Position Overview

EMPLOYER:	Micronutrient Forum
POSITION:	Project Lead – Micronutrient Data Innovation Alliance
START DATE:	Immediately
TERM:	Ongoing
DESIRED EXPERIENCE:	10+ years work experience
DESIRED LOCATION:	Home-base

About the Micronutrient Forum

The Micronutrient Forum (Forum) serves as a global catalyst and convener for sharing expertise, insights, and experience relevant to micronutrients in all aspects of health promotion and disease prevention, with special emphasis on the integration with relevant sectors.

The Forum is a backbone organization for collective action on micronutrient (MN) nutrition. As such, the Forum complements the actions of other organizations working in nutrition (funders, implementors, academicians, normative bodies) and fosters collaborative sectoral and cross-sectoral initiatives, leveraging internal and external expertise, to create collective impact. The Forum has earned a reputation as a responsive, evidence-based convener and knowledge broker with an independent voice.

The Forum's vision is a world where all people have optimal micronutrient status for health and well-being. To accomplish that vision, the Forum promotes dialogue and collective action on population assessment and delivery of vitamins, minerals, and other nutrients across multiple sectors by bridging nutrition science, policy, programs, and responsible business practices for health and well-being. Large-scale food fortification (LSFF) is an effective and cost-efficient solution to micronutrient malnutrition – which could benefit from stronger collective action. The Forum supports all evidence-based solutions to ensure MN security.

Founded in 2006, the Forum is perhaps best known for its Global Conference, having hosted five such events, with the most recent CONNECTED virtual event attracting over three thousand delegates. In addition to a biennial global conference, the Forum has a robust portfolio of programmatic work, including ongoing workstreams addressing the data gap in micronutrient nutrition, promoting nutrition of key populations including pregnant women, and offering technical support to academic, government, and implementing institutions.

The Forum is a US Based 501(c)3 non-profit corporation and operates as a remote organization with staff, consultants, and leadership spread across the globe.

See the Forum's Strategic Plan

See the Forum's Team

About the Project

To address key aspects of the dearth of micronutrient data and improve data utilization through improved coordination and consensus on MN and LSFF data, the Forum shall convene and host the Micronutrient Data Innovation Alliance (DInA or Alliance). DInA shall be comprised of diverse partners from the LSFF, global development, and micronutrient data communities, including from the public and private sectors, to provide expertise and experience. The Alliance shall also engage new players with digital modeling, artificial intelligence /machine learning (AI/ML) expertise and mapping proficiency, to provide new perspectives, analytic and innovative approaches for a material catalytic increase in MN data availability, accessibility, quality, and use. These Alliance members who collect, analyze, house, and utilize MN data shall work together to improve the existence, access, and use of disaggregated micronutrient status, impact, and LSFF program data at the sub-national, national, and global levels. The goal of the Alliance is to improve the availability, quality, accessibility and use of data across the LSFF value chain to support national decision-makers to better design, implement, measure, and optimize LSFF programs, resulting in more efficient and effective LSFF programs and other complementary MN programs.

The work of DInA will increase and optimize the resources dedicated to LSFF Data and will result in high-quality, timely, interoperable data that is gender intentional and disaggregated across target populations. The overarching objective of DInA is to support efforts to design, implement, monitor, and improve programs, resulting in more efficient and effective LSFF and other complementary MN programs, ultimately resulting in improved human health and development, including reductions in mortality and morbidity, improved pregnancy and birth outcomes, bone health, resistance to disease, and improvements in neurodevelopment and associated school performance and adult economic productivity.[1]

An Alliance with the broad buy-in and participation from national, regional, and global data stakeholders can address the LSFF data gaps in a way the current decentralized structure simply cannot. Participation from normative agencies is critical for the credibility and adoption of the consensus recommendations of the DInA, and a strong representation of national and regional stakeholders will foster solutions that can strengthen, scale, and sustain national and regional MN data systems.

The Forum, as the host of the DInA, will manage the DInA and solicit members. The Alliance and its members will be responsible for the content developed by the Alliance.

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[1] Brown KH, Moore SE, Hess SY, McDonald CM, Jones KS, Meadows SR, Manger MS, Coates J, Alayon S, Osendarp SJM. Increasing the availability and utilization of reliable data on population micronutrient (MN) status globally: the MN Data Generation Initiative. Am J Clin Nutr. 2021 May 24;114(3):862–70. doi: 10.1093/ajcn/nqab173. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34036318; PMCID: PMC8408880.

Purpose of the Position

The Forum seeks an experienced, dynamic, and strategic thinking Project Lead, who will be responsible for establishing the Alliance, for developing and implementing DInA's workplan in close consultation with DInA members, Forum management, and donors. The Project Lead will be the external face of the Alliance and responsible for maintaining relationships with key stakeholders, notably Alliance members, the Forum's management and Board, and current and future donors. The Project Lead shall bring experience and expertise in the collection, analysis, and accessibility of nutrition data, as well as experience in relationship management and partnership brokering. The Project Lead must have experience in the international nutrition and data management fields and in managing projects, an extensive network, and strong and tactful communication skills.

Major Duties and Responsibilities

The duties and responsibilities of the Project Lead are listed below but may evolve as the work of the Alliance matures. The Project Lead shall manage and oversee all the Alliance's work while contributing directly to several of the activities and deliverables.

In close collaboration with the Forum Leadership Team and the DInA Alliance, the DInA Project Lead will:

Alliance Management:
- Develop the DInA scaffolding: membership, governance, mandate, and roadmap.
- Ensure the development and implementation of a strategic workplan and revise the Alliance's strategy over time as appropriate.
- Organize Alliance meetings (activity groups, technical consultations), set meeting agendas, and report on meetings.

Project Management:
- Manage Alliance staff, including a Technical Senior Advisor and a small team of employees and consultants.
- Work with partners to develop formal and informal engagement agreements.

Program Management:
- Oversee all the Alliance's activities to ensure they are rigorous, collaborative, and aligned with the project's theory of change and that outputs are delivered against planned timelines, and high caliber. Specific activities include but are not limited to:
  - LSFF and MN Data Lexicon: creation and dissemination of a lexicon of MN and LSFF terms and methodologies.
  - Data Gap Roadmap: Based on the work compiling the Lexicon, the Alliance shall develop a roadmap to prioritize gaps.
  - Sub-National Mapping: Support partners working to develop interactive sub-national maps of MN status and related data.
  - LSFF and MN Data Tool Use Case Identification: Document national decision makers' data needs to identify priority use cases in collaboration with technical experts.
  - LSFF Data Investment Framework: work with partners to develop a data investment framework that identifies the priority investment and expected return for MN and LSFF data.

- o Biochemical Status Coalition: Integrate the findings of the biochemical status strategy into the work of the Alliance.
- Regularly evaluate the status of the activities against the workplan and donor commitments, and course correct as appropriate.
- Report back to donors and key stakeholders at regular intervals (e.g., monthly, quarterly, and annual).

Resource Management:
- Build and maintain relationships with current and potential national, bilateral, and foundation donors and raise funds for the Alliance and member activities.

Communications:
- Represent DInA in public events such as conferences, technical expert meetings, workshops, and webinars.
- Disseminate and communicate the activities of the Alliance to funders and Alliance members and, where appropriate, to the broader global nutrition community.

Organizational Relationships

The Project Lead reports to the Director of Programs.

Qualifications and Requirements

Education:
- A Ph.D. in nutrition, public health, quantitative methods, international program management or related field.

Experience:
- 10-15+ years of successful experience in data management and planning, managing, and implementing international public health/nutrition projects.
- 10-15 years of experience developing and maintaining professional partnerships and relationships.
- An understanding of best practices and trends in monitoring and evaluation nutrition programs.
- Experience working at both the global and national (regional or local) levels.
- Experience effectively managing project teams.
- Experience working with private and public sectors.

Skill and Requirements:
- Excellent presentation, writing, and facilitation skills.
- Diplomacy.
- Flexibility and adaptability.
- Analytical and problem-solving skills, with a strong solution and action orientation.
- Interpersonal and cross-cultural sensitivity.
- Team worker with demonstrated interpersonal, mediation, and brokering skills.
- Able to work under pressure and meet deadlines.

Desirable:
- Fluency in a second language after English.

- Experience working with remote and cross-cultural teams.

Compensation:
- A competitive salary and benefits package commensurate with experience.

Note to Candidates

The Micronutrient Forum is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to foster and celebrate gender equality, diversity, and inclusion in our organization. All qualified applications will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, color, religion, marital status, national origin, ethnicity, political beliefs, disability status, or any other status protected by US federal, state, or local law, or international law.

To Apply

To apply, please email hr@micronutrientforum.org with:

- A Resume
- A cover letter outlining your experience as it relates to the Micronutrient Forum and the role of DInA Project Lead

Please include your name and position title in the subject line of your email.

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

The Forum will respond to the best-fit candidates with more information about the Alliance and schedule remote interviews.