

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Mentor

SECTION27 , South Africa

Assignment title	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Mentor		
Partner organisation	SECTION27		
Location	South Africa	Johannesburg	
Type of assignment	In-country Assignment		
Duration of assignment	12 months		
Assignment phases	Phase 1	Mode In-Country	Duration 12 months
Proposed start date	23 January 2027		
Website	https://section27.org.za/		
Australian organisation:	No Australian organisation linked to this assignment		

ABOUT THE PARTNER ORGANISATION

SECTION27 is a leading public interest law centre advancing equality and social justice in South Africa. Guided by constitutional principles, the organisation uses the law for advocacy, litigation, legal literacy, research, and community mobilisation to promote socio-economic rights, particularly the rights to health care and basic education.

With a team of 40 diverse professionals, including recognised experts, SECTION27 operates mainly from Johannesburg, with field researchers based across four provinces. Their work seeks systemic change and accountability to uphold dignity, equality, and democratic values.

SECTION27 also explores cross-cutting issues such as climate change and gender justice, recognising their impact on socio-economic rights. The organisation collaborates widely with coalitions and civil society partners, including the Budget Justice Coalition, Stop Stockouts Project, and other health and education advocacy networks, to strengthen democracy and the rule of law.

ABOUT THE ASSIGNMENT

SECTION27 has established a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system and has been collecting data on key indicators since 2022. Following a review of its Theory of Change in 2024, the organisation developed a results framework aligned with its 2025–2027 Strategic Plan to enhance accountability, inform decision-making, and strengthen donor confidence.

The next phase focuses on building institutional capacity to effectively use M&E data for learning, reflection, and strategic adaptation. As one of the few public interest litigation organisations in South Africa with an M&E system, SECTION27 seeks to deepen staff capability in evidence-based programming and contribute to broader sectoral learning.

This volunteer assignment will prioritise capacity development through knowledge transfer, mentorship, and system strengthening, ensuring sustainability of M&E practices and storytelling beyond the assignment period.

ASSIGNMENT OBJECTIVES AND PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

The volunteer will work alongside members of SECTION27's Fundraising and M&E team, and will regularly engage with the various program departments to support the below objectives:

Assignment objectives	Proposed activities
In-Country Phase Objective: Support the implementation of SECTION27's revised Theory of Change and Results Framework	• Build staff capacity in collecting and analysing data to inform the Theory of Change and project learning, recommending enhancements to tools where appropriate. • Support reflection and learning cycles with various program departments. • Strengthen organisational understanding and use of the Theory of Change and results framework to inform planning, decision-making, and learning.
In-Country Phase Objective: Build SECTION27's capacity in internal and external communications and reporting by strengthening staff skills and systems to effectively capture and communicate outcome-based results aligned with the organisation's Theory of Change.	• Support the arrangement of monitoring data for integration into donor reports. • Support the development of internal processes and skills for tailoring report content to different audiences and platforms, ensuring consistent and impactful dissemination of results.
In-Country Phase Objective: Support with building SECTION27's evidence base of impact.	• Work with the team to identify and develop stories of change. • Support the team with skills around evaluations and case studies.

Inclusion objective and proposed activity

The volunteer will work alongside the partner organisation to uphold values of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Inclusive approaches will aim to make everyone welcome and support equal access to activities and opportunities regardless of gender, age, disability status, or background (e.g. religion, language, ethnicity and marginalised or vulnerable groups).

The volunteer will work alongside members of the Fundraising and M&E team, as well as relevant program teams, to:

- Ensure the organisation's results framework and data collection is gender sensitive and meaningfully highlights their feminist approach.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Education and qualifications

Essential	Desirable
• Relevant qualification/s	• Other training in relevant sectors and approaches will be an asset (social justice, health, education, strategic litigation, advocacy, gender equality, • Master's degree in social science or related field etc.).

Knowledge and experience

Essential	Desirable
• At least seven years of professional experience in the field of monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL). • Demonstrated expertise in developing MEL frameworks. • Understanding of, and/or experience with, the donor environment (corporate, philanthropic, public etc) and impact reporting. • Expertise in policy and advocacy at a range of levels including grassroots programming and national policy influence and advocacy; understanding of public interest litigation will be an asset.	• A strong approach to conducting consultative internal processes to solicit input and encourage ownership of processes. • Experience working on women's rights and gender equality.

Following the Program's values on locally led development, this Assignment Description has been developed and negotiated in good faith with the Partner Organisation. The information contained was correct at the time of

acceptance of the request. However, while we take responsibility for matters under our direct control, all assignments and arrangements are subject to change. This assignment may be amended or withdrawn to reflect changes in circumstances.

Line Manager: Julie Staples, Head of Fundraising and M&E

Working relationships: Vuyelwa Nkumanda, M&E Officer

Hours and days of work:

In-country phase

Full time

Leave: All volunteers are entitled to 20 days' leave per 12 months, unless advised otherwise. The same conditions and terms as local colleagues apply, including national holidays.

Work from home: Working from home while on an in-country phase must be in line with usual partner organisation's practices and agreed with the in-country office.

Professional indemnity insurance (*Required for all volunteers who are acting as a medical, allied health or legal professional whilst on assignment*):

No, this assignment is not deemed to require professional indemnity insurance

The volunteer should consult the partner organisation about the need for professional indemnity insurance for the role prior to departure. Where required and/or considered essential to hold this insurance, please discuss this with the Volunteer Services Manager in Melbourne prior to departure.

LIFE AS A VOLUNTEER

The Australian Volunteers Program supports volunteers from preparing to go on assignment through to returning home. For a full breakdown of support provided including assignment allowances, please visit: <https://www.australianvolunteers.com/volunteering/lifestyle-and-support/>

Country context

Learn more about the host country's location by reading the country profile. We encourage candidates to research the specific location of this assignment as it will be discussed and addressed with a recruitment officer during the interview process.

For more information, please visit country links: <https://www.australianvolunteers.com/countries/sa> and <https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/south-africa>

HOW TO APPLY -

All applications must be submitted online through the Australian Volunteers Program website. If you have not already done so, you will need to register on our website prior to applying. For more information about how to apply, please visit:

<https://www.australianvolunteers.com/volunteering/how-it-works>

We actively support and encourage people of all backgrounds and abilities to volunteer internationally and aim to make the program as accessible and inclusive as possible. The program has a dedicated Indigenous Programs Coordinator to support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander volunteers, who can be contacted at indigenouspathways@australianvolunteers.com. Access and inclusion plans are available for volunteers with disabilities, to ensure their assignments and living and working arrangements are made more accessible.

Personal circumstances

Due to security, cultural, legal or visa restrictions associated with this location, we ask that applicants disclose the following:

- If they want their same-sex partner to accompany them on assignment.
- If they want their partner, to whom they are not legally married, to accompany them on assignment.
- If they want their child(ren) to accompany them on assignment.
- If they have a criminal conviction where a criminal conviction may be relevant to the inherent requirements of the assignment.