

Terms of Reference

TwB experts to support FCA's project

DISTANCE POSITION / Palestinian region

Location: Distance support to Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT)

Host organization: FCA Middle East Regional Office (MERO)

Length of posting: 2 months

Date of assignment: April

Number of positions: 1-2

Title of the position: Education Advisor (TwB distance position)

Background and description of the project/projects:

The project **Development of Inclusive Quality Education in Palestine** has been initiated together by several key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), UNESCO, the Representative Office of Finland in Ramallah and Finn Church Aid (FCA). FCA has been invited to contribute to the improvement of inclusive quality education in particular at the school level through the Teachers without Borders (TwB) initiative.

The goal of the project is to enhance the right to quality education of Palestinian children through teams of qualified and experienced volunteer teachers from Finland working in close collaboration with teachers and school administration in Palestinian public schools and following the Education Sector Development Program III.

Since March 2020, with the spread of COVID-19 pandemic, the reality on the ground has drastically changed and thus, the in-country TwB activities have been frozen for the time being. As a result, distance support alternatives are being developed.

In response to COVID-19 challenges, the MoE initiated number of measures to contain the spread of the virus, including the closure of schools since 6 March 2020, and the adaptation to distance learning modalities. Since the closure of education facilities in early March, 1.43 million children across the OPT have been in need to access distant learning and receive age appropriate, awareness-raising messages around COVID-19. In isolated and poor areas, 360,000 children without internet connections need home-based learning materials and support.

The MoE launched the Rapid National Response plan for COVID-19 in August 2020, which focused on highlighting distance learning as an alternative solution to ensure the continuation of learning. Meanwhile, the Ministry is currently preparing to launch a quantitative study about

Distance Learning during COVID-19, including Distance Learning practices and lessons learned from 2020. It is highly recommended to consider Distance Learning as one of the educational strategies by scaling up the best relevant learning practices to ensure the continuation of learning to their students since COVID-19 is imposing the necessity to explore new ways of thinking toward the future of education to promote lifelong learning opportunities in Palestine.

In light of the above, FCA has shaped the TwB objectives and activities in 2021 in adaptation to different challenges (primarily posed by COVID-19 situation) that can be expected to continue to run for the whole year. Specifically, FCA response will create a basic understanding of possible response modalities during the COVID-19 crisis and the objectives, inputs, activities, and outcomes of Distance Learning. TwB volunteers will capacitate the teachers with Distance education with all of its content, forms, and different means and support the targeted teachers to better cope with stress and anxiety caused by the COVID-19 pandemic to maintain quality education for students.

Volunteer's main tasks may include:

- Co-design a training program and material for teachers on distance teaching and learning based on MoEHE strategy plan and needs assessment and conducting Pre- and Post-assessment;
- Co-train teachers on distance teaching and learning skills based on the training material created (supported by our local resources, FCA collaborates with e.g. UNESCO);
- Co-train teachers in facilitation and knowledge sharing as well as the exchange of good practices in the development of the distance teaching and learning module during and after COVID-19;
- Provide technical and pedagogical expertise for the education programme implementation;
- Participate in planning and coordinating meetings including the steering committee meeting, and as needed with the FCA Education Officer and the TwB Coordinator.

Position specific Qualifications and Competencies:

- Demonstrated working experience at national (and international) levels in inclusive and special needs education, distance learning and teaching, teacher education, school administration and/or recreational activities.
- Good IT skills
- Background/familiarity with emergency/humanitarian context is an asset.
- Knowledge of Palestine's education system and policies is an asset.
- **In addition, general qualifications and competencies for all TwB volunteers defined in the TwB webpage**

Supervision and Support:

- TwB receives support on task division, coordination of the contents, implementation of the activities as well as technical guidance and support from the following persons: Education Officer, OPT Office & Teachers without Borders Coordinator, HO