



POSITION DESCRIPTION



PROJECT DIRECTOR



ORGANIZATION

Strengthening Partnerships, Results, and Innovations in Nutrition Globally (SPRING) is a five-year Cooperative Agreement funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in October 2011. Through the provision of technical assistance, research and in-country implementation, SPRING's goal is to strengthen global and country efforts to scale up high impact nutrition practices and policies and improve maternal and child nutrition outcomes. SPRING builds on past USAID investments and delivers high impact nutrition interventions targeting infants, young children, and women, with a keen focus on the first 1,000 days of life. At the intersection of the USG's two flagship foreign assistance initiatives, Feed the Future and the Global Health Initiative, SPRING is uniquely positioned to work across sectors—including health, agriculture, social protection, and economic growth—and is the first significant nutrition project with broad scope funded by the USAID Global Health Bureau. SPRING provides a tremendous opportunity to improve the lives of millions of people.

Five experienced nutrition partners have joined forces to make SPRING's vision a reality. They are:

- JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (JSI)
- Helen Keller International (HKI)
- International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
- Save the Children (SC)
- The Manoff Group (TMG).

SPRING's technical focus areas are

1. Social and behavior change communications (SBCC) approaches for nutrition
2. Maternal, infant, and young child nutrition programs (MIYCN) with a focus on infant and complementary feeding
3. Nutrition policy analysis
4. Implementation research focused on the challenges in delivering effective nutrition actions at scale.

SPRING is headquartered in JSI's Arlington, VA office with approximately 25 staff members. An additional 75 employees will be in the countries of operation. Currently SPRING operates in four countries (Bangladesh, Haiti, Uganda, and Nigeria) with the goal to expand to at least six to eight additional countries. SPRING, with a ceiling of \$200 million over the five-year project, is providing technical assistance to: accelerate action on nutrition policies; build the capacity of countries to design, implement,



and evaluate scalable nutrition programs; build the evidence base for multi-sectoral nutrition actions; promote effective delivery of a core package of high impact nutrition interventions; and document country-specific approaches to scale up nutrition programs. These actions are undertaken in partnership with a range of actors at the global, regional, and national levels, including the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement.

For more information about SPRING, please visit www.spring-nutrition.com.

The project director will be an employee of JSI Research & Training Institute, the non-profit affiliate of John Snow, Inc. Both organizations are known as JSI. JSI is a leading US and global public health consulting, research, and project implementation firm, established in 1978. With headquarters in Boston, Massachusetts, JSI has offices in eight US cities and over 20 countries around the world. JSI's Washington office in Rosslyn, Virginia, houses roughly 300 staff working on several major global health projects, including, AIDSTAR-one, DELIVER, MEASURE-Evaluation and SCMS.

For more information about JSI, please visit www.jsi.com.

POSITION

Reporting to the Director of JSI Washington, the Program Director will oversee a team of four direct reports:

1. Deputy Project Director
2. Senior Strategic Information Advisor
3. Senior Technical Advisor
4. Finance and Operations Director

The Project Director is responsible for the overall leadership, management and operations of SPRING. S/he is the liaison and first line of contact with the USAID Agreement Officer's Representative (AOR) and has primary responsibility for determining overall project strategy, goals, and objectives in consultation with USAID, the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), Partner Advisory Group (PAG), staff, and partners. The Project Director is also responsible for ensuring the completion of deliverables.



RESPONSIBILITIES

Operational and Team Leadership

- Provide overall leadership and direction and guide the team and partners in defining and implementing all SPRING Project activities to ensure achievement of outcomes and impact.
- Directly supervise the work of SPRING senior technical staff and the project management team to encourage innovation and technical excellence in meeting project goals, objectives, and indicators.
- Provide strategic guidance on country-level buy-in from both the Missions and the host government.

Client and Partner Relationship Management and External Relations

- Serve as the prime point of contact for USAID Washington and field Missions.
- Serve as SPRING's chief program and technical representative to USAID, project country governments, international and national NGOs, donors, and other stakeholders.
- Represent SPRING and JSI at international meetings and events.
- Manage partners to coordinate inputs and assure quality from all collaborators to ensure transparency, strong communication, and organizational and staff development.
- Increase global support for the use of nutrition best practices by advocating to key multilateral and bilateral partners and in-country stakeholders, collaborating with other USAID projects, and advancing global and country learning through strategic knowledge management.

QUALIFICATIONS

The winning candidate will be a multifaceted, seasoned, and dynamic senior project management specialist with a proven track record in managing USAID-funded projects with the following competencies and skills:

- Master's degree in management, nutrition, public health, social sciences, international development, communications or a related field
- At least 15 years' experience leading, managing, and implementing large international projects, specifically with experience in two or more of the following areas: management, nutrition, health policy, health systems strengthening, behavior change communication, community development, food security or agriculture. Must have served in senior role in a USAID funded project.
- Broad understanding of public health, particularly in the area of nutrition and relevant socioeconomic, institutional, and policy issues.
- Professional experience interacting with U.S. Government agencies, host country governments, partners, and other relevant stakeholders.



- Demonstrated experience working in partnership with international donors and agencies.
- Minimum of five years' professional experience working in nutrition programs in low or middle income countries.
- Excellent written and oral communications and negotiating skills.
- Strong initiative and self-motivation required, with a commitment to teamwork and effectiveness within a nonhierarchical, participatory management environment.
- Ability and willingness to travel internationally.
- Outstanding leadership and management skills.
- Strong analytic skills, sound judgment and a keen sense of diplomacy and discretion.
- Ability to manage and advance multiple tasks and responsibilities at the same time.
- High level of integrity and responsibility.
- Commitment to values of mutual respect, team work, diversity, and support for employees.
- Successful in forming and maintaining productive collaborations and in developing consensus among diverse groups while addressing competing needs.
- Decisive leadership skills and executive presence; ability to interact effectively with and earn the trust of varying levels of staff.
- Balances “big picture thinking” with attention to detail; curiosity and commitment to continuous learning.
- English fluency required including speaking, writing, understanding, and reading. Other languages a plus.

APPLICATION PROCESS

JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages candidates of all backgrounds to apply for this position. All inquiries, nominations, and applications are to be directed to JSI's search firm, The Dubrof Group, at SPRING@dubrof.com. Applications should include a letter of interest and resume in MSWord. Please indicate in your cover letter where you learned of the opportunity. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.