Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET)
Food Security Analyst

Scope of Work

Introduction

The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) is an integrated set of activities funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) intended to provide timely, accurate, evidence-based, and transparent food security early warning information and analysis. Created in 1985 in response to famines in East and West Africa, FEWS NET provides global coverage through a mix of presence and remote monitoring. FEWS NET’s work is implemented across several pillars by a team of partners that includes NASA, NOAA, USGS, Kimetrica, and Chemonics International (Chemonics). Chemonics implements FEWS NET’s integrated emergency food insecurity analysis through a Washington-based technical office and more than 20 field offices.

Based on in-depth understanding of local livelihoods, FEWS NET analysts monitor information and data on factors that affect food security, such as weather conditions and climate, crops, pasture, markets and trade, and nutrition. FEWS NET produces regular reports, including Food Security Outlooks and Outlook Updates, emergency alerts, market and price updates, and global weather hazards. FEWS NET makes reports available at www.fews.net and distributes them globally to governments, relief agencies, and other organizations engaged in humanitarian response and development programs.

The seventh phase of FEWS NET (FEWS NET 7) began in 2019 and relies on close collaboration with international, regional, and national partners on food security analysis and reinforcement of food security networks. Major activities include joint monitoring and assessments, data exchanges, collaborative analysis and report writing, and technical capacity strengthening. FEWS NET supports local and regional food security networks to contribute to achieving the global objective of food security for all.

Background

The Food Security Analyst position is part of the Decision Support Group (DSG), a unit within the Washington DC-based FEWS NET Technical Team. The Technical Team is comprised of senior management and livelihoods, markets and trade, nutrition, and knowledge management & learning technical staff, in addition to the DSG.

FEWS NET’s Decision Support Group has two primary objectives: 1) facilitate development and communication of timely, high-quality, actionable decision support at the country, regional, and global levels and 2) build FEWS NET staff and partners’ food security analysis and strategic communications capacity.

Position Description

FEWS NET/Chemonics is seeking a Food Security Analyst to join the Decision Support Group to serve as a regional focal point for food security analysis, decision support, and information requests for one or two geographic regions. The Food Security Analyst will work closely with a team of colleagues in the home office and the field.

Responsibilities

Within this broad objective, while exact duties will be based on background and expertise, main responsibilities of this position will include:
Synthesis of market and trade, nutrition, livelihoods, and other food-security analysis for the development of regular, high-quality early warning information products

- Review field-authored food security reporting
- Contribute to the monthly Food Assistance Outlook Brief for senior Food for Peace staff
- Develop and present technical briefings to USG staff and other partners
- Write special reports
- Conduct field visits to support assessments and technical analysis.

Responding to ad hoc requests for food security and response planning analysis and other support for response and contingency planning processes

- Play a lead role in developing analytical and decision-support strategies to effectively develop and communicate pertinent information when potential or ongoing food security crises are identified, their causes, and potential response options to decision makers

Provide technical assistance to strengthen data collection, analysis, and information dissemination capacity among host-country, NGO, and donor partners and field staff

- Provide relevant technical and geographic guidance in their areas of expertise (e.g. agricultural economics, livelihoods, nutrition, pastoralism/ livestock, etc.)
- Lead/contribute to the development of guidance materials in the areas of early warning, decision support, and reporting
- Support activities to enhance field representatives’ and partners’ understanding of food security early warning and decision support processes

Qualifications

- Authorization to work in the United States required
- English fluency required; French and/or Spanish language skills highly preferred
- Advanced degree in a field related to food security or other relevant area; directly related professional experience in providing acute food security analysis and analysis support can substitute for education experience
- Minimum two years of experience working in developing countries; a combination of directly related professional experience in providing acute food security analysis and analysis support combined with experience living abroad can substitute for work experience in developing countries
- Excellent interpersonal skills, including the ability to work well with field-based, local staff via telephone and e-mail
- Excellent writing, editing, and presentation skills
- Excellent computer skills including Microsoft office suite, Adobe Creative Suite, and database management
- Familiarity with ESRI ArcGIS mapping software preferred
- Household-level food security analysis skills preferred
- Experience with the Household Economy Approach preferred
- Experience working on USAID-funded activities preferred

Location and Reporting

The Food Security Analyst will be based full-time at the FEWS NET home office in Washington, D.C., and will travel as required (up to 25 percent of the time) to provide in-country support to FEWS NET field staff and partners. The analyst will work under the direct supervision of the FEWS NET Decision Support Advisor, or their designate, and will work closely with other members of the DSG, technical team, and field staff.