

Job Description - American India Foundation - Integrated Community Facilitator

Position: Integrated Community Facilitator

Program: Integrated Program on Child Health, Nutrition and Education

Reporting: Program Manager - Integrated Program

Location: Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh

Nature of Employment: Contractual

No of Positions: 20

Duration: 14 months

About American India Foundation:

The American India Foundation is committed to improving the lives of India's underprivileged, with a special focus on women, children, and youth. AIF does this through high impact interventions in education, health, and livelihoods, because poverty is multidimensional. AIF's unique value proposition is its broad engagement between communities, civil society, and expertise, thereby building a lasting bridge between the United States and India. With offices in New York and California, twelve chapters across the U.S., and India operations headquartered in Delhi NCR, AIF has impacted **8.4 million** lives across **26 states** of India. Learn more at www.AIF.org

Background of the Program:

Health and Education are the foundations of human development. Healthy children are more likely to transform into healthy and productive adults. 25 million children every year become part of the 2nd most populated country in the world. As per the data given by ADB (2019), 34 children per 1000 die before 5 years of age. The first six years of a child's life play a crucial role in lifelong good health. At this phase of life, the foundation is laid for social, mental, and physical development. In our country, where the percentage of people below the poverty line hovers around 10%, it becomes more difficult to ensure a healthy diet for kids, as incomes and means of livelihood are uncertain and many in the rural areas suffer from underemployment.

India contributes to almost one-third of the global prevalence of stunting. The latest National Family Health Survey-5 data for 2019-20 indicates that undernutrition among children has worsened in the last few years. Over a quarter of children were found stunted in the 18 of 22 states and Union territories surveyed in the first phase. The COVID-19 pandemic-induced lockdown disrupted the functioning of Anganwadi centers (AWWs) and the closure of schools that provided nutritious meals to children under ICDS, thereby pushing additional millions of children towards nutrition scarcity. A recent study estimated around 77 million undernourished children in the country. There is a looming threat of an additional 15 million cases pushed to undernutrition if the children in the lowest wealth quintile lose 5 percent of their body weight. States like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Assam, West Bengal, and Gujarat are the worst affected by child nutrition indicators during the pandemic.

The pandemic also exacerbated the existing learning gaps in preschool education and formal education provided by the government to children in the country. As per the ASER report (2019), within each cohort of the same age, there is enormous variation in what children are doing. Children enrolled in Anganwadis, have far lower levels of cognitive skills and foundational abilities than their counterparts in private LKG/ KG classes. As per NCERT specifications of learning outcomes, children are expected to identify numbers up to 99 in grade 1 itself, however, in reality, only 5.7 % of age-appropriate students can read or write a letter or digit. Almost 50% of children don't achieve grade-appropriate learning goals.

Government institutions, NGOs through corporate funding and grants were collectively addressing these challenges but, back-to-back unexpected waves of deadly COVID19 disease pushed it back and threw more never-before-seen or heard challenges.

Job Summary :

ICF (integrated community facilitator) is the key functional officer in the program. They are the foot soldiers of the program and are responsible for the entire project implementation on the field with the program manager. They are the physical representatives of the organization in the village and community. They conduct the entire program on the field with the support of Integrated Community facilitators. The role of ICF is multi-dimensional, multi-faceted, and multi-functional which requires a lot of dedication, handwork, and multi-tasking. The role of ICF is like a catalyst for the smooth implementation of the program

The functions of ICF are mainly divided into the following sections.

Key Roles & Responsibilities:

- Each facilitator would be responsible for around 15 Anganwadi centers and the concerned villages
- Undertake a mapping of available infrastructure, equipment, and activities in the Anganwadi centers
- Undertake training of Anganwadi workers on ECE and childhood nutrition
- Monitor and support Anganwadi workers in undertaking ECE activities
- Monitor and support Anganwadi with workers in the provision of additional meals
- Ensure regular growth monitoring of children under 6 years, through the Anganwadi workers, ASHAs and ANMs
- Undertake capacity building of ASHAs on childhood nutrition
- Undertake home visits for interpersonal communication with caregivers of under-6 children
- Facilitate identification of undernourished children and appropriate home-based management and referral
- Undertake daily reporting and data entry, as required
- Facilitate case study documentation

Desired Qualification, Experience and Skills:

- Bachelor's degree in MSW/business management; or related field; Plus 12 candidates may also be considered
- Previous experience as Community Facilitator or related positions
- Proficient computer skills, Microsoft Office Suite (Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, and Excel).

- Well-informed about rural entrepreneurship development
- Strong presentation skills
- Experience with technologies and best practices for instructional manuals.
- Good interpersonal skills and communication with all levels of management.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Organized and able to create multiple timelines and schedules.
- Able to multitask, prioritize, and manage time efficiently.

- Should be willing to travel. Intensive travel in allocated villages (20 to 22 days in a month)

Application Process: To apply for this position, send your CV and covering letter describing how you meet the specifications for this role and what you bring to it along with your current salary and expected salary to ph.career@aif.org with the subject line **“Integrated Community Facilitator”**

Last day to apply: 6th July 2022

Only applications of short-listed candidates will be acknowledged.