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Since 1963 and in 148 countries, ACDI/VOCA has empowered people in developing and transitional nations to succeed in the global economy. Based in Washington, D.C., ACDI/VOCA is a nonprofit international development organization that designs and delivers technical and management solutions in agriculture, economic growth, and resilience to promote economic prosperity and social inclusion.

**Overview:**

 Pursuant to its mission, ACDI/VOCA is seeking experienced and talented professionals for the **Area Lead Consultant** position. The role is primarily based in **Khorog** and with visits to Dushanbe office. It is expected to support the implementation of Tajikistan MDRD interventions to increase value chain productivity, increase access to finance, access to market, lead the development of the gender, youth, and social inclusion strategy and work across activities to find opportunities to restore the carbon sponge capacity of soils and promote climate risk mitigation. The position coordinates supply chain strengthening efforts, building improved relationships and trust, using open and frequent communication, transparent action, and responsiveness to market and client demand. This position works with the DCOP and other team leads to catalyze partnerships among producers, BDS providers, traders, exporters, and financial service providers.

This position reports to: DCOP.

Type of contract – Independent Consultancy Agreement (ICA/Service)

**ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

**Research and Analysis**

* Support research and other activities to identify inclusive market development opportunities, market trends, market-based solutions, and incentives to integrate small-scale producers into efficient market systems.

**Partner selection and Implementation**

* Support all outcome leads MDRD to carry out partnership identification, implementation within designated geographic area.
* Working with the relevant team in MDRD, support the identification of strategic market partners and the development of partnerships with these actors through co-creation.
* Works with relevant value chain networks to identify value chain upgrading opportunities, public-private partnerships and other opportunities.
* Provides technical support to value chain actors and awardees under the Market Partnership Fund to achieve value chain development goals.
* Contributes to the overall success of the project by identifying and enhancing effective demand for financing throughout target value chains.
* Manages partnerships and facilitates scaling and sustainability.
* Supports the capacity building team of MDRD to select and implement identified partnership within relevant geographic area.
* Support relevant team to undertake primary due diligence of potential partners

**Cross cutting issues**

* Working with MDRD GYSI advisor promote engagement of women, youth, and other underserved groups in partnership development and implementation. Facilitate the development of plans by market actor partners for integrating smallholders from the Activity area, inclusive of women and youth, into their supply chains.
* Collaborates across the technical team to develop partnerships to pilot, refine and scale profitable tailored products, services and business models that increase smallholders’ access to agricultural support services inclusive of women and youth and improved climate resilience
* Working with MDRD Climate advisor promote engagement of climate smart practices in partnership development and implementation.in terms of sustainable landscape activities and clean/renewable energy.

**Systems Change and Review**

* Provides inputs on the Tajikistan MDRD strategy, workplans, intervention design, and reports relevant to expansion of market access.

**M&E and Learning**

* Supports the MEL Manager to plan the collection, analysis, and reporting of relevant data, including reporting on all sex-, age-disaggregated data.
* Collaborate internally and externally to synthesize, share, and apply learning methods for market systems change. Active engagement in collaboration, learning, and adaptation (CLA) is expected of all staff, in accordance with ACDI/VOCA’s commitment to CLA and its importance to achieving this project’s goals.

**Others**

* Support compliance with USAID regulations, the Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan of all project activities and ERC (Environment review checklist) for identified potential partners.
* Represents the Activity at relevant conferences, stakeholder and donor meetings as appropriate
* Support operations and undertakes any activities as deemed by Operations director of MDRD

**REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

* Bachelor’s degree required in international development, agriculture, finance, economics or other related field; master’s degree preferred.
* Minimum of 8 years’ experience in value chain development in inclusive agricultural value chain and/or market systems development projects in Tajikistan.
* In-depth knowledge of the service sectors and main actors relevant to diverse crop and livestock value chains in Tajikistan with a particular focus on Badakhshan province.
* Demonstrated success facilitating the integration of rural smallholders and entrepreneurs into rural agricultural and cross-sector service delivery, inclusive of women and youth.
* Proven experience in integrating women’s empowerment and youth engagement in value chain strengthening interventions: Promotion of climate smart practices is preferred.
* Demonstrated commitment to learning and innovation.
* Demonstrated excellence in oral, written and reading comprehension abilities.
* Ability to work with and motivate private- and public-sector actors.
* Ability to work independently and as part of a team in a fast-paced environment.
* Ability and willingness to travel throughout the country.
* Fluency in Tajik and English required. Russian language proficiency is preferred.

 ***This position only applies to Tajikistan nationals.***

To Apply:

Please submit a resume to MDRDTajikistan@joinav.org no later than May 18, 2024. Please include the position title in the subject line (Area Lead Consultant). The resume and related application documents shall be provided as a single attachment and list of employment history and any relevant short-term consulting work. Due to the high volume of applications, we are not able to respond to inquiries via phone. Only those candidates considered for an interview will be contacted. ACDI/VOCA is an equal opportunity employer. Women, minorities and people from diverse groups are encouraged to apply.