

Job Description

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

LOCATION: Dakar, Senegal or Remote

SUPERVISOR: Regional Technical 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 several priority countries including Senegal, Burkina Faso, and Côte d'Ivoire. By the end of 2021, A&T's ECOWAS initiative expects to contribute to the achievement of:

1. Adoption of policies supportive of MIYCN through regional platforms in West Africa
2. Improved implementation of MIYCN interventions in ECOWAS countries through partnerships and capacity development
3. Strategic use of data to strengthen MIYCN policies and interventions in ECOWAS countries

POSITION SUMMARY

The Senior Technical Advisor will provide technical and capacity building support in the scale-up of maternal nutrition and young child nutrition interventions in the Francophone ECOWAS regions, by working with governments and ministries of health to strengthen program policies and platforms, improve capacity of RMNCH and nutrition actors, and support the use of data at regional, national, and sub-national levels. Under the guidance of the ECOWAS technical director and the Burkina Faso Project Director this position will work closely with national nutrition and RMNCH directorates, technical working groups to ensure that MIYCN policies and strategies adhere to global best practices. The position will involve significant capacity building across a range of cross-cutting areas, including social and behavior change (SBC), systems strengthening, advocacy including monitoring and enforcement of the BMS code, and use of data. This position will support the development of documents for dissemination including information for various external audiences, project briefings and updates.

ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS

- Support the ECOWAS advocacy agenda on regional and country-specific levels, through identifying target audiences, strategic partnerships and stakeholder engagement strategies, and potential advocacy issues and messages through stakeholder analysis and mapping.
- Support initiatives to advocate for the protection of breastfeeding, monitoring and enforcement of the *International Code of the Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes* at regional and country levels
- Play a key role in planning and execution regional technical consultations and annual capacity building workshops, and other advocacy/systems strengthening events as needed
- In collaboration with the Technical Director and country leads, oversee the development of key advocacy and strategic communications materials and products (technical and policy briefs, powerpoints, talking points, social media feeds, etc.)
- Support country leads (e.g. Côte d'Ivoire MIYCN advisor and Senegal RMNCH advisor, as well as Burkina Faso technical team) in the adaptations of tools, templates and frameworks that can advance agendas for advocacy and use of data at the country level.
- Work with country leads and regional team to synthesize, package and disseminate MIYCN evidence in support of policy advocacy objectives for a variety of target audiences, and providing technical assistance or guidance on uptake as needed
- Support the MOHs in focus countries to strengthen health systems for MIYCN, including resource mobilization, strategy and tool development, and capacity building
- 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
- Along with regional staff and country leads, help to develop annual work plans and project reports, and ensure timely reporting and responses for information to Regional Office and HQ
- Conduct frequent country visits to provide in-personal support for A&T staff and government counterparts
- Other duties as assigned

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Master's Degree or its international equivalent - Public Health, Human Nutrition, or Related Field, PhD or MD preferred
- At least 10+ years of relevant experience in nutrition programs required
- Extensive knowledge of MIYCN required, good understanding of the RMNCH continuum of care preferred
- Demonstrated experience working with governments and ministries of health in francophone West Africa
- Experience on key advocacy issues such as BMS Code preferred
- 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:

- Ability to influence and collaborate with others and communicate effectively
- Ability to take initiative and focus on results.
- Detail oriented but capable of "big-picture" strategic thinking

- High degree of personal organization and time management skills to allow for effective support of multiple activities across multiple countries

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