

**Terms of Reference**  
**Senior Nutrition Adviser post based in Embassy of Ireland, Nairobi, Addis Ababa or other partner country in sub-Saharan Africa**

A salary up to 70,000 euros per annum will be considered depending on the candidate's level of experience. For the full job description, eligibility criteria and terms and conditions please see the attached document. For further details of the role, guidance on applications and terms and conditions, please see the attached document. To apply, please send your CV and Cover Letter to [resilience@dfat.ie](mailto:resilience@dfat.ie) with Senior Nutrition Adviser in the Subject Line

**Background**

Tackling global hunger is a key objective of Ireland's overseas development programme. Reduced Hunger, along with Stronger Resilience, is one of three high level goals of Ireland's new *One World, One Future* development policy. Global hunger is one of seven priority areas for action in the Framework for Action to implement the policy.

A resilience policy team has been established in Irish Aid headquarters to support Ireland's engagement on nutrition, climate change, environmental sustainability and disaster risk reduction. The team is responsible for formulating policy and support for building resilience across the programme.

In addition to building resilience and improving health outcomes, Ireland sees nutrition as key to productivity and to advancing progress on gender equality, essential service provision and Irish Aid's Inclusive Economic Growth agendas.

Ireland focuses on reduction of stunting and wasting in high burden countries. Policy priorities for 2016-2018 include addressing gender equality, linking emergency and development approaches and communities and improving accountability on nutrition investments and results to benefit the poorest.

Ireland has committed to doubling its investment in nutrition by 2020. This will necessitate increased and effective nutrition specific investments as well as a reorientation of many Irish Aid programmes to leverage increased impact on nutrition outcomes. Investments in agriculture, social protection, education, livelihoods and health in both development and emergency contexts have been identified as having high potential for nutrition impact.

Ireland was at the forefront of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, launched in 2010 to support national leaders in high burden countries to prioritise efforts to address malnutrition. Ireland complements high level political commitment with efforts to foster quality partnerships, implement programmes, measure performance, mobilise finances and assess impact.

A number of Irish Aid business units at headquarters, particularly Humanitarian Unit, Civil Society and Development Education Unit, and Multilateral Unit, manage a diverse and significant portfolio of hunger relevant programmes and partnerships. In addition Irish Aid invests in hunger-relevant policy and programming in Ireland's key partner countries (Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia) and in

other countries of particular interest to Irish Aid (Cambodia, Liberia, Laos, Myanmar, Timor Leste, Zimbabwe).

It is increasingly important for colleagues across Irish Aid to have access to updated analysis on progress and trends within our partner countries and a sense of common challenges and opportunities.

High calibre technical and policy expertise is being sought to support our engagement in global and partner countries, within policy fora, technical working groups, and across various funding partnerships.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade thus seeks a senior nutrition adviser, based in Kenya, Addis Ababa or other partner country in sub-Saharan Africa to join the Irish Aid resilience policy team. The post will support country level policy and programming and draw lessons from Ireland's engagements at country level to inform global and regional processes.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the role of the senior nutrition adviser would be:

- (i) Technical design and quality assurance of nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive programming in Irish Aid;
- (ii) Identify and draw lessons from engagement in nutrition across Ireland's partner countries and HQ business units to feed into global processes and country level strategies.

The senior nutrition adviser will assist in developing more consistent approaches to programming and policy engagement across these partnerships and will develop, document and communicate systematic lesson learning from Irish Aid engagement at local, national and global levels. Country offices require internal capacity development for programme design and policy engagement.

The senior nutrition adviser is a new post. Therefore, the role and ways of working are likely to evolve over time.

Location: Preference for Nairobi or Addis Ababa, with consideration for Embassies in other Irish Aid key partner countries.

Travel: Up to 40% of time, focussing on at least three countries per year and ad hoc monitoring of partnerships on request.

Terms: A three year locally engaged contract with a remuneration package commensurate with experience and local market rates for senior programme advisor posts in bilateral agencies. A salary up to 70,000 euros per annum will be considered depending on experience.

Management: The adviser will be an integral member of an Embassy team in addition to being a full member of Irish Aid's Resilience policy team in Irish Aid HQ.

Reporting lines and performance management will be to the nutrition policy lead. Work plans and policy positions will be cleared through the resilience policy team lead. Day to day reporting will be to a nominated official in the Embassy and good communication will be maintained with the Head of Mission and Head of Development.

## **Description of the Post**

### **Technical design and quality assurance of nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive programming:**

- i. Provide direction and strategic guidance to colleagues in Irish Aid partner countries at key points in the country strategy cycle to position nutrition firmly in relevant programmes;
- ii. Consider internal policy coherence, in particularly with climate change, gender, essential services and inclusive economic growth;
- iii. Provide additional technical expertise for colleagues in Missions and HQ for monitoring of results, conducting evaluations, and developing country strategies, in particular to align with Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) country plans. Identify the need for additional external expertise where required;
- iv. For technical proposals related to nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive programmes, facilitate work on technical guidance on acceptable quality standards that will ensure the quality of the background analysis, intervention logic, monitoring and reporting;
- v. Support the use of technical guidance by Irish Aid staff and partners, providing quality assurance on the appraisal of nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive programme proposals;
- vi. Maintain an overview of key Irish Aid partner organizations and nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive programmes supported by Irish Aid to assess quality of implementation and alignment with SUN country national nutrition plans. Collate results and identify examples of good and poor practice to feed back to Embassies, geographical desks and relevant colleagues in headquarters;
- vii. In consultation with Embassies and geographical desks, and drawing on available capacity assessments, facilitate or deliver appropriate training and support to staff with a view to building up capacity across the organization on nutrition programming.

### **Draw lessons from engagement in nutrition across Ireland's partner countries to feed into global processes and country and HQ level strategies:**

- i. With the Nutrition Lead at HQ engage with the donor network of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement and capability groups (communities of practice) to feed in country level experience of SUN. Support colleagues in nutrition coordination roles at country level. Provide briefing and input for senior level engagement by Ireland in SUN;
- ii. Provide Irish Aid with analyses of nutrition indicators and risk factors, impact pathways, underlying issues and key drivers of under-nutrition in countries of particular interest to Irish Aid. This will include a critical analysis cross-country trends, of existing evidence on what is working and implications for programming;

- iii. Engage with nutrition related research funded by Irish Aid to guide the research agenda and ensure the quality of findings. Assess policy and programming implications of research findings and communicate key messages to Irish Aid and partners. Identify key elements of research and learning that should be communicated at global and regional level;
- iv. Identify knowledge gaps and make appropriate recommendations.

**Contribute to the work of the Department in the Region:**

- i. Provide input on request to expert meetings and technical fora related to nutrition guidance, protocols, research, monitoring frameworks and global norms;
- ii. Contribute to the day to day work of the Embassy; engage in representation and coordination as requested by the Head of Mission.

**Recruitment Selection Criteria**

- Postgraduate or professional qualification in public health and/or nutrition;
- Fluent English. Excellent communication skills with clear written and oral presentation;
- At least eight years' experience in nutrition, public health, social protection, food security, rural livelihoods or a related field;
- Familiarity and experience implementing and overseeing direct and indirect nutrition programmes in developing countries in both development and humanitarian contexts;
- Direct programming or and policy development experience on the integration of nutrition into at least one of the following: social protection, education, agriculture, public health, water and sanitation;
- Experience in assessing funding proposals on service delivery, research or coordination;
- Experience in critical analysis of country and regional data from national surveys and other sources, extracting trends, observations and policy implications for nutrition policies and investments to benefit the poorest and build resilience;
- Conversant with recent research and publications on the global burden, causes and consequences of under-nutrition and over-nutrition;
- Self motivated with an ability to work independently and as part of a team;
- Ability to manage challenging tasks and deliver on time and to a high standard;
- Ability to plan and prioritise work in terms of importance, timescales and other resource constraints, re-prioritising in light of changing circumstances.

Experience in the following areas would be an advantage:

- Experience in providing advisory services to bilateral donor agencies;
- Experience in conducting capacity assessments and designing and delivering on-the-job and tailored training;
- Gender analysis and women's empowerment;
- Primary healthcare delivery and health systems;
- Advocacy strategies, behaviour change and communication for nutrition;
- Nutrition financing and investment.

**DCD Humanitarian Unit, January 2016**