



## Job Description

**POSITION:** Senior Technical Advisor – Maternal, Infant & Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN)

**LOCATION:** Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire

**SUPERVISOR:** Regional Director

### BACKGROUND

FHI 360 is a nonprofit human development organization dedicated to improving lives in lasting ways by advancing integrated, locally driven solutions. Our staff includes experts in health, education, nutrition, environment, economic development, civil society, gender, youth, research and technology — creating a unique mix of capabilities to address today's interrelated development challenges. FHI 360 serves more than 70 countries and all U.S. states and territories.

Alive & Thrive is an initiative to save lives, prevent illness, and ensure healthy growth and development. Good nutrition in the first 1000 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 maternal, infant and young child nutrition (MIYCN) through large scale programs in several countries in Asia and Africa and through strategic technical support 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.

Starting in 2018, A&T is expanding its support to francophone ECOWAS countries in West Africa, through regional collaboration with WHO, UNICEF, INTRAH Health, UNFPA, the World Bank and IFPRI, and will provide in-country support to Cote d’Ivoire to contribute to improve maternal, infant and child nutrition through:

- 1) Strategic technical assistance and advocacy to governments and key stakeholders, to accelerate delivery and scale up of MIYCN interventions through Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (RMNCH) and Nutrition policies and programs;
- 2) Implementation research, analyses and studies to generate the evidence required to drive policy and program change at scale;
- 3) Technical support to strengthen capacity of national nutrition and health institutions in Cote d’Ivoire, through regional RMNCH and MIYCN partnerships

### POSITION SUMMARY

The Senior Technical Advisor will provide technical leadership, and capacity building to support scale-up of maternal nutrition and young child nutrition interventions in Cote d’Ivoire A&T will be working within the context of the Cote d’Ivoire new Multi-Sectoral National Plan and various MOH strategies and programs to build capacity for maternal nutrition, infant and young child feeding. 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 Regional RMNCH Advisor this position will work closely with national nutrition and RMNCH directorates, technical working groups, and multiple sector representatives to ensure that the development stakeholders are fully aware of the importance of MIYCN and 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 monitoring and enforcement of the BMS code, strengthening health systems for nutrition at national and sub-national levels) and strategic use of data in the use of data and research findings for decision-making at the global and national level about policies and programs to improve the nutritional status of infants and young children. The Technical Advisor will manage and oversee the design and delivery of capacity building approaches around social and behavior change. 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 Cote d'Ivoire technical staff, subcontractors, partners, government and NGO stakeholders, and international donors involved in MIYCN and nutrition activities in Cote d'Ivoire.

## ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS

- Identify target audiences, strategic partnership and stakeholder engagement strategies, and potential advocacy issues and messages through stakeholder analysis and mapping.
- Build good working relationships with STP and a range of stakeholders and partners to identify evidence and policy gaps, to inform advocacy and implementation research strategies
- Conduct capacity building mapping and assessment of the national and regional partners who work in nutrition and child health.
- Support initiatives to advocate for the protection of breastfeeding, monitoring and enforcement of the *International Code of the Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes* in partnership with the Secretariat Technique Permanent (STP)
- Support the MOH in Cote D'Ivoire with strengthening health systems that promote and support breastfeeding including resource mobilization, strategy and tool development, and capacity building
- In collaboration with UN system, support all technical assistance and capacity development for MIYCN intervention plan at national level and across regions and districts in Cote d'Ivoire
- In collaboration with the Regional Advocacy Advisor oversee the development of key advocacy and strategic communications materials and products (technical and policy briefs, powerpoints, talking points, social media feeds, etc)
- Adapt and tailor regional tools and templates that can be used by partners to advance MIYCN advocacy issues, and provide technical assistance on their use
- Develop realistic, actionable country-specific advocacy workplans; provide technical assistance to STP and MoH for specific activities as needed; and monitor and oversee implementation
- Assist in synthesizing, packaging and disseminating MIYCN evidence in support of policy advocacy objectives for a variety of target audiences, and providing technical assistance or guidance on uptake as needed
- Contribute to the documentation, dissemination and reporting of A&T activities, experiences and results for partner and donor updates, publications, social media and relevant communication channels



- Assist MoH/UNICEF in setting up, documenting and scaling up a Social Franchise Model in urban and peri-urban areas of Abidjan
- Support measurement, learning and evaluation activities, including monitoring of progress in the implementation of work plans, and capturing key lessons learned during A&T implementation
- Represent A&T in relevant government and partner meetings, workshops, working groups and networks (e.g. Nutrition working groups, WB-GFF technical group etc.)
- Provide strategic technical assistance, undertake evidence-based advocacy and facilitate technical partnerships and networking with key stakeholders in government, UN agencies - UNICEF, WHO, development partners like World Bank, national and international organizations / professional associations and academia
- Share best practices and new knowledge/evidence through collaboration with stakeholders
- Provide leadership to and oversight of the application of A&T's approaches, messages, materials, and tools to capacity building under the context of the National Nutrition Program and the Breastfeeding Strategic Plan
- Develop annual work plans and project reports, and ensure timely reporting and responses for information to Regional Office and HQ
- Facilitate the planning, delivery and uptake of technical and strategic inputs provided by A&T consultants and staff.
- Other duties as assigned

#### **QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Master's Degree or its international equivalent - Public Health, Human Nutrition, International Development, Law/Policy, Human Development or Related Field.
- At least 10+ years of relevant experience required, with at least five years' leading/managing portfolios with significant policy, advocacy and strategic communications components
- Demonstrated experience in facilitating evidence-informed policy advocacy, stakeholder engagement, and research uptake
- Demonstrated experience in working at the high policy level issues with the government sector
- Practical experience in working with government during development of national level strategies and guidelines of maternal and child health & nutrition.
- Extensive knowledge of maternal infant and young child nutrition including global best practices, knowledge and experience working on the BMS code preferred
- Long-term experience in programs to improve evidence-based household behaviors and social norms, such as for nutrition, newborn care, maternal health, child survival, immunization, family planning, other
- Prior work experience in an international organization, UN agencies/donors, government agency, or private company
- Proficient in reading, writing, and speaking French and English.

#### **APPLIED KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS:**

- Excellent communication organizational and analytical skills.
- Excellent and demonstrated public relations, interpersonal relations, public speaking, and diplomacy skills required.



- Excellent and demonstrated program/ project management skills
- Ability to influence and collaborate with others
- Ability to take initiative and focus on results.
- Ability to learn new skills and systems, with an entrepreneurial work ethic and gain respect among staff and stakeholders.
- Ability to problem solve and implements corrective action as needed.

For a complete job description, please visit <https://www.aliveandthrive.org/career-opportunities/>

To apply, please email cover letter and resume to: [aliveandthrivecowas@gmail.com](mailto:aliveandthrivecowas@gmail.com)