



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

PROFESSIONAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT N°: IRC2763

Issued on: 4-Feb-2015

Deadline For Application: 18-Feb-2015

POSITION TITLE:	Programme Officer (Early Warning – Early Action)	GRADE LEVEL:	P-4
ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT:	AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS DIVISION (ESA) ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT (ES)	DUTY STATION:	Rome, Italy
		DURATION *:	Fixed Term: 12 months (with possibility of extension)
		POST NUMBER:	CCOG Code: 1S02

Qualified female applicants and qualified nationals of non-and under-represented member countries are encouraged to apply.

Persons with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply.

All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.

The incumbent may be re-assigned to different activities and/or duty stations depending on the evolving needs of the Organization.

FAO has a clear mandate for, and comparative advantage in, supporting early warning and early action to protect food security and agriculture. As part of FAO's overall goal of ending hunger and poverty, Strategic Objective (SO) 5 aims to increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises. Under this objective three Organizational Outcomes prioritize FAO's role in; early warning; prevention and mitigation; and preparedness and response. FAO already supports or directly manages a range of early warning systems at global, regional and national levels which are key to resilience programming and has a substantial portfolio of work in supporting nationally led response and, where necessary, directly manages humanitarian and resilience interventions in this sector.

A review of lessons from Early Warning Early Action initiatives being implemented by a range of stakeholders has been used to identify relevant lessons to apply in strengthening FAO's corporate ability to support more timely, appropriate and effective early action in a resilience enhancing perspective.

- Warnings need to be relevant to decision makers. A key innovation is the exploration of trigger mechanisms that determine key thresholds for action(s). Evidence based triggers require a deeper understanding of the trade-offs in waiting for increased certainty in the EW signals, against the increased costs of later response, in order to determine optimum response points.
- The responsibilities and accountability for acting on warnings needs to be clearly defined. Poorly defined decision making processes are strongly correlated with a delayed response.
- Early action means 'different', not just 'earlier' responses. Evaluations demonstrate the importance of triggering early responses that protect livelihoods and enhance resilience. While good progress has been made in developing a menu of appropriate interventions, more needs to be done in understanding the full range of options in responding to different shocks, determining what is appropriate for the local context and the cost effectiveness of different responses.
- Appropriate financing mechanisms are needed to support early action and resilience programming. These have to be flexible, rapid and risk tolerant.
- Barriers to early action – including institutional incentives, politics and risk aversion - need to be understood and addressed. Early action requires adaptation of institutional policies, procedures and capacities to overcome institutional blocks to early action.

Drawing on these lessons, FAO will implement an Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) initiative over three years (2015-18). This will enhance FAO's capacity to supporting Early Action in response to crises, by reinforcing business processes and systems under three inter-linked outcomes:

1. Coordinated, harmonized and appropriate early warning messages linked to accountable decision making processes
2. Establishing an appropriate financing mechanism to support early action interventions at the local level
3. Developing tools, capacities and systems for Early Warning Early Action

In support of this initiative, FAO is recruiting a Programme Officer (Early Warning Early Action). The Programme Officer will work, under the overall guidance of a technical steering group comprised of senior officers from Economics and Social Development Department, Emergencies and Rehabilitation Division and Agriculture Department, the direct technical supervision of ESA Senior Economist and daily operational supervision of TCE Senior Technical Officer.

Specific Functions

- Facilitate an agreement amongst the various EWS managed by FAO at global, regional and national level on an approach to deriving consensus on countries where a step-change in conditions justifies 'early action'.
- Support the development of a framework for corporate strategic recommendations and accountabilities for countries requiring early action.
- Monitor and consolidate data from external Early Warning Systems to cross reference and supplement the warnings generated by FAO systems.
- Convene monthly meetings bringing together early warning analysts and response planners within FAO to consolidate early warnings and develop strategic response recommendations.
- Facilitate discussions and consultations with other stakeholders working on early warning and resilience analysis
- Support SO 5 country support team and related efforts to support FAO country offices

- Prepare quarterly bulletins highlighting countries requiring early action, with linked strategic response recommendations.
- Present analysis and recommendations to monthly SO5 core team meetings.

CANDIDATES WILL BE ASSESSED AGAINST THE FOLLOWING

Minimum Requirements

- Advanced University degree in a relevant discipline such as food security, economics, disaster management, development studies, rural development, geography, natural resources management.
- 7 years of progressively responsible experience in issues related to food security and resilience analysis and / or programming preferably developed in protracted crises/emergency context (Preference will be given to candidates with experience in both of these fields).
- Working knowledge (Level C) of English and Limited Knowledge (Level B) of French or Spanish

Technical/Functional Skills

- Work experience in more than one location or area of work, particularly in field positions is desirable
- Extent of experience in the formulation, development and implementation of food security and resilience projects and programmes in the rural sector preferably developed in protracted crises emergency contexts.
- Ability to analyse and synthesise diverse Early Warning, food security and resilience related analyses and communicate results clearly
- Ability to coordinate and liaise between colleagues from different technical and operational areas across various levels of an organisation (global, regional, country level)

Please note that all candidates should adhere to *FAO Values of Commitment to FAO, Respect for All and Integrity and Transparency*.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- All candidates should possess computer/word processing skills.
- Evaluation of qualified candidates may include an assessment exercise which will be followed by a competency-based interview.
- Your application will be screened based on the information provided in your iRecruitment online profile (see “How to Apply”). We strongly recommend that you ensure that the information is accurate and complete including employment record, academic qualifications and language skills.
- Please note that FAO will only consider academic credentials or degrees obtained from an educational institution recognised in the IAU/UNESCO list.
- Other similar positions at the same level may be filled from this vacancy notice and the endorsed candidates will be considered for the Employment Roster for a period of 2 years.
- Candidates may be requested to provide performance assessments.

REMUNERATION

A competitive compensation and benefits package is offered. For information on UN salaries, allowances and benefits, click on the following link: <http://icsc.un.org/>

HOW TO APPLY

To apply, visit the iRecruitment website at <http://www.fao.org/employment/irecruitment-access/en/> and complete your online profile. Only applications received through iRecruitment will be considered.

Candidates are requested to attach a letter of motivation to the online profile.

Vacancies will be removed from iRecruitment at 23:59 Central European Time (CET) on the deadline for applications date. We encourage applicants to submit the application well before the deadline date.

If you need help, or have queries, please contact: Recruitment@fao.org

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