

October 5, 2023

Beyond Borders
Education in Emergencies Consultant

To the Beyond Borders Hiring Team:

As an education consultant specializing in education in emergencies, I am excited to submit this application to Beyond Borders. Through my experiences, I have shown my passion for increasing access to quality education for children living in conflict and crisis affected contexts. I am enthusiastic about joining Beyond Border's team of education consultants because I am excited about the opportunity to work with the firm to further quality education in emergencies support to organizations working in the field. Beyond Borders' mission to provide quality education research, curriculum design and project management aligns with my personal mission of working toward high quality and equitable education for children across the world.

I believe that my previous experiences have prepared me to succeed as an education consultant at Beyond Borders. In the field of education in emergencies, I developed monitoring and evaluation plans, trained staff to use the corresponding monitoring tools, and conducted research on education programs spanning content areas including early childhood education and psychosocial support. Across various projects, I have stepped into leadership roles and prepared trainings and skill-building workshops for team members.

- **Monitoring and Evaluation of Education Programs:** As part of the project team working on the Ubumwe: Arts for Education and Psychosocial Support with Refugee Children and Youth Project funded by Columbia World Centers, I developed a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan including theory of change, logical framework, indicators, and measurement tools. I attended meetings and collaborated with Columbia University staff, Ugandan national partner organizations and New York based partner organizations to ensure sustainability, feasibility, and relevance of the M&E plan and tools. In addition, as a Scaling and Learning Consultant on the Ahlan Simsim early childhood development project at the International Rescue Committee, I co-led the monitoring and evaluation efforts of the programmatic scaling processes. I collected data on the scaling processes in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Syria using monitoring tools and collaborating with national staff. I trained national staff on how to use the monitoring tools to continue to collect data on the scaling processes every six months. I also developed a visual data analysis tool to identify patterns and strengths across country programs and presented it to staff in Amman and New York to support team understanding and consistency during future data collection periods and future data analysis.
- **Qualitative Research:** During my time at Teachers College, Columbia University, I strengthened my skills in qualitative research. I worked on three research projects spanning contexts including Colombia, Uganda and South Sudan and qualitatively coded more than 85 interviews using Nvivo software for themes such as well-being, belonging and peacebuilding. I also demonstrated strong capabilities in developing qualitative codebooks and analyzing coded data. In addition, I initiated the independent design of my own empirical research study on education in a displacement context for my master's thesis. I established a relationship and collaborated with a small NGO working to provide early childhood education and parenting classes in a migrant shelter in Tijuana, Mexico. I developed four different interview protocols for various participant identities. I conducted interviews with migrants living in displacement and local teachers in Tijuana to understand how informal schools serve as systems of community building among parents and children. I developed a codebook based on iterative open coding, memo writing, and codes derived from existing literature, which I then used to analyze my data.

Leveraging my experiences, I am confident that I will be able to contribute my technical education expertise, in-depth understanding of education in emergencies and strong research skills to Beyond Borders. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to speak with you to further discuss my qualifications and skills. Thank you for your time and consideration, and I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,
Renna Bazlen