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Regional Nutrition Coordinator

The MDG Centre was established in July 2004 by The Earth Institute at Columbia University and the UN Millennium Project with a broad purpose of assisting countries to develop operational strategies for achieving the MDGs, and to support their implementation at both local and national levels.

In early 2006, The MDG Centre reorganized to establish two sub -regional centres covering East and Southern Africa (based in Nairobi) and West and Central Africa (based in Bamako).

The West Africa MDG Centre focuses on three complementary scales:

- (i) the national level, through support provided to processes related to Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) based national strategies planning and implementation;
- (ii) the sub national level to help local governments to develop and implement MDG based local development plans and strategies and
- (iii) the local level, to assist and empower pilot African villagers and cities inhabitants lift themselves out of their poverty trap and achieve all MDGs through the Millennium Villages Project (MVP) and the Millennium Cities Initiative (MCI).

The initial countries of concentration of the MDG Centre –West and Central Africa are Mali, Senegal, Ghana, Liberia and Nigeria with a possibility of expansion to other West African countries. For more information visit:

www.earthinstitute.columbia.edu/tropag/policy/mdgcentres.php

Regional Nutrition Coordinator

The Earth Institute seeks to reinforce the capacity of the West Africa MDG Centre, based in Bamako Mali, with a Regional Nutrition Coordinator to support the national MDG processes, the Millennium Villages, Districts and Cities. The initial countries of concentration of the West Africa MDG Centre are Senegal, Mali, Nigeria, Ghana and Liberia with a possibility of expansion to other African countries. The overall goal of the position is to assist the West African countries, local governments Millennium Villages, and Cities in achieving the nutrition related MDGs and related policy work for the Centre.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Provide necessary support and supervision to all questionnaire development and surveys , and biological measurements related to food consumption and nutrition status in the various Millennium villages of West Africa as well as their analyses, interpretation and publication;
- Promote the production and utilization of lesser known nutritionally adequate traditional crops and foods;
- Help improve the nutritional levels of foods found in the various villages and promote traditional foods and fortification to alleviate malnutrition and poverty ;
- Facilitate the revision and incorporation of food and nutrition education in the pre -service and in-service training curricula of extension, health and education staffs ;
- Design food and nutrition systems linking schools to the other MDG components particularly agriculture and health ;

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- Help in quality food processing, conservation, consumption and nutritious product development at community and family level;
- Help connect the community and family food products to private sector and other opportunities at national, regional and international levels in terms of agro processing and commercialization;
- Document and disseminate the best practices from within the MVP and from other organizations to promote quality and learning;
- Document and disseminate information generated on nutrition issues, research and policy;
- Develop project proposals related to nutrition;
- Support country project staff in project design and implementation ensuring technical support is provided;
- Assess training needs and help train the trainers in terms of quality food and nutritious diets;
- Provide effective monitoring and evaluation tools of MVP interventions to measure impact;
- Communicate evidence-based interventions that have been proven effective in other countries as recommendations for integration into country policies;
- Participate in the coordination of efforts between agriculture, health and nutrition at the community and local government level;
- Identify key strategic priorities to address malnutrition and share with governments;
- Work with Ministries of Health on nutrition policy recommendations and Ministry of Education on school meals policy and nutrition education;
- Work with the UN Country Teams, Government structures in charge of MDG based strategies in WCA to assist national and local governments in:
 - preparing MDG based nutrition national and local plans and strategies in the framework of the ongoing MDG based poverty reduction strategies planning and implementation processes
 - adapting tools for needs assessments and policy analysis related to food and nutrition
- Carry out any other relevant duties that may be assigned by the Director of the MDG Centre for West Africa

Qualifications:

- Postgraduate degree in Nutrition preferably at Ph.D. level;
- A minimum of 5 years post-qualification experience in the field of international nutrition, agriculture, health care systems in Africa, and some knowledge of integrating agriculture and nutrition;
- Ability and willingness to maximize the use of nutritious home grown foods to attain nutritional security;
- Strong skills in building and managing teams, listening, networking, facilitation/coaching, negotiation, problem solving, leadership;
- Excellent quantitative skills and demonstrated capacity to perform outstanding original research, including statistical analysis and epidemiological approaches;

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- Demonstrated ability to handle working relationships with senior officials, academics and technical experts and ability to excel in a multi-cultural team environment;
- Demonstrated record of excellence in developing and writing grant proposals and policy pieces; and
- Excellent oral and written communication in English and French .