

Solidaridad

VACANCY

Food & Nutrition Security Expert (FNSE)

Introduction

Solidaridad is a global civil society organization that provides solutions for sustainable production practices across different supply chains. Our mission is to enable farmers and workers to earn a living income, shape their future, and produce in balance with nature, by working throughout the whole supply chain to make sustainability the norm. Solidaridad is an international network organization consisting of seven Regional Expertise Centres in Asia, Southern Africa, East and Central Africa, West Africa, Latin America, North America, and Europe, each with specific expertise and focus.

Background

Food systems (i.e. security & nutrition) in West Africa face several challenges due to a combination of factors, such as population growth, poverty, climate change, inadequate infrastructure, and limited access to resources. However, various efforts and initiatives are being implemented to improve food security within the region.

Solidaridad West Africa is seeking to hire a Food and Nutrition Expert to contribute to the development and improvement of food systems in West Africa. However, the position would provide technical expert support to the network organization on request. We aim to address the challenges related to food security, nutrition, and sustainable agricultural practices in the region. The expert will play a key role in providing technical expertise and strategic guidance to enhance food systems and promote better nutrition outcomes

Job purpose

The Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) Expert will facilitate the conceptualization and its related strategies for a food and nutrition system approach(es) for REC West Africa with applicability and adaptability for the global network organization. The position, therefore, may be required to develop relevant food and nutrition system approaches for specified regions within the African network of Solidaridad guided by the organization's overarching Multi-annual Strategic Plans (MASP). The incumbent would work closely with the business development lead/teams in the region to plan, design, and guide the implementation of strategies for food and nutrition-related projects. The expert's extended technical assistance to other RECs outside West Africa shall be done within the officially allocated work time/period designated for this role, which is based in West Africa. The position would work with the heads of programmes, monitoring, and evaluation, and learning teams within the regions to design effective programme key performance indicators, and tracking templates, and participate in relevant output/outcome surveys on FNS. As the lead on food systems, the expert would prepare technical expert papers, policy guides, and strategic papers as needed for internal use/discussions to guide the respective work within the regions, and for international and national conferences and discourses.

Job Responsibilities

- Conduct comprehensive assessments of the current state of food systems in West Africa, including production, distribution, consumption patterns, value-addition, marketing, and nutrition-related issues. Identify key challenges and opportunities for focused intervention programmes, projects, policy papers, and improvement strategies.
- Develop strategic plans based on assessments of national, regional, and global trends/policies, and design evidence-based strategies and action plans to strengthen food systems in West Africa. Collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, farmers' organizations, and community groups
- Promote sustainable agricultural practices and support the adoption of sustainable agricultural methods that enhance productivity, preserve natural ecosystems, and promote general climate resilience. Provide technical guidance to project teams who work directly with the farmers to promote the use of innovative food systems techniques.

- Develop initiatives to improve the availability and accessibility of nutritious food, particularly for vulnerable populations in urban and rural contexts. This may include interventions such as promoting local food production, improving storage and transportation systems, storage and facilitating market linkages.
- Design and implement food/nutrition education programmes targeting different segments of the population, including women, children, and marginalized communities. Encourage behaviour change towards healthier dietary practices.
- Provide training and capacity-building support to various stakeholders and country offices of Solidaridad in West Africa and beyond as may be necessary. Strengthen stakeholder knowledge and skills in areas such as food production, post-harvest handling, food safety and nutrition
- Develop monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assess the impact of food systems and nutrition outcomes. Regularly collect data, analyze results, and provide recommendations for programme development

Qualifications: Education/Knowledge/Technical Skills and Experience

The following may be acquired through a combination of formal or self-education, prior experience or on-the-job training

Minimum Qualification required

Advanced degree in any of the following - development, nutrition, public health, food science, Agricultural science, or related field.

Experience

15 years minimum experience in food systems and must have demonstrable experience in the design and implementation of food/nutrition security and/or food systems at either national or international level. Must demonstrate a clear understanding of global and continental issues on food security/food systems.

Knowledge, Skills & Abilities

- Knowledge and experience in food/nutrition security and/or public health concepts/systems and policy.
- Experience in conducting needs assessments, surveys, and food systems programme design, implementation, and evaluations.
- Knowledge of relevant national and international guidelines and frameworks related to food systems, nutrition, and health.

- Ability to work collaboratively with diverse stakeholders, including donors, government institutions, local communities, and project staff.
- Strong project planning, design, and management skills with the ability to prioritize tasks, meet deadlines, and manage resources effectively
- Working knowledge of the French language would be an added advantage.

Specific Requirements

- Strong and confident leadership.
- Superior presentation and facilitation skills
- Excellent communication skills (oral and written communication in English and French)
- Able to travel extensively within the West African region
- Ability to build consensus and work effectively within an international cross-departmental team.

Duration, Location and Reporting:

The position is for an initial period of two (2) years, with the possibility of extension based on performance and funding. The position will be based at the **Solidaridad West Africa regional office, Accra-Ghana**, with periodic national and international travels. The position would report to the **Regional Director of Solidaridad West Africa**.

How to Apply

All applicants are to send their application letter and resume to **vacancies.gh@solidaridadnetwork.org** by the closing date, **Friday, May 17, 2024**.

Kindly indicate the position in the subject of your cover email. **Qualified female applicants are most encouraged to apply.** Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.