



Position profile for the NIPN-GSF team leader

April 6, 2018

Agrinatura is offering one position of team leader of the Global Support Facility (GSF) for the National Information Platforms for Nutrition (NIPN) initiative. The position is open for one year, starting as soon as possible until June 2019 and based either in Montpellier, France at Agropolis International headquarters; or in another Agrinatura member organisation. The position implies a regular presence in Montpellier and frequent travel abroad. Different contracting options can be discussed depending on the situation of the candidate. Applications (CV + application letter) should be sent to gsf_nipn@agropolis.fr by the 27th of April. For more information on the position, please contact Mélanie Broin (broin@agropolis.fr).

The NIPN initiative

The European Union, with support from the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), are supporting countries in the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement to better use and analyse existing information and data to develop evidence-based policies and programmes to prevent malnutrition, through an initiative called “National Information Platforms for Nutrition” (NIPN) (<http://www.nipn-nutrition-platforms.org/>).

The initiative is taking place in ten countries (Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kenya, Laos, Niger, Uganda, Zambia) where the platforms are being set-up by means of contracts between the European Union Delegation and a national institution (or a third party responsible on behalf of a national institution) as well as a technical assistance provider. The platforms at country level are therefore often composed of several entities or national institutions working together in different capacities and roles and in a multi-sectoral dimension.

Contracts for NIPN implementation have been signed in nine countries, where project implementation has gradually started between September 2017 and April 2018, for a duration of 3 to 5 years. A tenth country (Zambia) will start later in 2018.

A national platform will work through an operational cycle of identifying and prioritising questions for analysis relevant for policy and programme planning; preparing and managing information and data and generating analysis; and disseminating and communicating information backward to support policy and programme decisions in nutrition, as described in the NIPN operational framework (<http://www.nipn-nutrition-platforms.org/About-the-project>). For this purpose, the platform in each country relies on a core analytical team/unit in charge of the management and analysis of information and data (hosted by a national statistics office, a research institute or a nutrition secretariat), working under the guidance of a multi-sectoral advisory committee which will raise questions for analysis and define priorities for the analytical work. This advisory committee fits within and responds to any national multi-sectoral governance body/structure for nutrition already in place and constitutes the main interface between the core analytical team and the national stakeholders and senior policy makers in country.

In most countries, two technical advisors are recruited to support and facilitate the work of the advisory committee and of the analysis unit.

The Global Support Facility

At global level, the initiative is supported by a Global Support Facility (GSF). The GSF, established in late 2015, is operated by the Agrinatura consortium (<http://agrinatura-eu.eu/>) and hosted at the offices of one Agrinatura member organisation, Agropolis International in Montpellier, France (<http://www.agropolis.org/>). The composition of the GSF is the following: a team leader, three mid-level positions of technical experts (full time), a part-time administrative/finance project manager and a part-time assistant. It also has resources to contract short-term experts on specific needs. The objectives of the GSF are:

- To support the design and implementation of NIPNs in beneficiary countries;
- To provide strategic guidance to all partners at national level on NIPN implementation;
- To provide technical assistance to EU delegations and partner institutions relevant for establishing NIPNs;
- To ensure effective coordination and information-sharing among the main stakeholders involved and experience-sharing among countries;
- To ensure coherence with related initiatives and organisations (SUN, GNR, UN Agencies, etc.) at global level;
- To ensure communication and advocacy and promote visibility of the global NIPN approach and document and share lessons learnt from NIPN implementation globally.

The GSF benefits from strategic advice from a high level Expert Advisory Group (<http://www.nipn-nutrition-platforms.org/Expert-Advisory-Group>), comprising representatives of related initiatives and programmes, which provides advisory support and guidance.

The GSF Core Team is working under the responsibility of the Chair of Agropolis International, acting as the project director. The GSF is currently accountable for performance to the donors group (EC, DFID, BMGF) and in the near future to a wider Stakeholder Group which the EC will establish, comprising representatives from funding agencies, international organisations involved in nutrition issues, partner countries and civil society organisations.

The position

The first phase of the NIPN initiative, over 2016-2017, has consisted in the GSF leading national consultations in countries, ensuring a clear and agreed institutional set-up for the platforms and fostering ownership of the concept by national organisations. This led to the formulation of project proposals and to the contracting process between EU Delegations and beneficiary organisations.

The project is now entering a new phase where countries progressively start project implementation. This provides an exciting opportunity for an experienced, result-oriented project manager to take the lead of the GSF team to deliver the strategic and technical support that is expected from countries and to provide strategic oversight at the global level. The team leader should be ready to frequently travel to the target countries and to Montpellier (if not based there) and Brussels.

Main role and responsibilities of the GSF team leader:

- To strategically manage and coordinate the GSF core team of experts so as to ensure guidance to partners in-country and the timely provision of technical assistance to the country platforms, with adequate mobilisation of short-term expertise when needed;
- To liaise with EU Delegations, international partners, members of the Expert Advisory Group, the donors and the Stakeholder Group once established;

- To develop and maintain strategic collaborations with other initiatives at global level and ensure complementarities, in particular in relation to 'Data for Nutrition';
- To ensure proper engagement and mobilisation of the members of the Expert Advisory Group so that it can fully play its guiding role;
- To support EU Delegations, national institutions and their partners in the implementation of the NIPNs;
- To contribute to the documentation and sharing of lessons learnt from NIPN implementation;
- To ensure the overall delivery of the GSF service contract and the quality control of the GSF outputs.

Necessary skills:

- Excellent leadership skills and proven successful experience in project coordination and team management;
- Excellent communication skills and experience in establishing good working relationships with a wide range of stakeholders at national and global levels;
- Ability to identify strategic needs and new opportunities related to NIPN implementation;
- Ability to provide guidance and build a connected and informed team able to address all matters related to planning, delivery and sustainability of the services;
- Understanding of the current status of nutrition policies in developing contexts and relevant information needs to inform multi-sectoral nutrition policies would be a strong asset.

Required qualification:

- A post-graduate education or higher in a discipline related to Public Health Nutrition, Health, Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Agriculture & Food Security, International Development or Management.

Experience:

- At least 10 years professional experience in areas relevant to food security, nutrition, health, development, monitoring and evaluation systems, of which:
- At least 5 years of experience in high level project and team management and coordination;
- Substantial experience in developing countries.

Essential expertise sought:

- Demonstrable expertise in leading technical teams and programmes and ensuring coherence with international partners and initiatives;
- Positive track record of strategic engagement at national and global levels;
- Demonstrated excellent communications and negotiating skills, particularly in relation to international institutions and government partners;
- Fluency as well as excellent writing and oral presentation skills in English.

Additional desirable expertise:

- Knowledge of the latest developments, initiatives and strategies in the field of nutrition policies and knowledge for nutrition;
- Knowledge of EU development cooperation policies, programmes and procedures;
- Fluency in French would be a strong asset.