Breakthrough ACTION DRC Risk Communication Advisor

Background
The Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs (CCP) was founded on the belief that social and behavioral change (SBC) is essential to solving the world’s most pressing health problems. Our mission is to inspire and empower people around the world to make healthy choices for themselves and their families. CCP implements USAID’s Breakthrough ACTION DRC project, which uses advanced, evidence-based tools to encourage people in developing countries to adopt healthy behaviors. Much of the work harnesses the power of communication to inspire sustainable change. The project also uses other approaches to behavioral science such as Behavioral Economics and Human Centered Design to improve programs.

As part of USAID’s Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA), Breakthrough ACTION is also working to increase the capacity of Congolese institutions to effectively address high-risk behaviors associated with Ebola and other priority diseases (monkey pox, rabies, influenza, etc.). This will be accomplished through CCP approaches to support the US government's overall contributions to strengthen countries' capacities to implement the GHSA, improve the implementation of the WHO International Health Regulations (IHR) and address gaps identified by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Summary
The Risk Communication Advisor will coordinate all technical, programmatic and administrative assistance to the DRC GHSA program and will lead the development and implementation of program activities in an independent manner while supervising the GHSA Advisor.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities will vary according to assignment but may include the following and other duties as assigned:

- Facilitate coordination of efforts, resources, and learning among all GHSA implementing partners and partners working in the zoonotic disease field.
- Compile and maintain priority zoonotic diseases risk communication materials, messages, and tools, including those related to Ebola.
- Contribute to the design, execution, and follow-through of a bi-directional risk communication mechanism to engage communities, share latest messages about Ebola and other Priority Zoonotic Diseases (PZD).
- Leverage learning and resources from other country experiences to benefit DRC’s zoonotic disease activities and share lessons from DRC’s work with others to diffuse innovations.
- Help build capacity among Breakthrough ACTION partners in Risk Communications (conducting trainings and workshops, sharing resources, etc.).
- Facilitate coordination among partners working in the zoonotic disease arena (identify synergies and opportunities for resource and learning sharing).
- Conduct partner and resource mapping exercises to identify strengths and gaps in the risk communication landscape of DRC.
- Convene and lead regular meetings with Risk Communication partners to review and coordinate risk communication activities progress.
• Use HCD methodology to obtain essential insights that can be used across zoonotic disease activities, also drawing upon lessons learned from DRC and other country contexts.
• Work with Breakthrough ACTION M&E team to conduct a review of the existing evidence on high-risk behaviors for Ebola and other PZDs.
• Develop training modules on risk communication for radio and TV journalists to strengthen their capacity to provide up-to-date messages and manage rumors.
• Develop a mechanism to promote community level engagement and rumor tracking.
• Work with Breakthrough ACTION partners to strengthen the hotline health info content to provide correct information on Ebola and PZDs.
• Develop risk communication tools for online platforms (a health human resource management tool).
• Assist in updating risk communication training modules, including those for Ebola.
• Coordinate with other Breakthrough ACTION partners in DRC, as well as other Breakthrough ACTION GHSA projects, with HQ, and USAID.
• Coordinate all Breakthrough ACTION GHSA-related activities.

Education and/or Experience

• A minimum of an MPH or MS degree in related discipline, e.g. communication, public health or related behavioral science.
• 7-10 years’ experience providing SBCC technical support to senior-level teams from national Ministries of Health and other national government agencies in developing countries OR
• 5-10 years’ experience supporting capacity strengthening of local health structures, institutions, and NGOs as they develop health communication and SBCC strategies
• Previous experience conducting Ebola preparedness technical assistance to at-risk countries, or technical assistance experience in EVD affected countries preferred
• Proven track record in developing and managing SBCC programming in DRC or similar environments
• Strong analytical, research, writing and communications skills.
• Strong skills in providing substantive inputs to health communication or SBCC strategies
• Event planning and facilitation ability
• Excellent communication and presentation
• Fluent French and advanced skills in English, both written and spoken, are required for work.

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply and should submit a CV with a cover letter expressing why the candidate would be a strong fit for this position with the contact information of at least three professional references who have worked with the candidate within the past 7 years.

Please send the CV, Cover Letter, and a list of 3 professional references to BA.DRC.Jobs@gmail.com by 21h00 November 5, 2019 with the subject line ‘Risk Communication Advisor.’ US Citizens, Third Country Nationals and Nationals are all welcome to apply. Compensation will be commensurate with experience