Principal Researcher

School-to-School International (STS) is a nonprofit organization based in Pacifica, California, committed to improving the lives and learning of children worldwide through thoughtful research, practice, and partnerships. For two decades, we have partnered with individuals, government ministries, NGOs, private foundations, and research institutions to improve the quality of children’s learning through research-based, integrated support solutions. We have worked in more than 40 countries across the globe, aiding in research and evaluation, curriculum and training, and policy and planning.

Role: The Principal Researcher serves as a senior leader of School-to-School International’s (STS’s) evaluation and research department, leading the design of project evaluations in conjunction with other department members and providing mentorship and oversight to staff. S/he will provide high-level technical input on a portfolio of evaluation and research projects, contributing expertise in quantitative research design and methodologies, including sampling and weighting. The Principal Researcher will also participate in business and proposal development activities as needed.

Responsibilities

*Lead the design, management, and implementation of evaluation and research systems*

- Serve as the Technical Lead on a portfolio of monitoring, evaluation, research and learning projects, overseeing the technical work of project teams, and ensuring overall quality and rigor
- Provide high-level technical input—particularly on research design, sampling, and weighting—on a variety of projects and business development opportunities
- Develop monitoring, evaluation, research, and learning (MERL) frameworks with clients, including theories of change, results frameworks, learning agendas, and key performance indicators
- Execute, justify, and document key technical decisions throughout the course of a project evaluation
- Provide technical oversight to project teams to ensure the systematic collection, analysis, synthesis, use, translation, and dissemination of data and learning
- Design, adapt, and review data collection instruments and assessments as needed
- Lead quantitative data analysis and provide quality assurance and review of staff and consultant work in quantitative data analysis
- Contribute to writing high-quality, accurate, and engaging technical results reports and deliverables for clients
- Build the capacity of clients, government counterparts, and other departmental staff in quantitative data analysis (e.g., lead trainings, mentor mid-level and junior staff)
- Contribute to the development of evaluation and research knowledge management systems and processes
Serve as a thought leader within the sector to improve, expand, and effectively deliver on STS’s projects

- Represent STS and present research in external meetings and conferences
- Participate in global knowledge-sharing forums and working groups and ensure a feedback loop with STS leadership and staff
- Support development and delivery of strategic initiatives to improve STS’s positioning in the sector
- Collaborate on STS-wide initiatives, such as the Whole Child Model and internal capacity-building

Other duties

- Serve on relevant internal committees as appropriate
- Manage or supervise STS staff or consultants as needed
- Travel as needed to countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, and the Middle East (10-15% time)
- Other duties as assigned

Qualifications

- Advanced degree in psychometrics, social science, education, economics, evaluation, measurement, quantitative and/or qualitative research, or another relevant field; Ph.D. highly preferred.
- A minimum of eight years of experience designing, managing, and conducting quantitative assessments and evaluations for donor-funded projects.
- Experience leading quantitative and mixed methods evaluations.
- Strong work ethic, positive mindset, and comfort with the ambiguity and pace of a dynamic environment.
- Experience working with analysis software such as Stata, SPSS, R, or similar.
- Experience in evaluating programs in low-income countries.
- Strong interactive presentation and workshop facilitation skills.
- International development experience is preferred.
- Professional proficiency in written and spoken English is required; French is a plus.
- Demonstrated initiative, versatility, integrity, and interpersonal skills.
- U.S. work authorization is required; STS is not able to sponsor employment visas.
- STS requires the holder of this position to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Supervision and Oversight: This position reports to the Sr. Director of Impact and Learning.

Salary and Benefits: $120,000-130,000. School-to-School International offers excellent benefits, including health, dental, vision, disability, and life insurance, generous time off, employee assistance program, mobile phone reimbursement, flexible work schedule, and 401K match.
Non-monetary benefits include a unique opportunity to be part of a growing, mission-driven organization that is working to promote education as a human right.

Location: This position is remote. STS employees must be based in one of STS’s current hubs: Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area, San Francisco Bay Area, and the Research Triangle in N.C.

Please submit a resume/CV and cover letter describing your interest and qualifications to info@sts-international.org with the subject line “Principal Researcher.” Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

School-to-School International is an equal employment opportunities (EEO) employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability status, protected veteran status, gender identity, sexual orientation or any other characteristic protected by applicable law.