



JOB DESCRIPTION

Position: MIYCN Nutrition Technical Advisor
Alive & Thrive (A&T) Project

Supervisor: Project Director

Salary: Within the Band salary range and commensurate with education & experience.

Project Summary: Alive & Thrive (A&T) is an initiative to save lives, prevent illness, and ensure healthy growth and development. Good nutrition in the first 1,000 days, from conception to two years of age, is critical to enable all children to lead healthier and more productive lives. Alive & Thrive is scaling up improved infant and young child feeding and maternal nutrition through large-scale programs in several countries in Asia and Africa and through strategic technical assistance and the dissemination of innovations, tools, and lessons worldwide. Alive & Thrive is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the governments of Canada and Ireland.

POSITION SUMMARY:

The A&T Burkina Faso MIYCN/Nutrition Technical Advisor will provide technical leadership and input in partnership and material and tool design, and build national and regional capacity to support the implementation of MIYCN interventions regional and district levels in Burkina Faso. A&T will be working within the context of the National Program to build capacity for maternal nutrition, infant and young child feeding and will assess current technical, scientific, managerial and operational efficiencies at the program, regional levels as appropriate. S/he will provide guidance to ensure that program implementation adheres to appropriate technical standards and guidelines and that programs are technically sound. Under the guidance of the Project Director this position will work closely with technical secretary of Food and Nutrition, Directorate Nutrition, Directorate of Family Health, Directorate of Health Promotion and Education, technical working groups, and multiple sector representatives to ensure that the development stakeholders are fully aware of the importance of MIYCN for Burkina Faso's nutrition and Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health goals, and that stakeholders from multiple sectors can specify the key policies and strategies for the promotion of breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices, and their roles and responsibilities in doing so.

This position will also play a critical role in capacity building (particularly around strengthening MIYCN supervision, counseling and community mobilization skills), and mapping and assessment of regional, district and community level staff who work in nutrition and child health. S/he will target capacity gaps and build a capacity development plan using multiple approaches. Under the guidance of the Project Director, s/he will manage and oversee the design and delivery of capacity building approaches. In addition, the position will support the development of documents for dissemination including information for various external audiences, project briefings and updates.



The Technical Advisor will share new knowledge/evidence and best practices through collaboration with relevant departments and personnel. S/he may be required to coordinate and work with a diverse group of organizations, such as; the Ministry of Health district health staff, A&T Burkina Faso office technical staff, subcontractors, partners, government and NGO stakeholders, and international donors involved in MIYCN and nutrition activities in Burkina Faso.

ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS:

General roles/responsibilities:

- Become familiar with Alive & Thrive’s four component approach
- Support initiatives to advocate for the protection of breastfeeding and implementation at scale of MIYCN interventions, including resource mobilization, strategy and tool development, and capacity building
- Conduct capacity building mapping and assessment of the national and regional partners who work in nutrition and child health.
- With the support of the Project Director and other Technical Advisors, develop detailed partnership and capacity building strategy and plans using multiple approaches.
- In collaboration with UN system, support all technical assistance and capacity development for the A&T MIYCN intervention plan at national level and across regions and districts in Burkina Faso. This includes technical support to the Directorate of Nutrition; the Directorate of Family Health, the Directorate of Health Promotion and Education; national and regional technical working groups; and other NGO partners;
- With the support of the Project Director and other Technical Advisors, develop and maintain partnership, including MoU and joint work planning with key partners to strengthen the effective integration of high quality MIYCN interventions at scale.
- With the support of the Project Director, oversee the design and the development of capacity building tools. Support the BFMOH, partners and sub-grantees to establish a core group of trainers for MIYCN/nutrition.
- Liaise with BFMOH, A&T partners, sub grantees and ensure the quality of MIYCN/nutrition capacity building activities are technically sound, aligned with proposed implementation plan and adhere to standard guidelines;
- Support the harmonization of MIYCN training, counseling and advocacy tools, as well as the development of new tools with accurate nutrition messages and doable actions;
- Oversee and support the implementation research around complementary feeding and maternal nutrition. For the implementation research assure the availability of training and counseling materials prior to any training;
- Work with the A&T Burkina Faso Sr. M&E Specialist to maintain a database on strengthening data use and integration of MIYCN indicators in the number of people trained across partners as well as detailed and up to date list of training materials and BCC tools used at different levels;
- Support community assessments and strengthen capacity of various cadres of health, agriculture, and other frontline workers to improve the quality of interpersonal communication and community mobilization activities for infant and young child feeding.
- Conduct regular follow up field visits to provide support to partner organizations and sub grantees, and document field visits through submission of complete, accurate and timely feedback reports;
- Support initiatives which provide advocacy, guideline, and materials development with medical, nursing, and health education institutions, including pre-service curricula development



Other roles/responsibilities:

- Provide technical input to support regions and districts annual work plan development, resource allocation and implementation related to MIYCN in the context of the national strategies and scale up plans, and to track the progress of these activities and budget expenses
- Conduct advocacy at regional levels to ensure that development stakeholders are fully aware of the importance of MIYCN for Burkina Faso's public health and development goals
- Support A&T Burkina Faso in preparing project documents, technical briefs, program updates, lessons learned, and case studies/stories
- Work closely with A&T Burkina Faso senior leadership to leverage other international donor resources to complement and extend project reach
- Present program results (experience, data) to GOBF and NGO stakeholders and program representatives, and other professional colleagues and organizations
- Other duties as assigned

Applied Knowledge & Skills:

Ensures appropriate and timely technical support to field programs. Ensures the quality of implemented technical activities and systems at all levels. Conducts routine coordination with employees and consultants, on-site and in the field. Strong knowledge and skills in specific technical area/function and general understanding of concepts and principles of related technical areas/functions. Solid knowledge of standards for the technical area/field, operational processes and procedures, work and task flow. Ability to manage own work to job and performance standards.

Problem Solving & Impact:

Demonstrates anticipation skills and ability to assess needs within agreed upon duties and considers course of action best to meet those needs. Effectively applies knowledge of technical area to solve range of problems. Demonstrates anticipation skills and ability to develop solutions to problems that cannot be solved using existing methods or approaches. Faulty decisions/ recommendations /failures to complete assignments will normally result in serious delays to assigned programs resulting in considerable expenditure of additional time, resources and funds. Decisions and actions impact primarily work flow, project processes and timeframes. Problems encountered are generally varied, requiring review of practices and precedents to resolve. Problem solving involves evaluating and resolving discrepancies with data, analyses, processes, etc. within prescribed guidelines. Policies or guidelines generally exist for most problems; others must be referred to supervisor or more senior professional.

Supervision Given/Received:

Coordinates own work flow and sets individual priorities. Works under general guidelines for completion and accuracy as determined by the supervisor. Accomplishes results through lower level staff managers or through experienced staff who exercise independence in their assignments.

Education:



Master's Degree or its International Equivalent in Knowledge/Information Services, Communications, Education, Human Nutrition, Health, Behavioral, Life/Social Sciences International Development, Human Development or Related Field.

Experience:

Typically requires 5-8 years of relevant experience in providing MIYCN technical assistances to the BF MoH and other partners at national level and implementation at regional, district and frontline levels, including community. Has ability to manage projects based on technical assistance en partnership, set realistic priorities, and plan for the successful implementation of activities. Proficient writing and verbal communication skills. Relevant computer software skills (including, at a minimum, the standard applications in MS Office). Must be able to read, write and speak fluent French and English. Has ability to read and exploit technical reports and data. Experience in maternal and young child nutrition required.

Typical Physical Demands:

Typical office environment. Ability to sit and stand for extended periods of time. Requires regular contacts with governmental and nongovernmental partners. Ability to lift 5-50 lbs.

Technology to be Used:

Personal Computer, Microsoft Office (i.e. Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.), e-mail, telephone, printer, calculator, copier, cell phones, PDAs and other hand-held devices.

Travel Requirements:

10% - 30%

** Or an equivalent combination of relevant education and/or experience sufficient to successfully perform the key responsibilities of the job.

This job description summarizes the main duties of the job. It neither prescribes nor restricts the exact tasks that may be assigned to carry out these duties. This document should not be construed in any way to represent a contract of employment. Management reserves the right to review and revise this document at any time.

Disclaimer: Note the Compensation Band that appears on the job description is associated with those jobs assigned to the US Salary Structure and employees that are paid from US payroll. The Compensation Band for all national local employees aligns to the Compensation Structure based on the Country location of the job.

The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed by people assigned to this job. They are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, skills, efforts, or working conditions associated with a job.



REQUIRED SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS:

Education:

- Masters in one of the following or related fields: Human Nutrition; Public Health with emphasis on nutrition; Behavior Change Communications, Behavioral Science (emphasis on health and nutrition preferred).

Experience:

- At least 10 years of relevant experience in Burkina Faso providing program and technical support and input for large scale nutrition-specific or related public health projects. Work experience with international projects and donors also preferred.
- Strong understanding of infant and young child feeding and nutrition. Additional knowledge of maternal and adolescent nutrition preferred.
- Extensive public health/nutrition field experience in designing, implementing, monitoring and reporting on capacity building in advocacy, service delivery, interpersonal communication, community mobilization
- Familiarity with nutrition indicators, especially MIYCN data collection, analysis, strategic data use, and report-outs

Skills:

- Ability to work independently, assess priorities, and manage a variety of activities while communicating, connecting, and collaborating with HQ and field office staff, subcontractors, and a broad coalition of government, NGO, and international project partners
- Training and facilitation skills in formal and community settings
- Strong interpersonal, supervisory, and organizational skills
- Excellent problem-solving skills
- Excellent writing, editorial, and communication skills, including strong presentation skills
- Fluency in English and French required. At least one of local most spoken languages required Moré and/or Dioula.

Additional Information:

Equipment to be used: Computers, fax machine, telephones, calculators, and/or similar devices

Typical physical demands: Works in a typical office setting

Working conditions including Travel and Overtime: Travel in Burkina Faso 30% time.

For a complete job description, please visit <https://www.aliveandthrive.org/career-opportunities/> . The printed copies of job description are available at A&T Burkina Faso office; please call 251-11-466-4919/4932 if you like to collect a copy.

To apply, please email cover letter and resume to: aliveandthriveburkinafaso@gmail.com