

Helen Keller International Internship Announcement

Public Health Intern to compile background data in support of the Healthier Rice Project in the Philippines

Helen Keller International is a global health organization dedicated to eliminating preventable vision loss, malnutrition and diseases of poverty. Cofounded by Helen Keller – and guided by her fierce optimism and belief in human potential – the organization delivers life-changing health solutions to vulnerable families where the need is great but access to care is limited. In the US, Africa, and Asia, Helen Keller’s proven, science-based programs empower people to create opportunities in their own lives and build lasting change.

Helen Keller has a commitment to accommodate our staff and/or interns during this unprecedented time, via work from home and flexible scheduling, as needed, as well as a commitment to duty of care and ensuring appropriate health and safety measures are followed as staff and/or interns return to the workplace.

Background

Helen Keller International (HKI) is working with the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health (JHSPH) to evaluate the efficacy of Golden Rice in improving vitamin A (VA) status of school-aged children. Golden Rice is a genetically engineered crop that, unlike conventional rice, produces β -carotene in the endosperm. Consumed in adequate amounts, Golden Rice may improve VA status in areas where vitamin A deficiency (VAD) is endemic. This trial was originally planned for Bangladesh. In that country, HKI and JHSPH reviewed extant data to identify two potential research sites, conducted a cross-sectional screening study to select one of those two sites for the eventual trial, and developed a trial protocol. In December 2019, regulators in the Philippines granted approval for the production and consumption of Golden Rice. With similar approvals delayed in Bangladesh, HKI and JHSPH have now received support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to replicate the scoping and screening activities in the Philippines. HKI is looking for an intern to support this process.

Scope of Work

Working under the guidance of Helen Keller’s Golden Rice team, the intern will:

1. Carry out a desk review of publicly available data to inform site selection for the Golden Rice screening study in the Philippines.
 - a. Using the most recent data available from the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI), generate summary tables of relevant dietary intake (VA, milk &

- milk products, oil, and rice) and VA status (serum retinol) data overall, by region, and by province or independent city/municipality.
- b. Using the most recent data available from the Philippine Statistics Authority, generate summary tables of proxy VAD risk indicators overall, by region, and by province or independent city/municipality. Proxy indicators to tentatively include: child mortality, poverty, food insecurity, stunting, wasting, underweight, vitamin A supplementation coverage, and coverage with all basic vaccinations.
 - c. Document all data sources, including relevant links.
 - d. Review summary tables / rankings with local partners and key informants to gather supplementary information (e.g., GMO bans, school enrollment, political/logistical challenges, etc.) that may be relevant to site selection.
2. Work with collaborators at the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) to summarize methods (sample, targeted age groups, dietary assessment, blood collection, laboratory analysis) and key generate analytic files (including data on VA status, dietary intake, and key correlates) from all prior National Nutrition Surveys.

Qualifications

- This position would be ideal for an MPH student seeking hands-on experience working with key national demographic, health and nutrition data.
- Familiar with government and public health institutions in the Philippines
- Ability to review, organize, synthesize and summarize reports, documents and scientific articles.
- Excellent oral and written English language skills, including the ability to clearly document work and write reports.
- Ability to prioritize workload, assume responsibility for work, and follow through to completion.

Terms & Conditions

- Part-time time between November 15, 2020 and March 19, 2021
- It is anticipated that this will be a remote internship placement.

To Apply

Qualified candidates should submit a cover letter and resume to hki.interns@hki.org noting the internship title and location in the subject line. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Helen Keller is dedicated to building an inclusive workforce where diversity is fully valued.

Helen Keller is an Equal Opportunity Employer. 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 call 646-356-1789.