



Sierra Leone Alliance for Foundational Learning

Senior Technical-Policy Advisor (Consultant)

RFQ-SOT-2023-001

Background

RTI International is seeking a Senior Technical-Policy Advisor for a short-term technical assistance consultancy (four months) to serve on Sierra Leone's Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education's (MBSSE) Delivery Team.

Sierra Leone has made the improvement of foundational learning the central focus of its 2022-2026 Education Sector Plan and its Partnership Compact. Sierra Leone was one of the first signatories of the Commitment to Action (CtA) on Foundational Learning, and President Bio, as one of the United Nations Secretary General's five education champions, has made foundational learning his core focus. At the Transforming Education Summit in New York in 2022 he made a bold ambition to cut learning poverty in half by 2030 in Sierra Leone.

To reach its ambitious education agenda, the Government of Sierra Leone has created an alliance—the Sierra Leone Alliance for Foundational Learning—to support and align the work on foundational learning in the country, comprising international organizations, bilateral donors, private foundations, and implementing and research partners. The aim is to create an example of how government and local and international partners can work together to accelerate progress in improving foundational learning.

The Alliance for Foundational Learning has been led by the Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education and the Chief Education Officer of the same Ministry. The day-to-day coordination has been led by the Director of International Partnerships and Financing and the Ministry's Delivery Team with support from the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) secretariat.

To accelerate this work, further support is needed within the Ministry.

Specific areas of support:

The Senior Technical-Policy Advisor will serve on the Delivery Team, which is part of Minister Sengeh's office, providing technical support to the Ministry in an effort to build institutional capacity at the various levels of the primary education system to effectively implement and manage improved instruction in the early grades

Specifically, the Senior Technical-Policy Advisor will be expected to:

- Provide technical support to the Delivery Team in its support for Minister Sengeh and ensure all efforts designed and executed are grounded in research and are technically sound.
- Provide technical support for activities focused on strengthening the technical and operational capacity of the education system.
- Support the Delivery Team's approach to building institutional capacity at the various levels of the primary education system to effectively implement and manage improved instruction in the early grades.
- Support the MBSSE to build necessary capacity to use data to inform decision-making and improve implementation of early grade instruction.
- Actively engage relevant bureaus and teams within the government to strengthen institutional capacity.
- Support the formulation of a detailed, action-oriented 2030 strategy that sets out the path to achieving the Government of Sierra Leone's goals in reducing learning poverty
- Provide technical oversight to the Delivery Team's Education Adviser to inform the design of Government's programs including the GPE System Transformation Grant and Multiplier Grant applications focused on foundational learning and ensure alignment with government 2030 priorities and research/best practice.
- Collaborate with the Education Adviser in the coordination of education sector financing and efficient resource allocation, including exploring education sector partnerships and innovative funding opportunities (Including current work of the Alliance that is identifying complementary initiatives to the GPE grants).
- Support partnership development with new implementing organizations, international funders, and development agencies to fund and implement the identified complementary initiatives.
- Review the database of foundational learning interventions (to be built) across schools in Sierra Leone and provide a technical review of the repository of policies, strategies, and program documents on foundational learning in Sierra Leone.
- Review and provide feedback on the to-be-developed costed, high-level scale-up plan to reach President Bio's 2030 goal.

Deliverables

- Monthly progress/status reports.
- Contributions to technical documents and plans developed by the Delivery Team.
- [Potential] White Paper/Brief for the MOE (as input for planning).
- Final recommendations report.

Preferred Qualifications

- Master's degree in related field.
- Minimum of 10 years' experience in foundational literacy and numeracy policy/programming.
- Experience working directly with ministries of education and coordinating across donor and government stakeholder (preferably in West Africa).

- Experience implementing large-scale basic education programs in Africa.

Estimated Level of Effort

- The advisor will join the Delivery Team in the MBSSE in Freetown, Sierra Leone for approximately three to four months (March – June 2023).
- Travel costs will be covered in line with RTI's travel policies, if required.

Submission and Evaluation Process

Please submit recent CV, proposed daily rate, and cover letter which clearly describes FLN experience, interest in this opportunity, and period of availability for this work via email to FLN@rti.org no later than **March 21, 2023**.

The evaluation committee will begin reviewing applicants on February 6, 2023. Posting will remain open past that date, and applications may be reviewed on a rolling basis. Following the evaluation committee's review, top candidates will be contacted to arrange virtual interviews prior to final selection.

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for contracting without regard to race, colour, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.