

PROJECT MANAGER – COMMUNITY-BASED ANIMAL HEALTH WORKERS

Position: Project manager

Application Deadline: 30/11/2021

Location: Brussels (other locations in VSF International's members headquarters to be discussed)

Starting Date: beginning of January 2022

Type of Contract: Fixed-term contract full time

Duration: 2-year contract (possibility of extension, subject to funding)

Languages Required: English, French

1. BACKGROUND

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières International (VSF-Int) is a network of NGOs (the 12 national VSF organizations in Europe and North America), working all over the world to support small-scale farmers, livestock keepers and local animal health and welfare initiatives. Through the implementation of our projects and programs, we serve the most vulnerable populations whose livelihoods depend on livestock, and we act collectively to support small-scale family farming, pastoralism, animal and human health and a healthy environment.

The members of VSF International are involved in last mile veterinary service delivery in multiple countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, largely through the training and deployment of veterinarians, veterinary paraprofessionals (VPPs) and community-based animal health workers (CAHWs). For decades, the VSF International network strengthened and advocated for the development of CAHWs, not only by reinforcing their technical competencies and supporting a sustainable business model, but also through the integration of CAHWs into local and national animal health systems and regulatory frameworks (including for supervision and official recognition) in collaboration with public and private veterinarians. In 2018 VSF International published a [policy brief on CAHWs](#) highlighting their importance and key role in providing quality proximity animal health services and the challenges around it.

In 2020, VSF International signed a partnership agreement with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), aiming - among other outputs - to work together in fostering harmonized approaches to CAHWs training, recognition, supervision and deployment, in order to promote a more sustainable CAHWs model through recognized common guidelines approved by the OIE. This will be initiated through a two-year joint project, aiming at providing an in-depth assessment of the training context and needs for CAHWs at the global level, based on regional and national-level analyses, and developing guidelines for CAHWs competencies and training as a key step to

supporting an enabling environment for the harmonization of CAHWs training and services. Should a second phase (year 3) be supported, this will ensure advocacy and dissemination of the guidelines to a broad range of target audiences.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the supervision of the VSF-Int Coordinator, the Project Manager CAHWs will coordinate the common OIE/VSF-Int project to strengthen the enabling environment for CAHWs' sustainable deployment. He/she will also contribute to strengthen internal knowledge management between the network's members on related topics.

Specifically, the Project Manager will be responsible for:

- **Coordination of the project “Strengthening the enabling environment for Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) through development of competency and curricula guidelines”:**
 - Coordination and follow-up of project activities, in close collaboration with the project main partner (OIE);
 - Liaise with members of the VSF-Int network and their field teams and with external partners (e.g. other CAHWs training providers, standard setting bodies, policymakers etc.) for the implementation of project activities;
 - Ensure implementation of activities outsourced or delegated to members of the VSF-Int network throughout the project, including experts, service providers, etc.;
 - Ensure that the project delivers outputs on time, within scope and within budget;
 - Participate to the OIE ad-hoc group of international experts for the writing and validation of CAHW competency and curricula guidelines, modelled on the existing veterinarian and VPP guidelines, and establish linkages with the VSF project activities and outputs;
 - Organize and support international workshops, meetings and expert consultations;
 - Support the development of communication products and technical documents related to the project outcomes, and ensure their dissemination;
 - Support advocacy and awareness raising activities amongst civil society and relevant stakeholders;
 - Contribute to the development of a detailed M&E plan for the project, and track progress of project activities;
 - Ensure administrative and financial management of the project;
 - Prepare periodical activity and financial reports, in accordance with donor's requirements.

- **Knowledge management and capacity building on CAHWs within the VSF International network:**

- Coordinating the Working Group CAHWs, and establishing linkages with other technical Working Groups of the network (i.e. One Health, Rabies, Livestock- emergency, etc.), and with the VSF-Int regional strategies in East and West Africa;
 - Facilitate sharing of experience and lessons learning, and collect, systematize and share data and information gathered.
- **Follow-up the partnership agreement between OIE and VSF-International**
 - Support progress towards the partnership objectives, by liaising with focal points within VSF-International network and OIE staff.

The Project Manager works under the responsibility of the VSF-Int Coordinator and reports progress to the project steering committee on a quarterly basis.

3. PROFILE

Education:

- University degree of at least master's level (or equivalent) of a relevant study area: veterinary degree/animal health, livestock sciences, agriculture, development studies, international relations etc.

Knowledge and experience:

- At least 3 years of professional experience in fields related to the post (animal health, veterinary public health, rural development, project management, advocacy, training of field stakeholders, etc.);
- At least 3 years of experience in project management, preferably in international contexts;
- Experience in fields related to animal health systems and/or Community Animal Health Workers in developing countries;
- Experience in networking, advocacy and lobbying is an advantage;
- Excellent knowledge of English and French, spoken and written is a requirement;
- Excellent working knowledge of Microsoft 365 (Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, TEAMS etc.) and other digital platforms such as Zoom, videoconference and webinar platforms, software to implement surveys and polls, and relevant IT resources for managing workflow and virtual collaboration through meetings, workshops, webinars, etc.;
- Preferably previous knowledge of VSF International or its members.

Behavioural skills:

- Excellent communication skills;
- Leadership and capacity to generate engagement with project stakeholders and partners;
- Ability to establish and maintain good working relationships in a multinational and multicultural environment, and to collaborate remotely with distant teams;
- Excellent organisation skills and ability to meet specific deadlines;

- Flexibility to changing environments;
- Capacity to learn and a self-motivated worker;
- Demonstrated initiative, including ability to think operationally and achieve results.

Attitudes:

- Identifies him/herself with the mission, vision and values of VSF International;
- Is of impeccable integrity and sets high standards of integrity to others;
- Displays intercultural sensitivity, displays respect in dealing with others;
- Is willing to travel.

4. WHAT WE OFFER

- Fixed-term contract of 2 years, full time (also possible consultancy-based contract, full-time);
- Position based preferably in Brussels, or eventually in other VSF International's members headquarters (to be discussed);
- Flexibility in terms of working arrangements, VSF International strives for a good Work/Life balance;
- The opportunity to work within a stimulating multicultural environment where innovation and creativity are encouraged;
- International travels.

5. HOW TO APPLY

Please send your CV and motivation letter by e-mail to coordinator@vsf-international.org, copy to giorgia.angeloni@gmail.com before 30 November 2021 quoting the reference "Project manager CAHWs".

This vacancy is open to male and female candidates. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

For more information, please visit <http://vsf-international.org>