

## **Food Security and Agriculture Specialist**

Type – Salaried, full time

Location - Alexandria, VA

Reporting – Executive Director of Programs

### **ABOUT NASCENT SOLUTIONS**

Nascent Solutions (Nascent) is a Virginia-based 501(c) (3) non-profit and 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, literacy and skills development, and gender equity.

### **POSITION SUMMARY**

Nascent Solutions is seeking a qualified professional to lead its food security and agriculture division. The successful candidate will provide mid to advanced level operational and technical support in all aspects of design, implementation and management of FS&Ag programming and lead business development for the division. The position will liaise with technical leads of other divisions to ensure that the design of FS&Ag interventions is integrated to the nutrition, education, and gender programming. The position will support several projects including the US Department of Agriculture McGovern-Dole Programs in Cameroon and Malawi and all other projects with an FS&Ag component.

### **PRIMARY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **Program Strategy and Development:**

- Provide leadership, strategic and technical support to the food security, agriculture, and nutrition divisions.
- Define the FS&Ag principles, objectives, and operational strategies in line with Nascent's strategy and global trends.
- Support management as donor liaison on FS&Ag initiatives.
- Provide strategic leadership and direction to expand program development and links to related technical areas.
- Provide technical input to the business development division.
- Ensure program integration by strengthening synergies between FS&Ag division and Nascent's signature sectors of gender, education, nutrition, and WASH.
- Contribute to the identification of critical issues that require multi-sector responses and work cross-functionally with other teams to develop appropriate, evidence-based responses.
- Lead sector research that supports business development.

#### **Technical Support and Program Training**

- Provide technical input and support all FS&Ag interventions and programming.
- Backstop field activities by assessing the training of the field staff and designing capacity building initiatives to meet the agency's learning needs.
- Provide technical quality supervision, coaching and quality assurance metrics to all FS&Ag initiatives.
- Supervise and support the timely and effective implementation of FS&Ag projects and activities across Nascent's portfolio.
- Ensure that FS&Ag monitoring and evaluation systems are utilized as intended by

collaborating with the M&E divisions to develop methodology and tools that ensure the collection of reliable data.

- Lead the preparation of technical reports for donors and other stakeholders.

### **External Representation and Communication**

- Stay informed on global best practices and trends in food security, agriculture, and nutrition (i.e., climate change), and ensure that they are incorporated into the development of agency priorities and innovations.
- Oversee the production of communications and externally facing products, such as FS&Ag- research papers, and participate in “communities of practice” to remain abreast of latest developments, standards, tools and methodologies within food security, agriculture, and nutrition sectors.
- Represent the organization in relevant working groups, sector fora, conferences, and high-level meetings and Food Security, Nutrition and Climate Change cluster meetings technical reviewer of submissions.
- Assist in the development and management of external relationships with donors, partners, and other stakeholders, and contribute to the development of strategic partnerships with other organizations to expand Nascent’s reach.

### **REQUIRED SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS**

- Master’s degree in agriculture and or related field.
- 5 years’ experience working in either food security or livelihoods development including experience in field-level management of complex programs.
- Proven experience supporting project teams on full project cycle technical needs (design, implementation, M&E, lessons learned) as well as experience in emergency or protracted crises settings.
- Extensive experience in rural development, food security and nutrition in developing countries, preferably in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Demonstrated experience in technical grant writing and business development strategy and familiarity with USG procurement rules and regulations highly desirable.
- Knowledge of and network within the US development community, both in the U.S. and in the field.
- Excellent communication skills, written and oral proficiency in English and a proficiency in a foreign language highly desirable.
- Highly self-motivated and autonomous with the ability to work with little guidance.
- Ability and willingness to travel internationally approximately 15% of the time.

### **HOW TO APPLY**

To apply, please submit a cover letter, CV, and salary requirements to [recruitment@nascents.org](mailto:recruitment@nascents.org). **Please include “Food Security and Agriculture Specialist” in the email subject line.** CVs without cover letters will not be considered. Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Closing date for applications is **March 15, 2021**.

**We regret that we cannot sponsor US work visas at this time. As such, applicants should already have authorization to work in the US.**

Nascent Solutions provides equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment and prohibits discrimination and harassment of any type without regard to race, color,

religion, age, sex, national origin, disability status, genetics, protected veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state, or local laws.