

Government Liaison Officer, India

About Fortify Health

Fortify Health is a small team of passionate charity entrepreneurs dedicated to improving nutritional status at population scale through effective health interventions. We are tackling “hidden hunger,” otherwise known as micronutrient deficiency, by fortifying wheat flour in India with iron, vitamin B12, and folic acid. Iron deficiency leads to anemia, while folic acid deficiency can lead to neural tube defects. Simultaneously we are supporting state governments to make fortification mandatory.

Complementing our entrepreneurial model, we provide nutrition training and career development opportunities, as well as a wide range of resources to guide the team. We support our team to help them build technical expertise and confidence in their roles.

Fortify Health’s two-pronged model in combating micronutrient deficiencies means that we work hand-in-hand with industry partners, NGOs and state government. Sound partnerships and excellent external relations are the essence to expanding of wheat flour fortification programmes. The Government Liaison Officer will oversee and take forward these relationships.

Position Overview

The Government Liaison Officer will be based full-time in the target state (yet to be determined) for fortification, working daily with senior government policymakers and leaders within the development community to shape India’s efforts to improve nutrition. The Officer will act as catalyst and driving force for implementation of an in-state wheat flour fortification program, using experience in advocacy and technical expertise to encourage fortification sceptics, solve problems at the institutional level.

Responsibilities and Activities

- Develop strategy for fortification scale-up in conjunction with Fortify Health team and partners
- Build, coordinate and maintain partnerships with multiple stakeholders, including members of the nutrition community, academia, civil society, government, and the private sector
- Use technical expertise and knowledge of government to develop evidence-based resources outlining the benefits of fortification for state governments, encouraging a fortification mandate
- Clearly communicate fortification and its benefits to government officials, making a bespoke case for the particular state
- Support and guide government officials in favour to communicate the importance of micronutrient fortification and a fortification mandate among fellow policymakers
- Coordinate activities between government institutions and other stakeholders to catalyze progress
- Support efforts to ensure appropriate government regulations are in place for mandatory fortification in the state, in collaboration with the Technical Lead Officer
- Provide technical support in the writing of appropriate micronutrient and fortification state policies and plans

- Report on all activities and disseminate information on food fortification in India
- Institutionalize regular program monitoring and reporting

Requirements

- Bachelors or higher degree
- Relevant experience in government or advocacy, preferably in food or health policy
- Proactive with strong entrepreneurial tendencies, including resourcefulness, ability to multitask, and ability to independently structure one's own work
- Proven skills in diplomacy and experience building and maintaining relationships
- Confident, humble, charismatic, and diligent
- Excellent attention to both details and results
- Proven ability to manage projects and to work under pressure
- Excellent analytical, problem solving, written and oral communication skills
- Good proficiency in Excel, Powerpoint, and Word
- Fluency in Hindi, Bengali *or* Marathi (dependent on selected state) and excellent command of English
- Willingness to move to state selected, expected to be before hiring date

Desirable Attributes

- Experience working with remote team members
- Experience working in India
- Experience in nutrition, food science and technology, public health, or related field

Terms of Employment: Two month trial period, then contract until end April 2019, renewal by mutual agreement

Salary and Benefits: Commensurate with experience. Fortify Health offers a competitive salary and conditions of employment

To Apply: Please email a letter of interest, resume and names and contact information for three references to: apply@fortifyhealth.global

Closing Date: Until filled

Desired Start Date: Beginning July 2018