



*Job opportunity*

**Strategic Education Advisor in  
Language Development and  
Emergent Literacy**

*Vietnam office - expat position*

*Deadline for applications: 14 April 2021*

## Would you like to contribute to the improvement of the quality of education worldwide?

*Hello! We're excited to see you found your way to this job opening. That must mean you share our ambition to ensure learners around the world enjoy their fundamental human right to quality education, without exception. We're looking forward to hearing from you.*

*But first things first. Allow us to introduce ourselves, drawing on the great mystery behind our name. Since our establishment in 1982, 'VVOB' has evolved from a complex (Dutch) acronym to a stand-alone concept meaning **education for development**:*

*VVOB stands for '**commitment**' – to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.*

*VVOB stands for '**integrity**' and '**mutual respect**' – in working with our partner organisations across 10 countries/3 continents.*

*VVOB stands for '**quality**' and '**innovation**' – of everything we do in our effort to improve education worldwide.*

*Do you still feel like you're in the right place? Great, because we're hiring an expat **Strategic Education Advisor in Language Development and Emergent Literacy in Vietnam**.*

### VVOB in Vietnam

Vietnam has an almost universal enrollment in pre-schools at the age of 5. Theoretically it creates an ideal starting position for children to build good learning attitudes that will help them to be successful throughout their school career.

The remarkable achievement of almost universal participation has, however, not yet resulted in overcoming the structural inequalities that still exist in the country. Children growing up in economically challenged households, in remote areas or in families where Vietnamese is not the first language are seen to start their school career with a disadvantage that the school system is not able to help them overcome.

A remarkable difference is observed in the learning outcomes of children from ethnic minority groups, compared to their peers from the majority group. Most of these children are only exposed to the Vietnamese language once they enroll in school. The years in pre-school are a determining factor for all children. For children with a different home-language than the language of instruction this is even more impactful: more years in pre-school could give them more time to adopt a second language. These children however tend to participate fewer years in pre-school than their peers from the majority group. Additionally pre-school teachers are not sufficiently trained nor supported by the education system to offer language-rich learning environments to non-native speakers and revert to first-language teaching that is mostly not age-appropriate –limiting the potential of the school system to be the 'great equalizer' it could be.

## Purpose of the function

- To design and support implementation of educational and capacity development trajectories for the establishment of language-rich learning environments that are context-specific for Vietnam
- To coach the VVOB Vietnam content team to acquire a deep understanding of language development and early literacy approaches – capacitating them to be drivers of change in relation with local government partners
- To harvest evidence of successful capacity development and contribute to VVOB's body of knowledge on emergent literacy

## Responsibilities

- Lead capacity development of VVOBs operational (ministry) partners on early multilingual language development and early literacy in ECE.
- Lead the development and implementation of various teacher and school leader professional development packages and trajectories on language development and language-rich learning environments for emergent literacy.
- Coordinate, develop and support communication and outreach campaigns to relevant stakeholders (including parents) on multilingual language development and emergent literacy in ECE.
- Keep abreast with policy trends, new developments and latest research and thinking in education and international development, focused on emergent literacy.
- Network and cooperate with relevant development, structural and strategic partners to contribute to the continuous improvement of VVOB's programmes.
- Manage donor communication and relations and fulfil programme reporting requirements in coordination with the Country Programmes Manager and Early Childhood Education Manager.
- Ensure high quality standards in terms of partnership, relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of the programme.
- Act in accordance to VVOB's vision, mission, values, policies and guidelines, as well as its approach to capacity development of its government partners
- Advise on capacity development trajectories by VVOB for partners and effective teacher professional development by partners for schools.

## If you're our *Strategic Education Advisor Language Development and Emergent Literacy*, your workweek at the office will include the following highlights:



You will have a meeting with officials of the ministry departments on ECE, Teacher Professional Development to discuss the integration of language-rich learning environments in the ECE system.



You have an online meeting with technical VVOB staff from other country offices and head-office who have experience on similar programmes.



You urgently need to work with colleagues on the procurement and distribution plans for the learning materials that need to be in the schools (some of them very remote) before the training trajectories start. With two months to go there is no time to lose!



You have a meeting with the M&E advisor to agree how to collect the evidence of the changes and their impact. You may use that information to amend the programme implementation plan in order to deal with some delays.



You finalise the annual progress report that needs to be submitted to the donor by the end of the month.

You have a workshop with a communication agency to develop the outline and key messages for the outreach component of the programme.

You advise colleagues who will join an emergency meeting with ministry partners to reschedule the upcoming teacher trainings due to new training guidelines issued by the ministry of education.

You have a call with colleagues in South Africa and at head office to prepare a presentation at an international conference.

# Who are you?

This position is an expat position, which means the position is open to all candidates who are not a citizen of the country where the position is located.

## Qualifications, experience & competencies you bring to our team:

- A Master's degree, preferably in education, international development, public policy, or a related field or equivalent by experience.
- At least 7 years of relevant work experience;
- At least 2 years international (working) experience:
  - You obtained your Master's degree abroad, or
  - You have working experience related to this vacancy abroad
- At least 3 years of experience working in a low or middle income country
- At least 3 years of experience with capacity building of organisations, teams and persons, preferably in strengthening government systems and structures;
- At least 2 years of experience in a position working closely with external stakeholders, preferably with multiple partners;
- You have practical knowledge of and experience in education methodologies in early childhood education, more specifically:
  - Knowledge / experience with emergent literacy in early childhood education
  - Knowledge / experience with transition processes from early childhood education to primary education
- An in-depth understanding of latest international developments and research in the education sector in general and emergent literacy in particular;
- Strong time and project management skills (planning, budgeting, report writing);
- Flexible with a proven ability to multitask and adjust to changing circumstances;
- A good understanding of upscaling of education innovations (from pilot to scale);
- English proficiency: CEFR level C1

## Matching competences:

### *VVOB core competences:*

- Results and goal oriented
- Continuous improvement
- Cooperation within a team and with other stakeholders

### *Function specific competences:*

- Strategic Networking and Partnership building
- Persuasiveness
- Vision Building
- Problem Analysis & Judgement
- Creativity



## What we're offering:

- A full-time contract until 31/12/2026, with the possibility of extension depending on the availability of donor funding;
- An initial salary between €44,564 and €56,097 gross per year depending on relevant work experience, including holiday allowance and 13th month.
- A dynamic working environment in an international context;
- An exciting job in a growing organisation with varied responsibilities and opportunities for professional development;
- An attractive expat benefits package including the shipping of personal belongings, an initial settlement allowance, insurances, housing allowance, school fee allowance, annual family home travel ticket and pension savings.

### Join us:

As soon as possible!

### Your duty station:

VVOB's office in Da Nang

### What's next?

**Your motivation letter and a detailed CV are expected to be sent by e-mail no later than April 14th 2021 to [recruitment@vjob.org](mailto:recruitment@vjob.org).** Don't forget to refer to the job title in the subject line of your e-mail.

**Shortlisted candidates will take a written test, go through an interview process and an assessment, before a final offer.**

VVOB firmly believes that quality education can only be achieved if equity is ensured. Qualities of people prevail, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or disability.

Is this not exactly the job you are looking for? Please have a look at our other vacancies at: <https://www.vjob.org/en/vacancies>





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