

# Agriculture Officer



## Position Summary

Nascent Solutions requires the services of an agriculture officer who will be responsible for setting up school gardens and community farms under the USDA-funded Food for Education project. The Agriculture Officer will work under the supervision of the Program Manager and in collaboration with the Regional Coordinator and support services of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development in their field area.

<b>Location:</b>	Lilongwe and Blantyre, Malawi
<b>Type of Employment:</b>	Salaried, full-time
<b>Reporting:</b>	Reports to Nascent's Regional Coordinator

## Primary Duties and Responsibilities

- Sensitize communities, PTAs, teachers and students on the importance of school gardens
- Work with community and traditional leaders to identify land for school gardens
- Develop an action plan with each school for establishing a school garden with specific roles, responsibilities and timelines for key gardening activities
- Train teachers, PTAs, students and community associations on improved cultivation techniques for greater productivity
- Provide expertise on intensive cultivation of crops, storage, and other post-harvest strategies for the selected crops
- Identify needs and conduct procurement of seeds and garden tools in compliance with Nascent and USDA regulations
- Ensure proper handling and storage of inputs and equipment
- Ensure the seeds and tools are delivered to schools and used as intended
- Coordinate all operations of gardening activities including plot measurement, staking, layout, mapping, seedbed preparation, planting, plot care, pollination, and harvesting and storage
- Conduct regular visits to the gardens to provide technical assistance and ensure proper implementation
- Work with M&E specialist to create and implement a data collection system
- Document project success with photos/videos and at least two success stories each year
- Participate in the review of semester or annual report to USDA
- Work with the other technical team members to identify business development opportunities and concept notes in the sector of agribusiness
- Prepare and submit project reports and develop annual performance plans

## Key Skills and Qualifications

- A minimum academic qualification of a higher diploma in agronomy from an agricultural institute
- A background in nutrition will be an added advantage
- At least 3 years' experience working with community-based groups in the use of modern farming techniques
- Knowledge of post-harvest management
- Excellent verbal & written communication skills
- Demonstrated expertise in training people in small agriculture techniques
- Ability to travel at least 60% of the time
- Excellent organizational and time management skills
- Ability to develop good working relationships with stakeholders
- Ability to work under difficult circumstances
- Knowledge of computer word-processing programs and spreadsheets is a prerequisite
- Good reporting skills
- Knowledge of the local languages will be an added advantage
- Excellent knowledge of English
- Acceptance to live in the communities and under challenging conditions.

## How to Apply

To apply, please submit a cover letter, CV, and salary requirements to [recruitment@nascents.org](mailto:recruitment@nascents.org). **Please include "Agriculture Officer- Malawi" in the email subject line.** CVs without cover letters will not be considered. Malawi nationals are highly encouraged to apply. Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Closing date for applications is **October 18th, 2019**. Candidates are encouraged to apply early as possible as we are looking to fill the position quickly.

## About Nascent Solutions

Nascent Solutions (Nascent) is a Virginia-based 501(c) (3) non-profit international development organization. Its mission is to enable vulnerable people, especially women and children in rural Africa, to develop skills for self-sufficiency. The organization's areas of focus are food security and nutrition, health, education and skills development, and gender equity.