ECD working groups) as needed
7) Advocate effectively for ECD and play based learning with various groups of high level stakeholders
8) Work in close collaboration with the project lead and the project team and support in developing relevant materials, documents, reports as and when required.
9) Share timely updates with the team and generate a report on the progress, achievements and recommendations at the end of the assignment.

Required Qualifications

- At least 10 years’ experience working for I/NGOs or with Governments in partnership building, fundraising, or advocacy, with experience in West Africa and Sierra Leone strongly preferred
- Excellent writing and editing skills with the ability to work under tight deadlines
- Strong communication, interpersonal, presentation and networking skills
- Excellent written and oral English language
- Experience working with government Ministries of Education preferred
- Knowledge of the education system in Sierra Leone strongly preferred

Skills and Competencies

- Strong strategic and creative thinking
- Demonstrated ability to take a strategic view across a large complex program
Excellent communication and negotiation skills
Demonstrated skills in writing, editing and reporting
Good knowledge of financial and administrative management
Personal commitment, drive for results, efficiency and flexibility
Proficiency in the use of MS Office
Ability to mobilize and influence different audiences and communities
Able to capacity build and develop others
Commitment to the organizational vision, mission and values.

Assignment Duration

The consultant will be reimbursed based on a budget and timeline agreed upon in advance. It is anticipated that the consultant will dedicate approximately 2 days per week of their time through July 2022, with the possibility of further support after that.

In order to facilitate close working relationships with local BRAC staff, government stakeholders, and other partners, it is anticipated that the consultant will work primarily from Freetown, Sierra Leone.

To Apply: The consultant should submit their resume and cover letter electronically to recruitmentAfrica.bi@brac.net, no later than March 4, 2022. BRAC will review submissions on a rolling basis so early submission is advised.