



**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

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**National Consultant: Nutrition Officer**

**Duration: 60 days over a 9 months period**

**Duty Station: Swaziland, Mbabane**

**Project Number: TCP/SWA/3604**

Overweight and obesity in children and adults and stunting in children predisposes individuals to non-communicable diseases (NCDs). In adulthood NCDs are becoming increasingly rampant which is causing a strain on the already overburdened system which is still attempting to overcome the HIV/AIDS scourge. T.B, Malaria, maternal death as well as malnutrition are found to be co-existing alongside the NCDs. Malnutrition as relates to underweight. Wasting and stunting are receiving attention and some resources whilst the other spectrum of malnutrition overweight and obesity have never been documented or perceived as public health problems until recently. There are strong linkages between under nutrition and NCDs because evidence is showing us that children who are malnourished from any variable, be it under or over nutrition are prone to NCDs such as diabetes mellitus; cardiovascular diseases, some cancers and other conditions.

The reduced diversity of food crops and livestock produced by rural households to adequately provide nutrition security and prevent nutrition related diseases is also a major concern. This translate to poor diets and ultimately unhealthy population especially in rural areas where the heal facilities are less supportive. Risk factors for the NCDs are notably unhealthy diet' lack of adequate physical activity; tobacco use, alcohol intake as well as overweight and obesity particularly in children who are tomorrow's future.

Both over nutrition (overweight and obesity) and under nutrition (stunting and micronutrient deficiencies) are high in Swaziland. Malnutrition increases the risk of Chronic, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) later in life. NCDs are significant in agriculture as they reduce farming labour due to the increase in chronic illness and poor energy to farm. With the majority of farmers over 55 years, poor nutrition add to the challenges of an aging rural farming community and result in perpetual low productivity and poor diversity of produce.

This project is spearheaded by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Ministries of Agriculture and Education, Non-Governmental Organizations and community based organizations.

Interested and qualified consultants are hereby invited to submit their CVs by close of business on the **6<sup>th</sup> October 2017** to [FAO-SZ@fao.org](mailto:FAO-SZ@fao.org)

**Specific activities and main responsibilities**

Working under the overall supervision of the FAO Representative for Swaziland (FAOR), the direct supervision of the Assistant FAOR and in close collaboration with the technical supervision of FAO's Nutrition and Food Systems Division and the Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa (SFS)'s Nutrition Officer, and in close consultation with the NPC, the Nutrition Officer will be expected to:

- Lead in the provision of Technical Assistance towards the implementation of the project in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders.
- Organize and assist planning for FBDG meetings/workshops and writing workshop report
- Collect local recipes and traditional foods in Swaziland
- Develop recipes aimed at improving health eating in the population

- In collaboration with the Project Coordinator and the International nutrition Consultant identify a working group which will guide all processes as advised by the International nutrition Consultants on roles and responsibilities of the project.
- Document all activities carried out within the scope of the project and document for reporting purposes at intervals during the project life.
- Support the development of the Swaziland Food Based Dietary Guidelines.
- Provide technical assistance to IEC Specialist in developing IEC materials.
- Work closely with the MOA Home Economics section and the Nutrition section in the MOH.
- Build capacity to stakeholders on healthy eating food preparation techniques.
- Support with other duties and activities within the TCP upon instruction of NPC and AFAOR

### **Minimum Qualifications & Experience**

- MSc Public Health with Nutrition;
- Minimum of 10 years of experience in nutrition and food security activities as well as Public Health pertaining to Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition interventions
- Extensive relevant experience in research activities including report writing.
- Effective communication skills, both oral and written and ability to communicate with a diversity of stakeholders at various levels

### **Selection Criteria:**

- i. Demonstrate proven experience and specialized knowledge and skills in all technical fields relevant to public health and nutrition
- ii. Have demonstrable recent experience of similar or related technical assignments in public health research Nutrition, Public Health, Food Science, Food Technology or related fields
- iii. Have demonstrable experience in extension and research
- iv. Have demonstrable ability in working with a team
- v. Ability to write technical documents clearly and concisely

### **The FAO Recruitment Office**

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