

PROGRAM OFFICER FOR SOCIAL BEHAVIOR CHANGE COMMUNICATION AND YOUTH

Position Description

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

The Georgetown University Institute for Reproductive Health (IRH) is dedicated to improving the sexual and reproductive health of women, men and youth through a research-to-practice agenda. Our emphasis is on increasing access to and use of family planning, increasing fertility awareness through life-stage appropriate interventions, expanding access to fertility awareness-based family planning methods in an informed choice context, and developing scalable interventions to transform gender norms and catalyze the diffusion of social norms that support FP. Cross-cutting themes in the Institute's work include the diffusion of social norms that support sexual and reproductive health, scale up of innovations, and incorporating gender perspectives in reproductive health. In partnership with a wide range of international and local organizations, IRH conducts research, builds capacity, and provides technical assistance to public and private-sector organizations in lower and middle-income countries and the U.S. The Institute is supported by grants from federal agencies and foundations.

IRH seeks a social and behavior change communication (SBCC) specialist with experience working with youth. Strong skills in formative research related to the development and testing of innovations that improve sexual and reproductive health are required. The right candidate will have experience applying state-of-the-art theories and models of SBCC, preferably in the health field. This position requires the ability to work with multiple teams centrally and in the field to advance the implementation and evaluation of SBCC innovations. S/he must be a creative and strategic thinker and feel comfortable working in an environment with multiple competing priorities. International and domestic travel up to 35% may be necessary.

POSITION SUMMARY

The Program Officer (PO) for Social and Behavior Change Communication and Youth will contribute to social and behavior change and youth programming across multiple IRH initiatives. The candidate for this position would have a strong interest in providing technical support to staff and partners involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of interventions that rely on fertility awareness to inform, empower and enable women, men and youth to manage their own fertility and reproductive health, and effectively use family planning, including fostering male participation in and community support for behaviors that foster positive sexual and reproductive health outcomes. Working closely with IRH's solution managers and researchers, the PO will support conceptualization of formative research to guide solution development and implementation and contribute to all aspects of the research continuum, from concept to dissemination. The PO will have experience developing tools and approaches in different cultural settings and designing linguistically appropriate interventions.

In addition to contributing to the SBCC and youth components of IRH's work, the PO will also play a significant role communicating IRH's initiatives through presentations and representation at meetings and conferences, participation in/coordination of cross cutting technical working group meetings, and general contributions toward accomplishment of IRH's strategic imperatives. The PO for Social and Behavior Change Communication and Youth will report to the Director of Research.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- Contribute to the development of formative research in selected countries, primarily in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, to guide subsequent interventions focused on SBCC and youth; and work with partners to conduct research (e.g. desk reviews, situation assessments, stakeholder interviews, barrier analysis, etc.).
- Develop and pilot test SBCC approaches, materials and tools relying on innovative and agile methodologies.
- Work with staff and partners to utilize data in solution design and concept testing, including developing and organizing capacity-building activities related to behavior change for IRH staff and partners as project solutions are being conceptualized and implemented.
- Work with key stakeholders in such strategic activities as coordination, policy meetings, and technical working groups.

- Identify and work with implementing partners, NGOs, CBOs, communities, etc. to produce or adapt related job aids or promotional materials related to fertility awareness integration.
- Contribute to documenting experiences, preparing reports, presentations, briefs and articles for publication.
- Work collaboratively with other project team members to ensure necessary program planning, development, resource availability and management activities function smoothly and efficiently.
- Contribute to timely and appropriate reporting.

QUALIFICATIONS

You are a social behavior change specialist with...

- A minimum of three years of experience in designing, implementing and evaluating SBCC interventions, including a focus on youth.
- Demonstrated expertise in strategic communication principles and practices and solid mastery of health behavior change theory grounded in applied field applications.
- Demonstrated experience in identifying barriers to behavior change and developing effective communications plans including innovative strategies for addressing them
- Experience and ability to design formative research and evaluations of comprehensive health behavior change initiatives, including the development of data collection instruments and the analysis and utilization of qualitative data.
- Knowledge and experience in designing and implementing evidence-based behavior change approaches that incorporate the role of products, social factors and environment in facilitating change.
- Familiarity with principles and approaches in community mobilization and understanding of reproductive health and family planning programs.

Your education, expertise and professional network includes...

- Master's degree in one of the following or related fields: public health, health communications, behavioral science, health promotion or other related field.
- Previous experience working with international organizations required; and history with USAID-funded initiatives desirable.
- Experience managing public- private partnerships, social marketing and/or product development (desirable).
- Experience in gender and gender norms is desirable

You are a strong communicator, with...

- Exceptional interpersonal, writing and oral presentation skills.
- Strategic thinking skills and strong team player abilities.
- Excellent written and spoken English and French.
- Outstanding interpersonal skills and a deep sense of collegiality.

You have a ...

- Proven ability to work effectively in multi-cultural teams and with technical and administrative staff and consultants.

This position will initially be hired through a sub agreement with Development International, Inc., and will transition to Georgetown University employment within 3 months.

Send resumes and cover letter with "Program Officer for Social Behavior Change Communication and Youth" in the subject line to irhresumes@gmail.com. Please specify where you found the job advertisement. No phone calls, please.

Development International, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.