

Millennium Challenge Corporation

Reducing Poverty Through Growth

Education Consultants

The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is a U.S. Government corporation whose mission is to provide assistance that will support economic growth and poverty reduction in carefully selected countries that demonstrate a commitment to just and democratic governance, economic freedom, and investments in their citizenry. For more information on the MCC, please visit www.mcc.gov.

MCC provides grants to a number of low-income nations around the world that have satisfied the eligibility criteria for participation in the program and have entered into an agreement (a “Compact”) with the MCC regarding specific programs and activities to be implemented over a five year period. Eligible countries develop and submit proposals to MCC for its consideration.

Countries may or may not include activities related to education in their proposed Compacts. However, included within the proposal from any given country may be one or more projects or activities related to, among others:

- Educational policy reform, including legal, regulatory and financing frameworks;
- Augmenting or upgrading a country’s existing educational institutions (including assessments of facilities, teaching, learning and outreach);
- Technical and vocational education and training (formal, non-formal education and lifelong learning), often through public-private partnerships;
- Improving access to education (basic, secondary, tertiary, vocational/technical, adult, non-formal and other forms of education and training), including through distance learning and often targeting specific populations (e.g., women);
- Improving the quality and relevance of education, which may include addressing educational management, facilities and equipment, teacher competencies and professional development, curricular and textbook development, and strengthening capacity in learner-centered and adult learning methodologies

To carry out its operational mandate, MCC seeks the services of experienced education consultants to assist it in conducting technical due diligence of such projects or activities and/or assisting client countries in further developing or refining projects proposed for assistance. Once a project has been approved and a funding commitment extended, further assistance may be requested from one or more consultants in monitoring project implementation and/or to periodically review and evaluate project sustainability, performance and impacts.

Ideal candidates will have both appropriate educational qualifications; professional experience on education-related issues in developing and/or transitional countries; ability to be collaborative in a team environment; and excellent oral and written communications skills. Best qualified applicants will have a minimum of 10 years experience in a combination of the following areas:

- Assessing the condition of educational systems in developing countries and prioritizing the interventions that are most urgently needed;
- Gathering and assessing evidence of constraints in developing countries' educational systems and estimating the economic and social costs;
- Assessing the various channels by which education-related interventions could create additional value added, employment opportunities, better incomes and contribute to poverty reduction;
- Drawing upon past government and/or donor-community experiences related to education programs in developing countries to determine the most appropriate plan forward;
- Preparing related program design documents, terms of reference, procurements and budgets;
- Identifying implementation risks and appropriate mitigation measures;
- Supporting the governments of developing countries, or institutions in those countries, to undertake education policy reforms;
- Supporting the governments of developing countries, or institutions in those countries, to plan, implement and evaluate education programs;
- Collaborating actively in the field with other project consultants, donors, NGOs, communities and intended beneficiaries;
- Assessing private-sector demand for skilled human resources, including conducting labor market surveys/analyses and creation of public-private partnerships for educational provision;
- Improving access by vulnerable, marginalized groups to educational facilities and programs;
- Supporting improved management, administration, resource utilization and financing of education programs in developing and transitional countries;
- Developing innovative delivery of educational and training programs, including the use of media and digital information and communication technologies for distance learning; and
- Monitoring and evaluation of education programs in using rigorous impact evaluation methodologies.

Presently, MCC funds education activities in the following countries:

- **El Salvador** -- Increase education and skill levels of the Northern Zone's poor by expanding the quality of, and access to, vocational and technical education and training;
- **Mongolia** -- Improve access and quality in the vocational and technical education system;
- **Morocco** -- Expand vocational training and pre-vocational education, literacy training for women and non-formal education for out-of-school youth;
- **Ghana** -- Support to rural community services, including education infrastructure;
- **Burkina Faso** -- Improve girls' primary education completion rates;
- **Namibia** -- Improve efficiency and effectiveness of secondary, tertiary, vocational and non-formal education; and
- **Niger** -- Increase girls' primary school enrollment.

Experience in the above countries is desirable. Persons selected must be skilled in performing project analysis and appraisal, with an ability to identify the essential risks and issues of concern to a funding entity. The consultant may also be required to help recruit and manage the work of other consultants with specialized skills and experience, depending on the complexity and breadth of a country's proposal.

The consultant must have the ability to brief high-level U.S. and foreign government officials on critical technical matters and would be expected to coordinate with local authorities responsible for MCC Compact development as well as other donors, where relevant.

Travel to foreign countries will be likely required. International experience, especially in developing or transitional countries, is highly desirable; as are language skills (e.g., French, Spanish, and/or Arabic). The consultant may be requested to mobilize on short notice and will be expected to deliver high-quality finished products in a timely manner. Candidates must be able to be employed in the United States. Because attendance at meetings at MCC headquarters will be a routine part of the assignment, preference will be given to those candidates who can commute easily to Washington, DC.

Compensation will be based upon qualifications and experience. There will be no commitment to a minimum amount of work after the award of a contract.

Interested parties should submit by e-mail to recruitment@mcc.gov the following package: a resume (5 page limit) and brief cover letter 1) describing areas of expertise, 2) indicating specific sector(s) of expertise, 3) containing three professional references, and 4) containing proposed consultancy rates on a hourly basis, including salary history during the past 3 years. Please include "Education Consultant" in the subject line of your e-mail. This announcement is an open continuous position. Resumes will be evaluated every three months.

The MCC is an equal opportunity employer.