

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title	Research Advisor
Grade	PO1
Department	Operations
Reports to	Deputy Director of No Wasted Lives
Job Location	London (up to 20% travel)
Duration	Maternity Cover (8 months)
Working Hours	37.5 hours per week
Salary Band	£34,832 - £37,249

JOB PURPOSE

Acute malnutrition affects an estimated 49.5 million children around the world, and puts children at an increased risk of death and long-term failure to thrive. Recognising the scale of the challenge and the opportunity for change, a coalition of UNICEF, DFID, ECHO, CIFF and Action Against Hunger joined forces in 2016 to launch the No Wasted Lives Coalition. The aim of this initiative is to accelerate collective global action towards the global targets set by the Sustainable Development Goals and the World Health Assembly and to realise a world where no child suffers or dies from wasting. The Coalition is supported by a global Secretariat Team who drive the day-to-day activities of the initiative. A portion of this team are hosted at Action Against Hunger UK with additional team members in the US.

A key component of this initiative is to invest in and accelerate the roll-out of the best approaches to prevent and treat acute malnutrition, and to help ensure new ideas get put into practice quickly at the global, regional and national levels. The Secretariat supports this in two ways. First through direct support to research and technical teams and through work with our technical advisory group to drive acceleration of high impact areas of evidence generation and to fill critical gaps in the knowledge base that are needed to improve programmes and policies. The second is through the broader advocacy efforts and communications about the work of No Wasted Lives and our partners and the latest evidence-based approaches to tackle acute malnutrition at scale.

The Research Officer will provide technical and research support, working with the No Wasted Lives team hosted by Action Against Hunger UK. Work will include producing technical and non-technical documents to support dissemination and uptake activities, supporting on-going work on cost-effectiveness of nutrition interventions as well as ensuring high quality implementation of research projects. Overall this will ensure that our research and technical work is effectively linked into the broader No Wasted Lives work and used to support the roll-out of cost-effective programming for the prevention and treatment of severe acute malnutrition.



KEY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Broader technical support to No Wasted Lives [80%]: work with the No Wasted Lives team, and specifically the Deputy Director, to support technical, research, and research uptake activities:

- Actively work with key No Wasted Lives and research partners to coordinate ongoing efforts, share latest learnings, and produce joint outputs across portfolios of evidence through our established coordination mechanisms (regular calls/meetings, development of Communities of Practice on the State of Acute Malnutrition, etc)
- Coordination and management of key inputs and documents to support the work of the Council of Research & Technical Advice on Acute Malnutrition (CORTASAM) and No Wasted Lives Executive Team and Secretariat. This will include the production of landscape analyses and progress assessments in priority areas, literature reviews, analyses of existing data, summary notes for both technical and non-technical audiences, etc to support the Research Agenda;
- Provide critical assessment of research study methods, quality, and findings to understand the available evidence and outstanding gaps;
- Support the translation of complex, technical findings and evidence for non-technical audiences under the broader advocacy and communications efforts of No Wasted Lives;
- Support the publication and dissemination of key technical at key internal and external events, including regional meetings and research conferences, and via publications;
- Coordinate with the No Wasted Lives Communications & Uptake Advisor in the UK and Executive Director in the US (and where relevant, communications teams of partner organisations) to identify and use appropriate dissemination platforms, channels and events for technical outputs.
- Review and input into proposals and protocols for new research to ensure technical quality and strategic linkages with the work of No Wasted Lives.

Specific support to the operational research studies managed by Action Against Hunger UK [20%]: working with the Deputy Director and Communications & Uptake Advisor to support the research teams and ensure pro-active planning for dissemination and uptake of findings.

- Provide technical support to ongoing research studies (including cost-effectiveness studies).
- Provide technical review of findings and presentation of conclusions and discussion as needed;
- Support research partners in the documentation of lessons learned, case studies and development of policy briefs to enhance the broader nutrition community's ability to undertake effective research and/or implement changes to policy and practice;
- Support dissemination of research at key internal and external events, including regional meetings.



DIMENSIONS

Minimal budget responsibilities

DECISIONS AND JUDGEMENT

The post holder will have authority on the following areas of work:

- Definition of priorities and timetables within the remit of agreed strategy and annual plan's objectives

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Skills & Experience Required

Essential

- Educated to Master Degree or higher in a field related to public health nutrition, epidemiology, health economics or any other related discipline;
- Demonstrable experience working on Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) or comparable public health interventions and services in African and/or South Asian contexts;
- Demonstrable experience in the implementation of research and/or operational research projects in developing countries, including the development of protocols and tools, data collection, management of local data collection teams, and analysis.
- High proficiency working with MS Office Suite. Knowledge of relevant software packages including statistical analysis & other specialized software (i.e. decision analysis/cost-effectiveness analysis software);
- Excellent communication skills essential;
- Experience being proactive and taking initiative to move complex projects forward;
- Excellent interpersonal skills, ability to work both independently and as a member of a team;
- High level of English written and oral communication essential;
- Ability to pro-actively create solutions or responses to problems in an autonomous way;
- Ability to work well in a team, with remote members and a range of skillsets;
- Some financial management;
- Willingness to travel overseas.



Desirable

- Working competency in French highly desirable;

Competencies required

- Self Confidence: Shows tenacity, persistence in seeking goals until appropriate answer/solution is received. Does not step down in face of adversity or seniority
- Initiative/Innovativeness: Generates new ideas and original solutions to problems. Remains effective even when information is unclear or little guidance is available.
- Decision Making: Ensures proper time is given for consultation around decision being considered. Communicates decisions and ensures they are incorporated into policies and procedures
- Influencing/persuasive: Uses a range of different approaches to build consensus and support
- Quality: Set standards in work and document lessons learned and apply them to future projects
- Communication: Considers the best method for the audience and ensures evaluations are a meaningful part of programming and play a key role in knowledge management
- Analytical and critical thinking: Is logical and systematic in approaching issues and considers alternatives and makes choices. Able to identify and clarify what is important and bring into a coherent framework

Agreed

Date

16 July 2019

Authorised

Reviewed on