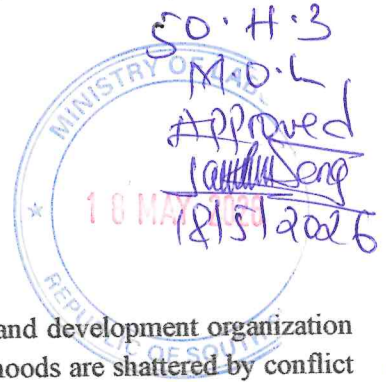




Vacancy Announcement

Job Title:	Senior Education Officer – Policy and Advocacy - Juba
Band / Level / Grade:	8A
Department:	Education
Location:	Juba
Overtime Eligible:	Opening Date: 18 th May 2026
(per local law) Exempt	Closing Date: 4 th June 2026



BACKGROUND: The International Rescue Committee, IRC, is a leading humanitarian and development organization working in more than 40 countries and 26 U.S. cities to help people whose lives and livelihoods are shattered by conflict and disaster to survive, recover, and gain control of their future.

The IRC has been operating in South Sudan since 1989 and is registered as an international NGO. IRC currently delivers multi-sectoral programming directly and through partners across seven states and two administrative areas. These include Northern Bahr el Ghazal, covering Aweil East, Aweil West, and Aweil South counties, Unity State, covering Rubkona, Koch, and Panyijiar counties, Upper Nile State, covering Maban, Renk, Panyikang, Nasir, Ulang, and Panyikang counties, Lakes State, covering Rumbek Centre, Rumbek East, and Yirol West counties, Central Equatoria, covering Juba, Yei, and Kajokeji counties, Eastern Equatoria, covering Kapoeta East, Jonglei, covering Ayod, Twic East, Uror, and Akobo counties, as well as Abyei Administrative Area and Ruweng Administrative Area, including Pariang County and Ajoung Thok and Pamir refugee camps.

Position Summary:

IRC is seeking a Senior Education Officer – Policy and Advocacy for the implementation of PlayMatters 3.0 (PM3.0), a multi-year initiative funded by the LEGO Foundation. PM3.0 in South Sudan adopts a system-strengthening, learning through Play (LtP) approach to improve access to safe, inclusive, and quality learning for children in crisis-affected and recovery contexts. The programme focuses on strengthening education system's capacity for uptake and institutionalization of LtP, while expanding access to joyful, inclusive learning opportunities for children in both humanitarian and development settings. Implementation is delivered through a consortium led by IRC, in partnership with War Child Alliance and Plan International, working closely with national and sub-national education actors. More information on PlayMatters can be found here: <https://www.playmatters.org>

The Senior Education Officer – Policy and Advocacy will play a central role under Outcome 1 (systems strengthening and policy uptake), leading efforts to identify, engage, and influence key education stakeholders in South Sudan to support the integration and scale-up of Learning through Play within national and sub-national education systems. This includes sustained engagement with the Ministry of General Education and Instruction (MoGEI), Teacher Training Institutes, coordination platforms such as the Education Cluster and Local Education Group, and development and humanitarian partners to align PM3.0 approaches with existing policies, frameworks, and sector priorities.

Reporting to the PlayMatters Project Team Lead, the position will work closely with regional policy and advocacy focal points and the project communications team to develop and implement evidence-based advocacy strategies, key messaging, and communication materials. The role will support strategic positioning of PM3.0, strengthen partnerships, and ensure that programme learning and evidence inform policy dialogue, coordination processes, and decision-making, ultimately contributing to sustainable system-level adoption and scale-up of Learning through Play in South Sudan.

Job Responsibilities:

- Conduct and regularly update a comprehensive mapping of strategic partners and stakeholders, and lead stakeholder analysis and support on political economy analysis to inform a context-specific policy engagement and influence strategy, adapting it as the operating environment evolves.
- Identify and leverage policy and technical entry points within the Ministry of General Education and Instruction (MoGEI) directorates and affiliated structures to support coordinated consortium engagement and uptake of Learning through Play (LtP).



- Lead the contextualisation and continuous refinement of key messaging and communication materials on Learning through Play, ensuring alignment with South Sudan's education priorities, including the General Education Strategic Plan (GESP) and Education Cluster strategy.
- Support the development of policy briefs, advocacy papers, and technical position documents on LtP, and ensure their strategic dissemination through national, sub-national, and regional platforms.
- Facilitate meaningful engagement of education actors including government, development partners, and civil society in PM3.0 processes, ensuring their roles and contributions are reflected in implementation workplans, learning agendas, and coordination mechanisms.
- Representation of the mandate of the PlayMatters in key strategic platforms to ensure accurate information dissemination and learning exchange, ensuring accurate information sharing, visibility, and learning exchange.
- Define clear roles and responsibilities of key education actors in achieving program objectives and coordinate their participation in PlayMatters initiatives.
- Develop the capacities of project IRC and consortium staff in engaging with and influencing key education actors.
- Closely monitor and document policy debates, changes in policies, and shifting strategies and ensure relevant information is disseminated to project staff in a timely manner.
- Prepare key information ahead of project staff engagements with these key actors and ensure that action points are followed through.
- Track key meetings in-country and work with PlayMatters regional team, key actors, and IRC South Sudan staff to coordinate attendance.
- Monitor and support inputs of PlayMatters data periodically into relevant databases for PlayMatters and the collaborating sector departments.
- Ensure inclusion of PlayMatters initiatives into existing government-led coordination mechanisms and relevant education sector departments

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited university in education, public policy, social science or related field required, a Masters' degree is an added advantage.
- Minimum of 5 years of experience in education policy, advocacy, and communications.
- Proven track record of and knowledge of engaging with government priorities, systems, and structure.
- Demonstrated success in developing advocacy and/or communications strategies.
- Experience working with or supporting multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms.
- Ability to analyse policy environments and translate evidence into practical recommendations for programme and policy influence.
- Strong communication skills, both oral and written.
- Fluency in English required, knowledge of local languages is an added advantage.

Reports to: South Sudan PlayMatters Project Team Lead

Working Environment: The Senior Education Officer -Policy and Advocacy will work in the IRC South Sudan office and be provided regular administrative and logistics support to perform his/her responsibilities.

The IRC Core Values and Commitments:

Standards of Professional Conduct: The IRC and IRC workers must adhere to the values and principles outlined in IRC Way Standards for Professional Conduct. These are Integrity, Service, Accountability and Equality. In accordance with these values, the IRC operates and enforces policies on Beneficiary Protection from Exploitation and Abuse, Child Safeguarding, Anti Workplace Harassment, Fiscal Integrity, and Anti-Retaliation the IRC operates and enforces policies on Beneficiary Protection from Exploitation and Abuse, Child Safeguarding, Anti Workplace Harassment, Fiscal Integrity, and Anti-Retaliation.

Safeguarding and PSEA policy: The IRC has a zero-tolerance policy for safeguarding/PSEA violations by staff, incentive workers, visitors, sub-grantees, suppliers/sub-contractors, and implementing partners. Safeguarding/PSEA at the IRC is an integral to organizational values and ethics, and staff and associates are expected to take all reasonable steps to prevent the sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment of any person linked to the program by both its employees and any downstream partner. The successful candidate will be subject to a thorough background check and satisfactory references.

Promote and actively participate in initiatives and efforts to build team engagement, inclusion and cohesion in IRC. Foster



ongoing learning, honest dialogue and reflection to strengthen safeguarding and to promote IRC values and adherence to IRC policies. IRC strives to build a diverse and inclusive team at all levels who as individuals, and as a group, embody our culture statement creating a working environment characterized by critical reflection, power sharing, debate, and objectivity for us to achieve our aspirations as a team and deliver the best possible services to our clients

Narrowing the Gender Gap: The International Rescue Committee is committed to narrowing the gender gap in leadership positions. We offer benefits that provide an enabling environment for women to participate in our workforce including a flexible hour (when possible), maternity leave, transportation support, and gender-sensitive security protocols.

Equal Opportunity Employer: IRC is an Equal Opportunity Employer. IRC considers all applicants because of merit without regard to race, sex, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, age, marital status, veteran status, disability, or any other characteristic protected by applicable laws.

How to apply:

Interested applicants should submit a CV with 3 references and a copy of their national ID to Human Resources Juba IRC Country Head Office-Located in **APTECH Africa Office Building 3rd Floor, Plot 63 Block AXIII Hai Malakal, Juba, South Sudan** or you can e-mail applications to <https://theirc.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/> not later than **4th June 2026 @ 4:30pm**.

NOTE: Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted and attached photocopies only while originals will be asked at the interview panel and all the photocopies will remain the property of IRC.

CLEARLY LABEL YOUR APPLICATION, Senior Education Officer – Policy Advocacy -Juba, SOUTH SUDAN

“WOMEN, MINORTITIES AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY”.

The position is strictly for South Sudanese Nationals with all the National documents.

