TECHNICAL SPECIALIST - Project Connect
Education Development Management Unit – Castries, LC
Department Education Development Management Unit
Employment Type Temporary
Minimum Experience Mid-level

TECHNICAL SPECIALIST
Project Connect

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) is an inter-governmental organisation dedicated to economic harmonisation and integration, protection of human and legal rights, and the encouragement of good governance between countries and dependencies in the Eastern Caribbean. Read More...

JOB SUMMARY

One of the challenges for educational planners and policy makers in the OECS region has been to provide equitable access to educational facilities to all children. One of the solutions to overcome this challenge is school mapping. The school map is a useful tool for overcoming possibilities of national and regional inequities in the provision of educational facilities. In regular contexts, school mapping provides a comprehensive snapshot of educational facilities and basic information such as child coverage in schools; the number of teachers; the availability of internet; and access for children with special needs, among other information. It also presents an opportunity to overlay school infrastructure information with survey data including poverty, education attendance levels and health status in districts.

In order to achieve the objective of mapping schools across the OECS region, the OECS Commission partnered with Project Connect, an initiative of UNICEF. ProjectConnect is aimed at mapping every school in the world with the goal of providing real-time data to assess the quality of each school’s internet connectivity, eventually creating an observable metric of society’s progress towards enabling access to information and opportunity for every community on earth (Project Connect, 2019). Once the mapping exercise is complete, the data will be made available on an interactive online platform. Schools will also be mapped with relevant socio-economic data to visualize the population coverage, internet connectivity, distance and accessibility, to name a few indicators.

In order to fulfill the mandate of this activity, a Technical Specialist is being recruited to provide the day-to-day management and implementation of the project in coordination with UNICEF and the OECS Commission. The incumbent will also lead on creating knowledge packages for sharing learnings with local stakeholders.

KEY DUTIES

OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF WORK

The given consultancy aims to achieve the following objectives:
1. Gather existing school location and connectivity data from Member States and support the process of combining and triangulating them;
2. Assist with training Member States on how to collect school location and school internet connectivity data across the region;
3. Coordinate the activities required to create a real-time connectivity map of schools for all OECS Member States;
4. Provide technical guidance to the technical working group developing an EMIS solution and ensure that the newly collected data are integrated within existing information management systems (i.e. EMIS) within local governments as well as within the Project Connect platform and;
5. Create and disseminate knowledge products for documenting the process, results, achievements and lessons learnt;
6. Coordinate all the activities required for implementing the project and achieving the goals;
7. Assist with preparing a roadmap and financing model for connecting disconnected schools in the region.

This position will be primarily based in Saint Lucia. It is a full time and office-based job. However, the expected candidate would occasionally be required to travel to the Member States to monitor and guide the school connectivity mapping process.

The Technical Specialist will be responsible for the organization of the project teamwork and delivery of agreed outputs and will serve as the central contact person during planning, implementation and coordination of project activities with various stakeholders.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES / DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENT

The main output is a comprehensive map of school locations in the Eastern Caribbean region together with static and real-time information on their connectivity level.

Key

A. Tasks

B. End Product/Deliverables

C. Time Frame

A) 1. Support member states in the collection of missing data

B) Newly collected data validated and combined - Month 2

Comprehensive map of school locations and connectivity - Month 3

A) 2. Obtain real-time connectivity data

B) Get coverage and connectivity data from service providers - Month 4

Get additional infrastructure data from partners - Month 4

Deploy real-time internet measurement tools - Month 2 and ongoing

Real-time connectivity maps - Month 5 and ongoing

A) 3. Document processes, results, and learnings in the form of knowledge products
A) 4. Integration of connectivity data into EMIS solution and provide technical guidance to EMIS Technical Working Group

B) Integration of connectivity data in EMIS solution - **Month 6**

A) 5. Assist in the preparation of a roadmap and financing model for connecting disconnected schools in the region

B) Roadmap and financing models for connected disconnected schools - **Month 9**

The Technical Specialist reports to the Head, Education Development Management Unit and will work closely with the Programme Officer, Education Development Management Unit. In addition, significant technical guidance and knowledge exchange will be provided and facilitated by the UNICEF Project Team at the UNICEF Office of Innovation in New York.

**EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE**

- University degree in Information Technology, Geospatial studies or other related discipline and at least six (6) years’ professional experience in data collection, data visualisation, mapping or similar activities; OR A Masters Degree in Information Technology, Geospatial studies or other related discipline from an accredited college and at least three (3) years of relevant experience;
- At least five (5) years of professional experience in GIS and mapping services, internet connectivity projects and education information systems;
- Project management skills including results-driven task prioritization and budget monitoring;
- Working knowledge of GIS leading GIS software such as ArcGIS and QGIS, the use of GPS, and a basic knowledge of Remote Sensing;
- Successful experience working with Education Management Information Systems in developing countries
- Proven experience in the development of software, web-based data management tools and processes for data collection, analysis and reporting related to the field of education
- Experience in Information and Communication Technology, particularly with respect to internet connectivity would be an asset;
- Knowledge or experience of technical regulations of the region in relation to implementation of the project;
- Familiarity with Caribbean education systems
- Experience with running or implementing (failed or successful) startups is an asset;
- Proactive and organized, must be able to multitask;
- Demonstrated ability to work with and negotiate with regional agencies/schools
- Demonstrated capability to work independently, and in a group environment

**Skills and Abilities**

Have the ability to:

- work in a fast-paced environment and meet deadlines
• communicate clearly (orally and in writing) in English
• apply sound judgement and possess a positive working attitude
• ability to solve problems using the GIS suite of tools
• Working and coding knowledge of EMIS solutions
• ability to convey GIS/spatial information to non-GIS/technical people.

CORE COMPETENCIES

• Drive with Purpose and Vision
• Create an Environment of Trust
• Build Effective Teams
• Ensure Accountability
• Demonstrate Decision Quality
• Communicate Effectively

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

Job Location

The OECS Commission is headquartered in Saint Lucia. The position of Technical Specialist-Project Connect is open to nationals of OECS Member States and the position is placed at the OECS Commission headquarters in Saint Lucia.

Benefits

The position is on temporary establishment subject to satisfactory reviews. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience and exempt from income taxes.

Deadline for applications: **November 22nd, 2019.**

**Deadline Extended to December 30th, 2019.**

**Only applications under consideration will be acknowledged.**
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