

## Terms of Reference

### TwB Support to FCA's Education Projects

#### DISTANCE POSITION / SOMALILAND

<b>Location</b>	Distance position to support Somaliland National Commission for Higher Education (NCHE)
<b>Host Organization</b>	Finn Church Aid (FCA) Somalia Country Office (SOCO) – Somaliland Office
<b>Length of Posting</b>	Preferred 6-8 months
<b>Date of Deployment</b>	May-October 2022
<b>Number of Positions</b>	2
<b>Title of the Position</b>	Education Adviser (TwB Distance Expert)

#### Background and Description of the Project/Projects

Somaliland National Commission for Higher Education (NCHE) is the regulatory body for both public and private universities in Somaliland and degree-awarding institutes (DAIS). It is an autonomous institution created by the Presidential Decree, and responsible for degree recognition, financing, and quality assurance of universities. It has three core functions: regulation, capacity building, and funding for higher education.

Over the past decade, Somaliland has made significant gains not only in improving access to tertiary education, but also in enhancing its quality and relevance, and in strengthening the system's governance. However, challenges remain in the higher education sector and are particularly serious in the universities. Below is an assessment of the core characteristics and challenges of the higher education system in Somaliland:

- 1. Access and equity:** The tertiary education enrolment rate is very low in Somaliland. This is mainly due to an equally very low secondary enrolment rate (less than 20%). Even secondary education graduates do not generally enrol in higher education for reasons of funding, early marriage, limited scholarships etc.
- 2. Quality and relevance of research:** The research environment in Somaliland is still very much dominated by inadequate and irrelevant research activities with few linkages between universities and resources that encourage the commercialization of research. NCHE is planning to support the establishment of Business Incubation Centres in public universities to encourage research and innovation.
- 3. Quality of teaching:** Improving the quality of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Somaliland is one of the NCHE's key priorities. Here the focus is especially on

improving quality assurance, curriculum reviews and harmonization, training lecturers, and building the capacity of the teaching staff.

FCA has been working in Somaliland since 2009 in the areas of right to quality education, right to livelihood, and right to peace. FCA collaborates closely with the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) to support strengthening the education sector as well as Technical and Vocational Training and Education (TVET) for youth and vulnerable communities to improve their employability and livelihood opportunities. In 2022, FCA and NCHE have been discussing enhancing the collaboration with a commitment to work more closely on NCHE key priorities through technical and pedagogical (distance) support for curriculum development and teacher education capacity building from the Teachers without Borders (TwB) Network in Finland.

### **TwBs' Main Tasks May Include (Can Be Further Tailored According to the Distance Expert's Experience and Interest)**

- Conduct a desk review of Somaliland's university teacher education curriculum. Contribute to reviewing and harmonizing teacher education curriculums, and develop minimum standards for various teacher levels.
- Provide university key lecturers and NCHE head staff with online training and coaching to strengthen their capability and professional development based on the local needs (2 trainings for lecturers and 1 training for NCHE staff).
- Follow up and mentor the trained lecturers to improve their teaching and learning process.
- When necessary, participate in consultation meetings with the NCHE senior management team, for instance, to discuss the progress of the support, potential initiatives, and cooperation, or to share NCHE relevant meeting outcomes.
- Technical support on NCHE planning and policy developments, if needed.
- Provide technical and pedagogical expertise for the collaboration planning and implementation as relevant to the local needs.

### **Position-specific Qualifications and Competencies**

- Master's Degree in Education and teaching experience from Finland
- Demonstrated working experience in Teacher Education, Curriculum Planning, and/or Education Research
- International experience is preferable, especially in the field of Higher Education
- Sensitivity to local cultures and intercultural communications skills
- Good command of online training and communications tools
- Innovativeness, self-initiative, and ability to work independently
- Flexibility to bear changes to plans on short notice and occasionally unstable data connections
- Fluent proficiency in written and spoken English required; knowledge of Somali is a notable asset.
- **In addition, general qualifications, and competencies for all TwB volunteers defined in the TwB webpage**



### **Supervision and Support**

TwB Distance Expert receives regular guidance and support in task division, content coordination, and activity implementation from FCA Somaliland staff, SOCO Education Advisor, TVET Specialist, Country Director, and FCA Regional Education Advisor. The Distance Expert will work under the supervision Somaliland Officer in Charge.