

Global Business Coalition for Education Request for Expressions of Interest

Final Evaluation of the Global Business Coalition for Education's Business Investment for Education Impact (BIEI) Initiative

I. Introduction

This Request for Expressions of Interest outlines the main tasks, responsibilities, and timeframe for an evaluation and learning partner to conduct the Final Evaluation of activities for the "Business Investment for Education Impact (BIEI)," a charitable grant from BHP Foundation (BHPF) for the Global Business Coalition for Education (GBC-Education)

II. Background of the Organization and Context on Partnership with BHPF

The Global Business Coalition for Education (GBC-Education) is a movement of businesses committed to ending the global education crisis and unleashing the potential of future generations.

Established as an initiative of the global children's charity Theirworld in 2012, the Global Business Coalition for Education leverages the collective power of business, government, international organizations, NGOs, youth, and other stakeholders to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal of free, equitable, and inclusive quality education for all (SDG4)

The Challenge: By 2030, more than half of the 1.6 billion young people on the planet will not have the most basic skills for employment. Inaction by countries and the global community is not an option if we are to achieve SDG4. The challenges which governments face are so great that all actors have a role to play and contribution to make - including the business community.

A "business as usual" approach will not suffice. Random acts of corporate kindness will never leverage up into the sustainable change that needs to take place at scale if the international community is going to make progress towards the SDGs.

The Opportunity: The corporate philanthropy field is undergoing a transformation. The sector is shifting from community-based projects to strategic alignment of business assets across the economic, social and governance dimensions of a business – spanning the entire value chain of companies. Encompassing both corporate responsibility and social investment, the next generation of corporate activities are applying an ESG lens and focusing on how social impact can be achieved while advancing business impact, mitigating risk and sustainability. Based on projected financing needs for SDG4 and financial resources currently invested from the corporate sector globally into education, there is an opportunity to shape the impact and effectiveness of billions in contributions, generating stronger results and increasing overall efficiency and effectiveness of spending.

There have been many failed attempts by the education sector in the past to cooperate in a transformative way with the business community. This is compounded by a company's lack of information, strategic insight into how global education works, and limited funding to generate the knowledge-sharing necessary at the level of strategic plan development to advance fruitful collaborations with the education sector.

The Solution: In 2019, GBC-Education received funding for a 3-year project from BHPF. The partnership enabled GBC-Education to establish a new way of working with companies through our coalition, with the goal of increasing business action and investment for global education.

As part of the project, GBC-Education has undergone a detailed landscape assessment and is developing a series of practical tools and products and a sustainable business model to inform the next generation of ESG strategies within companies to make a greater impact in education. As the organization that brings together the business community to end the global education crisis, it occupies a unique position, representing 150 corporate members, a role on the board of all of the major global education funds which control several billion dollars in investments in low- and lower-middle income countries, and an impartial, evidence-based perspective driven by results, not politics.

The project consists of three phases:

- **Phase 1: Scoping, Listening and Designing:** The first phase of work focused on creating (1) a consolidated mapping of the global education landscape and evidence, including major actors, regulatory framework, guiding principles, strategic efforts and initiatives and (2) a series of design options for tools and products for business and non-corporate stakeholders. This took place through an extensive engagement with corporate and non-corporate stakeholders.
- **Phase 2: Testing, Prototyping and Learning:** The second phase of work is focused on testing and prototyping the tools and products from phase 1 and developing a refined product for companies and non-corporate stakeholders. In this phase, we are building on recommended tools and products driven by the participation of business and non-business stakeholders, including members of the Global Business Coalition for Education, strategic partners of the BHP Foundation Education Equity program, and international agencies and NGOs, to refine the options, test, and build the prototype tools and products which can unlock and maximize behavior change in the corporate and non-corporate world.
- **Phase 3: Delivering and Scaling:** The final phase will focus on implementing, delivering and scaling of the initiative with a sustainable business model. This will include the recruitment of businesses and non-corporate stakeholders to use the tools and products in practice, monitor and measure impact, share lessons and build a larger community of practice taking very concrete steps towards improving results in business engagement and improving education equity.

Over the course of this project, we have created a new business model for GBC-Education based on the feedback we heard during our listening and learning phase. We have created an

engagement platform for peer-to-peer business connections, resources to guide businesses on their education journey, and created networking and growth opportunities. During this time, we also invited companies to consult with us on specific challenges they faced and offered solutions and tools through a customized consulting service.

a. Key Evaluation Purpose

As we come to the end of this grant period, GBC-Education is looking to commission an end of project evaluation of the BIEI initiative.

The purpose of the evaluation will be to -

- Assess the BIEI project's progress against its proposed strategic objectives as agreed with BHPF and the potential for the project's outcomes to create systemic impact on the global education sector.
- Assess the project's impact to date and guide the team through recommendations for maintaining long-term, sustainable impact through lessons learned and case studies/testimonials, including capturing what engagement avenues have worked well to inform any scale up, or course corrections

We recognize that the impact of tools and products takes a long term to manifest. While there is ongoing work to increase business uptake of our tools, resources and research and to bring new businesses into the fold, the extent of adoption of these tools within companies varies due to individual contexts, timelines, and applicability.

III. Scope of Work

a. Illustrative Questions

- i. Has the BIEI initiative achieved what it set out to do under the terms agreed with BHPF?
- ii. What are the sustainability efforts for the coalition beyond the BHPF grant?
- iii. How has participation with GBC-Education affected a company's overall interest and engagement in global education?
- iv. How has participation with the initiative's tools and resources changed mindsets or behaviors within users' companies?
- v. Has engaging with GBC-Education led to different approaches in decision-making about investment in education?
- vi. Has engaging with the GBC-Education's tools and resources helped make the case for increased investment in education among a company's senior leadership?
- vii. How has engaging with the GBC-Education's tools and resources informed programs or initiatives supporting education or informed partnership-building?

- viii. Has engaging with GBC-Education tools and resources enabled users to incorporate new evidence into their education strategies? Identifying the specific tools, and resources of interest.
- ix. Impact measurement: What specific metrics should be used to quantify and qualify how the business community is making an impact on the education sector through the BIEI engagement model?
- x. What types of engagement have seen higher participation and uptake?
- xi. How relevant and useful have the products and tools offered by GBC-Education been for businesses?
- xii. How are the different levels of support and service being taken up?

b. Evaluation Approach and Timeline

A mix of qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods may be employed to address the evaluation needs.

Desk Review of Documents

It is recommended that the review should begin with an in-depth context analysis of the project from a desk review of documents that can also answer questions of relevance, including the Mid Term Evaluation which was conducted in June 2022. The BIEI team will also be available to answer questions and support the desk review process.

Key Stakeholder Survey and Informant Interviews

The consultant will have access to BIEI partners, including the Guidance Group and other members who currently use the BIEI tools and resources. The stakeholder survey will allow the evaluator to understand the current internal (within company) and external (on the education sector) impact the tools and resources are making. We anticipate that conducting both a survey and key informant interviews will help us answer the big picture questions outlined above.

Timeline

The proposed time frame for the review is from August- November 2023. The expected products of the review include a member survey or interviews; a report with analysis of the findings; and a knowledge product which summarizes the findings and makes recommendations for the future. The following table indicates the proposed timeline and milestones:

Activities	Product
Kick-off meeting Initial consultation & document review focused on collectively developing the approach of the evaluation	
Co-design workshop between contracted team and GBC-Education	
Draft evaluation design report	Evaluation design plan

Data collection: review of guidance group findings and recommendations, mid-term evaluation report and other available information	
Data collection: Co-created survey and/or interviews with key stakeholders	A completed survey, built in a user-friendly format, for easy distribution by GBC-Education
Data collection: review of survey results, previous evaluations and research	Presentation of preliminary findings to GBC-Education team
Data collection: feedback from guidance group or other key partners	Presentation of preliminary findings to GBC-Education team
Draft report	Prepare first draft report and share with GBC-Education team for feedback
Receive comments and finalize the report	Final Report
Produce summary of findings in shareable format	Final deck

IV. Selection of Evaluation Team

We have intentionally designed an interactive procurement process that allows us to engage directly with the evaluation teams. We believe that such a process will enable us to gain a better sense of the applicants overall fit rather than long technical proposals. In addition, the details of the technical design work will be developed during the co-design workshop between the contracted team and GBC-Education stakeholders (once the contract is fully executed) making detailed technical responses unnecessary.

The evaluation team will be assessed against the below criteria:

- Experience conducting project evaluations
- Experience creating surveys to measure impact
- Experience in Corporate Social Responsibility, social impact
- Experience with global education and system change
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Experience with co-creation/co-design workshops
- Ability to synthesize complex information into coherent report presentation

V. How to Respond to this EOI

If you are interested in responding to this EOI, please submit a short response to info@gbc-education.org. We will evaluate responses on a rolling basis. In your response, please address the items outlined below:

- Please share background on you and your team: Provide a brief history and profile of your research team, highlighting your experience in the areas we are requesting. (Please include information on your specific experiences with co-creation/co-design workshops)
- Describe your proposed team's structure, both intellectual / academic leadership and project management.
- Please describe your initial and summarized approach for addressing the evaluation questions, understanding that the details of the evaluation design will be further developed and finalized during the co-creation workshop. Your description should provide the right details to enable us to get a sense of your handle on mixed methods designs and qualitative and quantitative methodologies.
- OPTIONAL: please describe any modifications to the EOI you would like us to consider, such as modifications to the research questions, methodological approach, etc.
- Please describe any existing or potential relationships between your organization and GBC-Education, BHPF, or GBC-Education's coalition members or partners and any employee or officer of the organizations that could affect your independence and objectivity because of an actual or perceived conflict of interest.
- A detailed budget

Please keep your response to a maximum of 2 pages. This does not include CVs and the budget proposal, which can be included as an annex.

VI. Relevant Resources

GBC-Education: <https://gbc-education.org/>