

Job description

Job title	External Engagement and Influencing Manager
Location	TBC
Reporting to	Programme Director
Hours	Full time
Type of contract	Fixed Term Contract for life of programme (7 years)

Organisation

Options Consultancy Services Limited is a leading global health consultancy established in 1992 as a wholly owned subsidiary of Marie Stopes International. We manage health programmes that ensure vulnerable women and children can access the high-quality health services they need. We work with partners to co-create and implement locally informed solutions to complex health problems. This includes governments, development partners, NGOs, civil society and health workers. Our programming is flexible, evidence-based and politically informed. This means we adapt to changing contexts, use data to inform our decisions and ensure our approach is appropriate. Our focus is always on building local skills and systems that last.

Main purpose of job

Options is preparing to bid for the What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls: Impact at Scale (What Works II) programme. The first phase was a flagship initiative for DFID, with a major investment in research & impact evaluation to establish 'what works' to prevent violence against women and girls (VAWG), bringing together world-leading researchers. Phase I included 15 prevention interventions and impact evaluations in 12 countries, research and evaluations in fragile and conflict affected states, costs of VAWG, and cost effectiveness of VAWG prevention.

What Works II will accelerate progress towards the elimination of VAWG through an evidence-based and scaled-up global response. Phase II is a 7-year programme that will systematically design, implement and rigorously evaluate the scale-up of violence prevention efforts (scale); pilot and test new theory-driven approaches (innovation); strengthen long-term capability and capacity to deliver cutting-edge VAWG prevention globally; and use evidence to influence a more effective global approach. The programme includes a major grant making component to scale and innovate interventions aimed at tackling social norms and preventing VAWG.

The External Engagement and Influencing Manager will lead and manage the external engagement strategy for the programme. The programme will drive use of evidence to influence more effective, scaled up VAWG prevention efforts – nationally and globally – through targeted research uptake, policy influencing, advocacy and communications/media. The External Engagement and Influencing Manager will be responsible for coordinating the implementation of the advocacy, communications and policy influencing strategies with advocacy coalitions at regional, national and local levels. They will develop a strong relationship with grantees, advocacy coalitions, and the research partner, in order to facilitate seamless translation and packaging of programme research and learning into products to be used for advocacy and policy change at national and global levels.

Main duties

- Lead the development of the programme's external engagement strategic plan, ensuring that strategies and approaches are aligned with international evidence and findings from political economy analysis
- Coordinate and oversee the development of advocacy, communications, and policy influencing strategies developed by coalitions at the national and regional levels
- Provide technical assistance to grantees to package their learning for advocacy purposes, and work closely with coalitions to ensure this learning informs advocacy efforts

- Develop and maintain strong relationships with strategic external stakeholders, cultivating relationships with decision makers at the regional, national and global level who can support the programme in achieving its outcomes and objectives
- Identify and effectively represent the programme in external meetings at national, regional, and global levels, acting as a 'Champion' for the prevention of VAWG
- Track strategic external engagement opportunities, owning a 'joint content calendar' across the What Works consortium, including conferences and high-level meetings, and organise preparation and representation
- Ensure regular review and adaptation of external engagement approaches, ensuring they are flexible to evolving needs and priorities in the VAWG prevention field and the political and economic context that may impact the advocacy context. Feed findings back to advocacy coalitions to inform their advocacy approaches
- Mentor, coach and support staff to deliver an effective influencing strategy, ensuring they are motivated and performing
- Collaborate closely with the Capacity Development Manager to coordinate capacity building of grantees, so that they can conduct rapid PEA, develop, and implement an advocacy strategy to contribute towards overall programme goals
- Support development and implementation of a monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) framework for regional, national and global advocacy
- Represent the consortium at high level meetings, including with donors, partners, multilateral institutions and governments. Identify opportunities for What Works grantees to represent the programme in high level meetings and share their learnings directly with a variety of audiences
- Provide a strong link between the consortium and the What Works II programme research partner to ensure real time evidence and learning is fed into programme intervention and advocacy needs are used to inform the research agenda.
- Work with the capacity building manager and grants managers to identify learning from grantees and feed this into relevant national, regional, and global advocacy coalitions for action
- Identify opportunities for grantees, programme partners and external stakeholders to coordinate and work towards joint advocacy efforts at the global, regional, and national level in line with the outcomes and objectives of the What Works programme.
- Ensure grantees and the programme team are updated and informed of external engagement activities and kept aware of opportunities to support
- Develop and implement a vision for the What Works website, liaising with web developers and content producers to maintain dynamic content including webinars, blogs and policy briefs.
- Produce and coordinate the production of evidence products with grantees, advocacy coalitions, and the research partner, for a variety of audiences including government, CSOs, and global audiences

Note: this job description reflects the present requirements of the post. As duties and responsibilities change and develop the job description will be reviewed and be subject to amendment in consultation with the job holder.

Signed by:	Date:
-------------------	--------------

Person specification

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications		
Postgraduate degree in relevant subject area, such as international relations, gender studies, social anthropology, and political sciences	✓	
Experience		
Proven experience leading external engagement and advocacy strategies in low and/or middle-income countries, or in a global context	✓	
Proven experience of working in collaboration with non-governmental organisations including NGOs, CBOs and WROs in the Global South	✓	
Proven experience working on women's empowerment, VAWG, VAC and gender equality		✓
Proven experience in the management of teams, including managing a virtual team	✓	
Track record of working with and influencing policy decisions with a variety of stakeholders internationally	✓	
Experience in developing and maintaining successful relationships with a diverse range of organisations, partners and stakeholders	✓	
Experience producing research products for a variety of audiences including national governments, regional, and/or global forums		✓
Track record of thinking and working politically to identify strategic opportunities for influencing change	✓	
Experience of building relationships with individuals from other sectors, including graphic designers, communication experts, and software developers		✓
Track record of representing an organisation or programme externally, through panel discussions, conferences, and meetings with high level stakeholders	✓	
Skills and attributes		
Leadership and influencing	✓	
Strong presentation skills	✓	
Strategic thinking, problem solving and decision-making skills	✓	
An excellent communicator with an ability to influence at a senior level	✓	
Strong stakeholder engagement and relationship management skills	✓	
Strong verbal and written communication skills	✓	
Other requirements		
Strong understanding of, and personal commitment to women's and children's rights	✓	

Ability to travel locally and internationally as required	✓	
Commitment to Equal Opportunities	✓	
A commitment to the programme's and Options' principles of Safeguarding, Do No Harm, and to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights	✓	