Position Overview

EMPLOYER:	Micronutrient Forum
POSITION:	Senior Technical Specialist – 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 nutrition (MN). 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 Senior Technical Specialist, who will participate in developing and implementing DInA's workplan in close consultation with the DInA Project Lead, DInA members, Forum management, and donors. The Senior Technical Specialist shall bring experience and expertise in the collection, analysis, and accessibility of nutrition data, including new quantitative methodologies (modeling, AI), in-depth understanding of gaps in the data value chain, and the landscape of data actors along the data value chain. The Senior Technical Specialist must have experience in data management fields, ideally with experience in nutrition. Furthermore, the candidate must have experience designing and implementing programs, managing programs, and strong and tactful communication skills.

Major Duties and Responsibilities

The duties and responsibilities of the Senior Technical Specialist, as envisioned now, are listed below but will evolve as the work of the Alliance matures. The Senior Technical Specialist shall work closely with the Project Lead and Alliance members to directly manage several of the Alliance's activities and contribute technical expertise to the other activities. This position will be the internal technical expert, ensuring that all Alliance activities are rigorous, collaborative, and

In close collaboration with the Project Lead and other stakeholders as appropriate, the Senior Technical Specialist will:

Alliance Management:
- Support the development and implementation of a strategic workplan and revise the Alliance's strategy over time as appropriate.
- Work with technical partners to develop formal engagement agreements.

Program Delivery:
- Contribute to and, in some cases, lead 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.
  - 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.

Communications:
- Represent the Alliance in public events such as Conferences, Technical Expert meetings, workshops, and webinars.
- Support the creation of communications materials
- 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 DInA Senior Technical Specialist reports to the Project Lead.

Qualifications and Requirements

Education:
- An M.Sc or Ph.D. in biostatistics, statistics, data science, quantitative methods, epidemiology, nutrition, or related field.

Experience:
- 10+ years of successful experience designing and executing quantitative projects and planning, managing, and implementing national or global public health/nutrition projects.
- Understanding of methodologies and trends and ideally with experience designing programs in the following areas:
  - monitoring and evaluation of nutrition programs/nutrition interventions (particularly large-scale food fortification programs);
  - estimating the prevalence and burden of disease related to nutrition factors,
  - developing evidence-based policy recommendations;
  - collecting and analyzing (nationally representative) primary nutrition data, including availability, intake, status, and related health data; and
  - modeling, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and big data.
- Experience working at both the global and national (regional or local) levels.
- Experience effectively managing external partner relationships.

Skill and Requirements:
- Ability to navigate and shape IT system architectures or data flows.
- Design and implementation of collaborative databases.
- Data transformation and sustainable management.
- Functioning knowledge of micronutrient biology.
- Excellent communication, technical writing, and facilitation skills.
- Flexibility and adaptability.
- Analytical and problem-solving skills, with a strong solution and action orientation.
- Good interpersonal and cross-cultural sensitivity.
- Team worker with demonstrated interpersonal skills.
- Able to work under pressure and meet deadlines.

Desirable Qualifications:
- Experience working with private and public sectors.
- 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 Technical Project Manager.

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

The application deadline is February 18th, 2022, but applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

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