



## **Helen Keller International JOB ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **Health Systems Strengthening Advisor, NTDs** *(NYC or DC)*

Helen Keller International (HKI), co-founded in 1915 by our namesake, is committed to saving and improving the sight and lives of the world's vulnerable by combating the causes and consequences of blindness, poor health, and malnutrition. We envision a world where no one suffers from malnutrition, disease, preventable vision loss, or blindness. HKI is well known and respected in the global health and development sectors for our expertise in translating science and research into innovative, effective programs. Our programs empower millions of people to achieve their potential through the delivery of preventative and curative solutions in eye health, nutrition, and neglected tropical diseases. Headquartered in New York City, Helen Keller International works in 19 countries across Africa and Asia, as well as in the United States.

#### **Background**

Helen Keller International (HKI) has established itself as a leader in integrated Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) control efforts at the national, regional and global levels and has strong NTD expertise throughout the organization. The overarching approach guiding HKI's integrated NTD programs involves preventive chemotherapy at national scale, morbidity management efforts to address trichiasis, hydrocele and lymphedema, and promotion of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) efforts through behavior change communication and school health programming.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), through the Act to End Neglected Tropical Diseases | West program, supports 11 predominantly West African disease endemic countries to control and/or eliminate NTDs with proven, cost-effective public health interventions. Building on the successes that have been achieved through previous USAID investments to expand national, integrated NTD programs, Act to End NTDs | West will continue to support countries to achieve elimination of trachoma, lymphatic filariasis and onchocerciasis (where feasible), and to leverage the drug donations needed to control schistosomiasis (SCH) and soil-transmitted helminths (STH) through sustainable, country-owned programs.

HKI is seeking a Health Systems Strengthening Advisor (HSSA) to support this multi-country NTD program funded by USAID through FHI 360.

#### **Functional Relationships**

Reporting to the Associate Director, Integrated Control of NTDs, the HSSA will work with HKI country office, regional, and US-based staff as well as with colleagues at FHI 360 and the broader Act to End NTDs | West consortium (the consortium) to ensure congruity and integration of our technical approaches.

HKI has a matrixed reporting structure that respects both the line management and authority within country office and global management hierarchies; and the accountability and oversight duties of the many subject matter experts, such as those on this project team, that support our country offices. Regular communication and a spirit of team work among colleagues, both hierarchically and laterally are essential to make this structure thrive.

## Scope of the Position

The HSSA will provide expert guidance and support to the country offices to define and deliver on key objectives towards the goal of project sustainability for national NTD programs.

## Specific Responsibilities

### Technical Assistance

As one of the primary project experts on HSS, the Advisor will provide technical support to:

- Develop an NTD sustainability and implementation plan in collaboration with Ministries of Health (MOHs) and the consortium partners
- Enable the successful execution of the plan and coordinate specific country actions to be implemented in collaboration with HKI country offices, MOHs and program consortium partners.
- “Mainstream” NTD programs into the broader national health system such that:
  - NTD programs are adequately funded and included in their annual budgets;
  - NTD control and morbidity management responsibilities are clearly designated within the existing workforce and job descriptions;
  - NTD control programs are fully integrated into the national health system or into other cross-sector platforms for sustainability;
  - NTD indicators are included and monitored among national health indicators; and
  - national policies are in place to empower the workforce to fulfil essential NTD activities.
- Leverage cross-sector interventions and non-traditional public health platforms for implementation of NTD interventions.
- Ensure that HSS program implementation activities adhere to the appropriate global strategy and remains technically sound.
- Ensure the quality of implemented technical activities and systems at all levels.
- Identify areas for improved efficiency or effectiveness within prescribed parameters, and institute enhancements to procedures.

### Planning and Management

- Plan and implement of budgets and work plans for health systems strengthening activities.
- Plan and schedule own workflow and timetables, within area and function guidelines.
- Maintain a constructive dialogue and technical exchange with field counterparts, the technical staff of the consortium and relevant government agencies, and other partners.
- Contribute own expertise and experience to:
  - influence design and scope of initiatives and programs.
  - review, analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of programs and make recommendations for enhancements;
  - develop well-informed advice and strategies that are sensitive to the various needs of multiple stakeholders and partners, reflect the strategic direction of the department and position HKI for success; and
  - participate in resource development activities.
- Represent HKI and Act to End NTDs | West at professional meetings and conferences.
- Conduct briefings and technical meetings for program management, and other relevant representatives.
- Coordinate with employees and consultants, on-site and in the field for addressing situations that are less routine and more unusual.

## Qualifications

- Minimum of a master's degree in public health, international development, public policy, or related field; plus
- A minimum of 6 years' global and in-country experience in implementation of health systems strengthening programs and/or policy reform preferably addressing cross-sector issues and health financing, or equivalent combination of education and experience.
- Experience in implementing robust and successful HSS programs in a developing country context, with
  - technical expertise in one or more of the following areas: health financing, policy reform, service coverage, workforce alignment and/or related areas of health system strengthening; and
  - experience implementing HSS programs that incorporate the non-health sector and/or multi-health sector programs.
- Demonstrated in-depth understanding of the external environment and how it affects the project in general and the organization in particular, including political, legal, environmental, financial and social influences.
- Demonstrated management, leadership, decision making, and interpersonal skills.
- Full professional proficiency in English and French with excellent oral and written communications skills.
- Ability to create and maintain effective working relationships with senior Government personnel, international organizations, NGO partners, host country governments, and U.S. Government Agencies.
- Familiar with donor/client funded programs and corresponding regulations and communication styles; familiarity with USAID funded projects preferred.
- Ability to communicate effectively across cultures including:
  - asking for information in a way that is very clear and specific
  - conducting trainings for field office staff and in-country partners that will be well received
  - interacting with internal and external colleagues
- Ability to prioritize workload, assume responsibility for work, and follow through to completion.
- Ability and willingness to work under pressure as a part of a global team.
- Highly computer literate including knowledge of Microsoft software products, and strong Excel skills.
- Ability to undertake regional and international travel (approximately 12-16 weeks of travel per year).
- Residence in or willingness to relocate to NYC or DC.

## To Apply

Qualified candidates should submit a cover letter and resume to [hki.recruitment@hki.org](mailto:hki.recruitment@hki.org)  
Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

**In the spirit of our namesake, Helen Keller International  
is dedicated to building an inclusive workforce where diversity is fully valued.**

*We are an Equal Opportunity Employer where all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, disability, or protected veteran status.*

*We are committed to providing reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities. If you are a qualified individual with a disability and need to request an accommodation during the application or interview process, please contact us at the email above or at:*

*Tel: 646-356-1789; Fax: (212) 532-6014*