

## Ark – Education Partnerships Group

### Project Manager (Education Data)

Every child deserves a great education – one that allows her to follow her dreams and achieve her potential. But education is complex and difficult to get right. Teachers, schools and systems all face deep and embedded challenges, and it is in the poorest countries and communities where those challenges are greatest.

Ark knows first hand that great schools can transform a child's life. We know this because we run 35 schools in deprived inner city areas of the UK, and we recently launched our school network in Delhi, India. But to be truly impactful we need to think and work beyond the confines of our own schools. We need to reform education systems, so that teachers, schools and governments are held accountable for the education of each and every child.

### About Ark's Education Partnerships Group

We know that education systems the world over – but particularly in less-developed countries – are failing to give poor children the education they need to succeed in life. We know this is an injustice, an injustice that needs to be addressed because the future of children, communities and nations is at stake.

But we also have reason to be optimistic. The scale of the education quality crisis is increasingly visible at sub-national, national and global level. Citizens are calling for better schools, and politicians know education policy is increasingly central to electoral success. A growing generation of education entrepreneurs is refusing to accept the status quo and is working tirelessly to find sustainable models that will contribute to better education for all.

Ark's Education Partnerships Group (EPG) has the opportunity to seize these opportunities and work with partners in the government and private sectors to bring about tangible and enduring change. EPG believes that excellent outcomes for students can come from the public or the private sector – but the state must play a key role as the guarantor of a quality education for all students. Our vision is to help governments in developing countries provide a quality education to every child, by bringing the public and private sectors closer together. We have active engagements in South Africa, Uganda, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Kenya and India, and a strong pipeline in other geographies in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

### Data for school improvement programmes

Good use of education data can transform a school's performance. When used properly, a School Information System (SIS) can help a school monitor key metrics like assessment and attendance, improve accountability, stimulate discussion and highlight areas where action is required. It can also transform a government or school network's ability to monitor schools. However, in developing countries, there has been very limited adoption of SIS due to barriers around cost, connectivity and skills. If they are used, the focus is mostly on government data submission and neglects the potential for schools to use them to directly improve pupil outcomes. We believe this is a huge missed opportunity.

For the past 18 months, EPG has been conducting a series of pilots in different contexts to identify effective approaches to using data for school improvement. Pilots are running with schools in rural Uganda, Sierra Leone, India, South Africa and we are also setting up a new project in Kenya with the Nairobi government. These projects are taking schools through a 5 step process, mostly focusing on attendance and assessment data. Ark has been working with two school information systems (SchoolTool and Knowledge K12) and has developed a suite of easy to understand, colour coded reports designed to encourage action.

## Job description

We now at an exciting juncture – having seen encouraging results in our pilot initiatives we are now developing our strategy to scale up our work with governments and school network partners.

Ark is looking for a highly motivated and capable candidate to lead this work. The successful candidate will be able to build on the established relationships and experience from the pilot phases, but will be also have a unique opportunity to shape the strategy in this exciting next phase, working with a wider number of stakeholders, internally and externally. The role is varied and includes refining the strategy and ensuring that the work can become sustainable within 3 years, establishing and managing relationships with partners, pursuing business development opportunities, conducting specific programming activities associated with SIS client service agreements, and engaging with ed. tech globally to further increase our knowledge and reputation in this area.

**Direct reports:** Programmes Coordinator in Delhi  
**Location:** London preferred, or Delhi  
**Contract length:** Two years with opportunity to extend

## Responsibilities

- **Refine and scale data for school improvement strategy.** Ensure that the work can become sustainable within the next three years.
- **Oversee new and existing relationships**, including our partnerships with SIS providers, cultivating new business opportunities and scoping out funding and investment opportunities.
- **Manage the overall programme**, including managing a small and geographically dispersed team of programme coordinators
- **Ensure that effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are in place**, including data gathering and analysis.
- **Research and write about the education technology sector globally**, especially in relation to SIS but also more broadly across the wider sector and attend global conferences where relevant. This may include maintaining a blog and engaging in other social media activities.

## Candidate profile

- At least BA degree from a top tier university
- 5+ years professional experience
- 2-3 years working in international development or education
- 2-3 years in a top tier management consultancy
- Excellent project management skills, including planning, monitoring and reporting
- Excellent English written and oral communication skills and data analysis skills
- Experience with workshop facilitation
- Strong interest in Ed. Tech and familiarity with school information systems
- A deeply held belief in Ark's mission– that all children, regardless of background, deserve an excellent education
- Willingness to travel at least 25% of the time
- Range of IT skills and sound knowledge of operating systems and programming languages

If you have read this far you know that we need someone amazing. If you think that's you but you don't fit the criteria above, please do get in touch anyway – we would love to know why you think you're the person to make this a success.

## Recruitment Process

### Application

- For an informal discussion about the role please feel free to contact Fran Bowen-Day ([frances.bowen-day@arkonline.org](mailto:frances.bowen-day@arkonline.org))
- To apply, please send a copy of your CV (two pages maximum) along with a brief covering letter explaining why you are interested in applying for the role, to [jobs@arkonline.org](mailto:jobs@arkonline.org) **ensuring you specify the role you are applying for in the subject line of the e-mail**. Please include the details of at least two referees within your application.
- Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis so please apply as soon as possible.

### Reference checking

- As you will be working around children this role will be subject to enhanced background checks.

### Probation

- All new staff will be subject to a probation period of six months, with the possibility of extension to one year based on performance. The probation period is a trial period, to enable the assessment of an employee's suitability for the job for which they have been employed.

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