

*Completion of community health research to support the development of sector-specific frameworks and planning tools with one of the country's leading sustainable development and conservation NGOs*

## **Research Specialist – Programmatic and Organisational Planning Madagascar**

### **Position overview**

Based in the coastal town of Fort Dauphin in the southeast of Madagascar, this post will provide research support to SEED Madagascar's Community Health Department for sector and programme-specific planning. The successful candidate will work within a combined Malagasy and international team to conduct research on international best practice, drawing from relevant global initiatives and past SEED projects, with a focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and maternal and child health (MCH). This research will form the basis of SEED's multi-year programmatic and funding strategies for community health. This Research Specialist position would be office-based in Fort Dauphin. This exciting post would suit an early-career researcher seeking essential in-country experience in supporting impactful community health initiatives.

- **Location:** Fort Dauphin, Anosy Region
- **Title:** Research Specialist
- **Contract:** 3 months
- **Contract type:** Local stipend at 1,000,000Ar, rising following probation, covering reasonable living expenses; £1,000 contribution to flight; £400 contribution to insurance; unaccompanied post.
- **Reporting to:** Head of Project Development, Community Health
- **Practicalities:** The successful candidate will need to bring their own laptop computer (non-tablet).

### **Community Health Overview**

For 20 years, SEED has been working to improve the health of people living in Fort Dauphin and the surrounding area. In this remote part of southeast Madagascar, everyday conditions such as childbirth, diarrhoea, coughs and colds pose the most serious health risks. Moreover, alarming increases in sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are a growing threat in these areas. Today, SEED is helping mothers to safeguard the health of themselves and their babies and increasing young people's awareness of sexual health and STIs, promoting healthy communities in Fort Dauphin and nationally.

### **Primary responsibilities**

Completion of sector-wide research on community health best practices and initiatives; support in developing and facilitating the use of analytical tools and processes for departmental planning; conduct critical review of past SEED projects. The Research Specialist might also have an opportunity to conduct similar research for other SEED departments, depending on identified need.

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Conduct research via literature review on community health best practices, organisations, initiatives, and research methods, with focuses on MCH, SRHR and participatory research approaches;
- Conduct review on past and ongoing SEED projects, with focus on reviewing monitoring, evaluation and learning results and identifying key strengths and gaps to inform wider strategic planning;
- Synthesise research findings into accessible memos and reports for internal and/or external dissemination;
- Work with the Head of Department, Head of Project Development and other Community Health team members to create participatory tools and processes for planning and monitoring, including Theory of Change, PESTLE and strategy mapping;
- Facilitate the use of the participatory tools and processes during departmental and programmatic meetings;
- Support the write up of research for internal learning and draft copy for external communication on departmental direction;
- Work closely with other community health team members to exchange information and provide mutual support and capacity-building;
- Any other tasks that the Head of Project Development, Community Health deems necessary within the broad outline of the role;
- Support other SEED teams, including Environment, Sustainability Livelihoods and School Infrastructure to conduct comparable research and strategic planning processes.

**Person specification:**

- Master's degree in Community Health, International Development, Research Methods or related field, preferred;
- Experience of working/volunteering internationally in a research; or related community health capacity desirable;
- Experience in designing participatory strategic planning and monitoring tools such as Theory of Change;
- Ability to work with staff and partners to create and use these tools, and to build capacity across cultures;
- Demonstrable experience of writing research reports;
- Have the ability and desire to work with teams from different economic and cultural backgrounds and across multiple language barriers;
- Have excellent communication skills, including a sound ability to summarise and convey research findings in an easily accessible manner;
- Be able to work both independently and as part of a multicultural and multilingual team;

- Have passion and motivation for the work and to enthuse staff and volunteers;
- Demonstrate an understanding of and commitment to SEED's ethos and approach and be a good ambassador for SEED at all times
- Demonstrate proven ability to recognise and appropriately deal with challenging situations;
- Demonstrate an awareness of and comfort with increased social and professional responsibility, working at all times with cultural sensitivity and respect'
- Demonstrate the ability, social skills and confidence to give clear guidance and support to other members of the team in respect of the philosophy and procedures of SEED in order to protect both their safety and the reputation of the NGO;
- Be able to work to and advocate for all of SEEDs policies and procedures, safeguarding those that SEED works with and reporting any concerns appropriately;
- Be punctual and be able to work to tight deadlines in an organised manner and to a high standard;
- Have a flexible and patient attitude;
- Have excellent problem-solving skills;
- Knowledge of or willingness to learn French and/or Malagasy is desirable.

**Application procedure:**

Interested applicants should send a CV and covering letter outlining how their skills and experience match the requirements in the role description criteria to Lisa Bass by email at [lisa@seedmadagascar.org](mailto:lisa@seedmadagascar.org). Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis until the position is filled. Long-listed applicants will have an initial informal chat with Madagascar based staff and short-listed applicants will then be offered a face-to-face interview with the London team in person if it's possible to attend. More information on the work of SEED Madagascar can be found at [www.madagascar.co.uk](http://www.madagascar.co.uk).