**Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET)**
**Ethiopia Food Security Specialist (FSS)**

**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, Kimetrika, 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 an 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](http://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. 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.

**Position Description**

FEWS NET/Chemonics maintains offices in a number of countries in Africa, Central America, Central Asia, and the Caribbean. As needed, Food Security Specialists (FSSs) provide technical and administrative leadership in country offices, including supporting the collection of, directly collecting, and analyzing collected information relevant for acute food insecurity analysis and associated early warning and decision support. Where necessary, FSSs may also support remote monitoring in selected countries. FSSs are members of the national technical team in FEWS NET/Chemonics field offices and support tasks in the following areas:

- Efficient, focused acute food insecurity monitoring, data collection, assessment, and early warning analysis
- Effective communication of early warning analysis to partners and decision-makers and, when appropriate, participation in formal and informal meetings
- Close collaboration with key network partners, including host-government ministries, food security clusters, United Nations (UN) agencies (e.g., WFP, FAO, and UNICEF), and international, regional, and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), among others

**Responsibilities**

The main responsibilities of the FSS include, but are not limited to:
• Developing and updating seasonal acute food security-relevant monitoring plans for select areas and conducting rapid assessments based on these plans

• Reporting on assessment findings related to the food security, markets and trade, nutrition, and livelihoods situations and preparing associated technical reports and briefing information

• Participating in joint humanitarian needs assessments, as necessary, and providing verbal and written briefings on the acute food insecurity situation of the area assessed

• Participating in and contributing to FEWS NET/Chemonics’ scenario development processes, contingency planning, and other similar activities

• Contributing to the maintenance and updating of FEWS NET’s knowledge base, including livelihood zone profiles, commodity trade flow maps, sub-national seasonal monitoring calendars, a commodity price database, a nutrition database, and other technical databases covering rainfall, agricultural production, population, historical assistance flows, etc.

• Providing high quality and effective early warning of acute threats to food security and supporting efforts to mitigate acute food insecurity and prevent food crises through the effective communication of actionable food security and nutrition analysis

• Assisting field office leadership in developing and maintaining strong, collaborative, and professional relations, both formal and informal, with the USAID Mission, the U.S. Embassy, and UN agency technical contacts, government ministries, and key national and international NGOs to facilitate technical exchanges, promote consensus-building, and resolve potential conflicts

• Representing FEWS NET/Chemonics as needed at relevant sectoral working groups, using them as an opportunity to also advance the network development strategy for the country

• Collaborating with local, national, and international partners in acute food insecurity monitoring and analysis, including through support to implementation of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)/Cadre Harmonisé (CH) protocols

• Contributing to efforts to collect, archive, analyze, and share acute food insecurity-relevant data and information

• Organizing the documentation and files of the project and updating all essential data used in acute food insecurity monitoring and assessment

• Contributing to the fulfillment of monthly reporting requirements, including Food Security Outlooks (FSOs), FSO Updates, and Key Messages, and providing up-to-date data and information for associated briefings

• Contributing to other FEWS NET/Chemonics information products as required locally and at all other levels

• Contributing to FEWS NET’s overall methods development and testing

Qualifications

• Proficiency in written and spoken English is required; local language skills are desirable

• Bachelor’s degree required in a discipline relevant to the work of FEWS NET, such as agricultural economics, agronomy, nutrition, climatology, anthropology, or social geography; Master’s degree is desirable. Significant, directly related professional experience can substitute for education experience.
- At least two years of relevant experience in food security information systems, food security analysis, early warning, or other related fields; past experience working with United Nations agencies and/or non-governmental organizations is desirable
- Good leadership and ability to work independently, when necessary; strong organization skills and strong ability to work in a multidisciplinary team from various nationalities
- Strong analytical and report-writing skills
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, demonstrated ability to interact positively with various food security stakeholders, demonstrated ability to work and coordinate effectively with remote colleagues
- Ability to effectively liaise with government, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders
- Excellent computer skills (e.g., Word, Excel, PowerPoint); GIS applications and mapping skills desirable

**Location and Reporting**

The FSS will be based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and is directly supervised by the FEWS NET/Chemonics CR or his/her designee. The FSS will be required to travel within the country, security permitting. Some international travel may also be required.

**Selection Criteria**

Candidates for the FSS position will be evaluated against the following core competencies and technical skills:

**Core Competencies**

- Relevancy of education to the work of FEWS NET
- English language ability (spoken and written)
- Presentation skills
- Computer skills
- Evidence of working with and coordinating partners, networking, and collaboration

**Technical Skills** (depth of understanding of and experience with the following topics)

- Food security
- Livelihoods and the Household Economy Approach (HEA)
- Markets and trade
- Agro-climatology (agro-meteorology, remote sensing, GIS, etc.)
- Nutrition
- Agricultural sciences (crops, livestock, pasture, etc.)
- Field assessments (quantitative and/or qualitative)
- Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)
- Analytical and reporting skills
Application Information

Chemonics International Inc. is looking for individuals who have a passion for making a difference in the lives of people around the world and demonstrate leadership, versatility, and integrity in their work. The full job description for the Ethiopia Food Security Specialist can be found at www.fews.net/vacancies. Qualified Ethiopian candidates should fill out the general information form and upload their CV and a cover letter at https://fewsnet.formstack.com/forms/fss_et_fewsnet by May 18th, 2020.

All application materials, including responses to the general information form, CVs, and cover letters, should be provided in English. No telephone inquiries. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.