

Terms of Reference – Teachers Without Borders Finland

DISTANCE POSITION / MYANMAR

Location	Distance support to Myanmar (Mon state and Northern Shan state)
Host Organization	Finn Church Aid (FCA) Myanmar Country Office (MYACO)
Length of Posting	3 months
Time of Deployment	Between February and June 2024
Number of Positions	1
Title of the Position	Education Adviser (TWB Distance Expert)

Background and Description of the Project/Projects

Finn Church Aid (FCA) started a Career Guidance and Counselling (CGC) pilot project in Myanmar in early 2018, having successfully introduced it in Cambodia several years earlier. FCA's CGC model is based on high quality and well-known Finnish expertise, following the International Association for Education and Vocational Guidance (IAEVG) global competence guidelines and benchmarking Singapore and other neighbouring countries' best practises. The goal of the project in Myanmar has been to pilot this innovative way of enhancing educational quality, and to establish the pathways for subsequent scale-up, mainstreaming in the education sector, and ownership by education authorities. The activities have been supported by technical experts through the Teachers without Borders (TWB) network.

During 2018-2020, CGC services have been piloted in 4 monastic schools in suburban Yangon, and with 2 Departments of Basic Education (DBE) schools having an "observer status". FCA developed a CGC manual for Lower Secondary (Middle) School and a CGC teacher guidebook with broad consultation, and a training course for teachers. FCA also conducted research into the efficacy of the programme. FCA had put into place a Letter of Agreement with the DBE under the Ministry of Education (MOE) in early 2021, outlining the collaboration on CGC for the next 3 years. Nevertheless, with the country context having drastically changed on 1 February, the collaboration with the government has become impossible to continue with, and FCA has subsequently redesigned the programme.

During 2021- 2023, FCA's CGC work in Myanmar introduced, supported, and promoted CGC in alternative, non-state education systems across Myanmar; that is, monastic schools, Mon and Kachin ethnic education systems and civil society organization (CSO) schools in ethnic minority areas. FCA worked closely with a range of education stakeholders.

The objective of the future of FCA's CGC work in Myanmar (2024-2025) is to produce digitalized CGC materials that can be utilized through online & offline Apps, Web Apps and/or social media platforms. Such products will be developed in consultative and participatory manner with wider education stakeholders. Also, the aim is to support the roll-out for adoption in education systems by other non-state education stakeholders and ethnic education services provider for use in a variety of contexts and targeted groups. FCA's role is to lead the project design, planning, monitoring and evaluation, technical guidance, project cycle management support, coordination and networking.

During 2024-2025, the project will have two interconnected objectives:

- Objective 1: CGC materials (digitalized learning materials- such as Apps/ Web Apps/ Social Media platform) will be developed in a consultative and participatory manner with wider education stakeholders and education specialists. During the second step, digitalized materials and resources will be tested, utilized and roll-out for adoption by other non-formal education stakeholders and ethnic education service providers for use in a variety of contexts and target groups.
- Objective 2: Secondary school students and youths in Mon National Education schools have access to and benefit from in-person counselling services, and digitalized learning materials. This will include a) training school counsellors and providing them with ongoing professional development; b) planning and organising CGC services and utilizing the digitalized learning materials/ resources for children in existing Mon National education schools; c) engaging with wider education stakeholders.

TWB Distance Expert's main tasks may include:

- Co-develop career coaching modules into a CGC secondary education manual in collaboration with FCA staff and other stakeholders.
- Provide career coaching training sessions to CGC master trainers, counsellor teachers, and volunteer teachers.
- Provide technical inputs and support FCA's consultant in the digitalization process of the career guidance and counselling material, integrating the topic of psychosocial support.
- Support the development/finalisation of a vocational (TVET) curricula and/or modules for youth in Myanmar in collaboration with FCA, education stakeholders and FCA's partner organizations.
- Participate in other supporting tasks as mutually agreed in cooperation and consultation with local and international stakeholders.

Position-Specific Qualifications and Competencies

- Expertise and experience in skills development and career guidance and counselling
- Knowledge and/or experience on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) is an added advantage.
- Experience in developing teacher training materials is an asset
- Experience and knowledge in digitalisation of educational resources and materials is an asset.

- Interest in professional development of teachers and education personnel, motivated to provide technical guidance, mentoring, and coaching to education personnel from distance.
- Pedagogical knowledge on learner-centred approaches to the teaching-learning process, knowledge in child development, child rights and well-being.
- Creative thinker; flexible, patient, and non-confrontational; cultural sensitivity.
- Proficiency in English language, both oral and written
- ***In addition, general qualifications, and competencies for all TWB volunteers as defined on the TWB webpage.***

Supervision and Support

The TwB distance expert will be supervised and supported by the FCA Project Manager (CGC). In turn, the Project Manager is supervised and supported by the Programme Manager. The FCA Country Director in Myanmar has the overall responsibility for coordinating the TwB distance expert.

There will be regular meetings between the TwB distance expert and FCA staff to discuss and oversee the progress of the volunteering period.