

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Title : Economic Development Specialist (EDS)
Project : Inclusive Socio-Economic Development Project in the Beni Mellal Khénifra Region (ISED-BMK)

Project Description

Family Health International 360 (FHI 360) is a nonprofit organization focused on human development that promotes more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth to stimulate job creation and enhance well-being by promoting integrated locally-led initiatives in health, education, entrepreneurship, democratic governance, and other sectors . FHI 360 works in more than 70 countries and throughout the United States.

In 2020, FHI 360 was selected by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to implement the Inclusive Socio-Economic Development Project in the Beni Mellal Khénifra Region (ISED-BMK). The ISED-BMK Project (2020-2025) supports the BMK region to achieve its economic and social development priorities by strengthening participatory governance and improving economic growth opportunities for job creation, with emphasis on women, youth, and people with disabilities.

Position Description

The Economic Development Specialist (EDS) will work directly under the supervision of the Chief of Party (COP) to help ensure implementation of project activities in the areas of livelihoods development, private sector engagement, investment promotion, and entrepreneurship development in key priority sectors.

Key Duties & Functions

Technical:

- Provide support to private sector development by strengthening links to markets, access to finance and business operations to help the sustainable development of MSMEs and cooperatives
- Provide technical assistance to improve the business climate for private sector operators and attract investment in the BMK region
- Provide strategic and operational support to sectors with high development potential, mainly in the fields of agriculture, agribusiness, and eco-tourism, to improve regional participation in functions with higher added value and integration into national and international value chains
- Provide technical leadership and oversight in the following key project activities:
 - The development and operationalization of the Beni Mellal Khenifra Agribusiness Cluster, in close coordination with private, public, and research institutions
 - The development and management of the Regional Entrepreneurship Odysseys, in collaboration with regional public and private sector partners
- Lead and provide technical guidance, oversight, and support to various aspects of assigned activities, including planning, budget management, implementation, and reporting

- Develop capacities for promoting living conditions within the framework of the project, with partners and at the community level to improve living conditions and achieve the social and economic inclusion of women, youth, and people with disabilities.
- Liaise with relevant government agencies to ensure effective coordination, avoid program duplication, share lessons and approaches to maximize the impact of activities.
- Lead the drafting of project descriptions, activity concept notes, and training workshop justification forms
- Contribute to overall project reporting as needed

Strategic:

- When requested by the COP, represent the project in stakeholder meetings, and provide input at the technical and operational levels, build networks of professional contacts and advocate for the BMK Region in terms of investment, financing, and promotion of regional visibility.
- Contribute to the design, adaptation, and management of project deliverables by supporting the COP to think through strategic and management issues to promote timely delivery of technical results.

Gender and Social Inclusion:

- Support the integration of gender equity and social inclusion (GESI) into all project activities to ensure they respond to GESI priorities
- Identify and pursue activities as they intentionally relate to Positive Youth Development (PYD)

Outreach and Communication:

- Help develop content for communications materials by contributing to the project newsletter or other communication products where technical input is required.
- Coordinate with the project Communication Manager on best practices to ensure event and activity visibility, participant feedback, etc.

MEL (Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning):

- In collaboration with the MEL team, track changes in key areas relevant to the private sector
- Contribute to the design and administration of MEL tools (questionnaires, online surveys, phone surveys, etc.) in private sector activities
- Ensure private sector activity data and supporting documentation are collected, digitized, and transferred to the MEL team promptly

Any other tasks:

- The above list is not exhaustive and other tasks related to private sector development, entrepreneurship, investment, and target sectors (agriculture, agribusiness, and tourism) may be assigned
- In some cases, possibly provide support for activities that may not directly relate to economic development such as those operating at the interface between economic growth (EG) and democratic governance (DG)

Minimum Qualifications

- A bachelor's degree is required in a relevant area such as economics, business, finance, and international development. A Master's degree is preferred
- At least eight years of work experience supporting equitable private sector development, enterprise/entrepreneurship development, improvement of the business environment, investment promotion, effective use of incubators and business development services (BDS), facilitating access to private sector financing, use of clusters to promote sector integration and growth, and knowledge of key productive sectors preferably in the BMK region (agriculture, agribusiness and tourism)
- Excellent understanding of the national and BMK regional economic context.
- Familiarity with public policies, strategies and legal frameworks related to private sector.
- A network of professional contacts in the private sector in Morocco, including in key ministries, would be an advantage
- Experience with capacity strengthening for stakeholders (cooperatives, SMEs, CSOs, communes)
- Familiarity with USAID programming, including rules and regulations is an advantage
- Ability to build positive working relationships with private sector entities in the BMK region, in Morocco and internationally.
- Ability to analyze, solve problems, and implement corrective action as needed.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills, organizational and project management skills.
- Fluency in Arabic and English or French is required, Amazigh is an asset (outstanding written and oral command of at least one language, professional proficiency in the other two is required)
- Proficiency with using Microsoft Office Suite.

Location and Start Date

- **Location:** The position is based in Beni Mellal city, with travel within the BMK region and sometimes to other cities. Flexible work arrangements can be considered to reasonably accommodate candidate needs while ensuring project needs are met.
- **Start Date:** As soon as possible

To Apply

Please submit a copy of your CV and a cover letter to: Morocco.ISED@fhi360.org and put in the subject line of your message: “**Economic Development Specialist (EDS)**”

Candidate CVs will be accepted continuously until a successful candidate is hired.

The **Inclusive Socio-Economic Development Project (ISED-BMK)** is strongly committed to hiring qualified women, young people and people with disabilities and would like to receive their CVs as well as those of other qualified people.

FHI 360 is an equal opportunity employer and encourages qualified women, youth, and people with disabilities to apply. FHI 360 does not discriminate based on race, religion, gender, ethnicity, age, disability, sexual orientation or on any other basis unrelated to the skills and experience of the applicant.