

MUHIMBILI UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH AND ALLIED SCIENCES



Career opportunity for a project of ‘Bridging Gaps and Scaling Up: A School Readiness Programme for Child-Parent-Teacher Triad in Tanzania’

POSITION: Senior Education and Disability Coordinator

DURATION: 1st September, 2024 – 31st December, 2026 (28 months)

Project Summary:

Despite global efforts to improve smooth transitions and school readiness through early childhood care and education programmes, children often enter primary school with varying levels of preparedness. This project builds on previous successful work in Bangladesh, Nepal and Tanzania, that focused on the readiness of both children and caregivers to enter the preschool education programme, through an initiative called Every Newborn-Reach Up Early Education Intervention for All Children (EN-REACH). This new project will support the adaptation of the EN-REACH programme to incorporate key components on teacher readiness to facilitate easy transition to pre-primary education (EN-REACH-ED).

This project aims to assess the scale-up of the EN-REACH programme with a focus on capacity building for parents and teachers using a cluster randomized controlled trial in Tanzania. We will explore effective adaptation and feasible methods for expanding the school readiness programme for a child-parent-teacher triad on a larger scale in three countries. The project will explore how to improve teacher engagement and teaching competencies through the programme. Knowledge mobilization will help integrate the innovative model into practice, reaching key stakeholders within the educational systems under the Ministry of Education in all three countries, with the intention to transfer into a government supported programme.

The project consists of an intervention trial involving preschool teachers and all

caregivers of children aged 5 years and older who are enrolled in government pre-schools in selected areas in Tanzania, ensuring the inclusion of children with disabilities and both boys and girls. Outputs of the project comprise a comprehensive training package emphasizing foundational skills through play-based teaching, tools for school readiness, resources for mobilization of stakeholders, and a cost evaluation framework. Anticipated outcomes are an increase in teachers' competence, improved children's school readiness and enhanced parental capacity for school readiness.

POSITION DESCRIPTIONS:

The Senior Education and Disability Coordinator will report to the national principal investigator of Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences in Tanzania and will plan, organize and implement research with the objective of conducting high-quality research within the guidelines of the research protocol of Bridging Gaps and Scaling Up: A School Readiness Programme for Child-Parent-Teacher Triad in Tanzania and organizational values and guidelines.

He /she will be responsible to:

1. Liaise with the government stakeholders at the relevant ministry in Tanzania supporting early childhood education about the conduct of the project and consult with them about the project activities
2. Collect and translate (if necessary) all the ECD/preschool educational materials used in government preschools in Tanzania.
3. Help in developing the teacher's training manual, translating it into Swahili and piloting it on sampled teachers.
4. Help in modification of the existing EN-REACH curriculum.
5. Train master trainers on the child-parent-teacher triad curriculum that includes both the EN-REACH school readiness parenting package and the teachers' manual.
6. Observe and evaluate the training sessions in selected sites (schools).
7. Observe the child-parent-teacher triad sessions at schools.
8. Provide assistance with baseline and post-intervention evaluation
9. Participate in bi-monthly meetings with the partners in Bangladesh, Nepal and UK.
10. Report directly to country project coordinator

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:

1. A Masters in Education, Psychology, Sociology, or related topics
2. Excellent knowledge of country pre-school education curriculum

3. Ability to work and maintain excellent relationships with the Ministry of Education and other key stakeholders in pre-school education e.g. teacher training, etc.
4. Experience of managing previous education projects
5. Experience in monitoring, evaluation and learning
6. Experience of teaching children with special educational needs and disabilities
7. Ability to plan data collection activities in the field
8. Excellent spoken English and report writing skills
9. Strong inter-personal skills – ability to converse with different audiences (government, district officers, community)
10. Experience of collecting and managing large data sets safely and securely

Enquiries about the position can be sent to Dr. Paul Lynch before **15th August, 2024**. Please send a CV and a letter of motivation outlining how your experience and skills match the job description **by 22nd August, 2024**, to Dr. Nahya Salim (nahya.masoud@muhas.ac.tz) and cc. Dr. Paul Lynch (Paul.Lynch@glasgow.ac.uk). Only short-listed candidates shall be invited for an interview **2nd September, 2024**.