

Position: Social Water Management project coordinator (SWMA)

Job title: Coordinator of action research for the SWMA project

Sector: Agriculture / Research / Social water management / Irrigation

Region: Afghanistan

Duration: 1 year renewable

Contract: Temporary contract - possibility of permanent contract

Groupe URD: Groupe Urgence Réhabilitation Développement is a French association which works towards better practices within the humanitarian sector and, by extension, aims to improve the situation of crisis-affected populations. Its activities are as follows:

- Theoretical and applied research into the main issues currently facing the sector: difficult post-crisis situations, disaster preparedness, conflict prevention, types of partnership in turbulent contexts, new security constraints, the reform of the French aid system and soon perhaps that of the European Commission, etc.
- Training of humanitarian actors, offering a series of specialist courses including modules based on our field research.
- Evaluations of humanitarian programmes to feed the collective learning cycle (Learning from experience→managing knowledge, sharing findings→developing new methods and tools→capacity development, training→advocacy→).
- Promoting innovation and quality amongst NGOs, funding agencies and public authorities.

Groupe URD has a unique role within the aid sector. It is neither an operational agency, nor an NGO collective. Working with humanitarian and development actors, it is a catalyst for quality within the aid sector.

Groupe URD currently employs 18 members of staff.

For more information, visit the Groupe URD web site at: www.urd.org

Groupe URD in Afghanistan: Groupe URD has been in Afghanistan for several years (research, training, evaluation) and has a permanent office in Kabul where the team is composed of 3 expats and 9 Afghans. The team runs a number of projects, principally in rural development, provides training courses and carries out evaluations..

Groupe URD is currently working with international NGOs on two social water management projects co-financed by the EC.

The project: “Social Water Management in Afghanistan – Amu River Basin Project” (SWMA-ARBP)

Following several decades of conflict, a process of state-rebuilding is currently underway in Afghanistan. The objective of the project is to improve the management of water on a number of irrigation networks in the province of Badakhshan (north-east Afghanistan). It is part of a wider programme which aims to re-organise the institutions in charge of water management at the drainage basin level.

The project targets farmers and irrigation water users from 17 networks, and aims to establish the broadest possible participation in the water management system, including the most vulnerable people. To do this, one of the main activities in the project is to set up water user groups and associations.

The project will be run by a consortium made up of DACAAR (a Danish NGO), Afghanaid (a British NGO) and Groupe URD. Groupe URD will conduct the majority of the research to be carried out before the groups are formed, in order to have a better understanding of water management practices and to identify elements which could be adapted. The research findings will serve as a basis for DACAAR and Afghanaid's social mobilisation activities, and these in turn will contribute to the analysis of water management in Afghanistan.

Candidate profile

Candidates for this position should be qualified in agronomy / SWM and should have field experience. He/She will work with Groupe URD's Country Director and will be responsible for all the activities linked to the project: research, training, supporting social mobilisation, implementing a monitoring system and representing Groupe URD within the consortium.

A very high level of spoken and written English is essential. Previous experience of working in a Muslim country, and particularly Afghanistan would be a plus.

Job description

The Coordinator of action-research will liaise with the URD Country Director and will have the following tasks and responsibilities:

- Representing the interests and views of Groupe URD within the consortium for all project activities and, in particular, to ensure that there is cohesion between the research team and the social mobilisation team.
- Coordination (between the consortium partners and within the research team) and running the research and evaluation work involved in the project: baseline survey, detailed analysis of farming practices and water management, mid-term evaluation, etc.
- Ensuring that there is cohesion between the different lines of research (agricultural systems, Social water management, GIS) and joint elaboration of conclusions and recommendations for social mobilisation.
- He/she will be in charge of supervising and writing the final versions of the technical reports for partner organizations and other texts and will take part in conferences and seminars on the subject.
- Monitoring and supporting two trainees in their work.

Candidate profile

- Training: Agronomy and/or SWM/ specialised in Irrigation/Social mobilisation
- Experience : 2 years minimum in a similar position
- Languages : English (spoken AND written)
- Qualities:
 - Good knowledge of research and social mobilisation tools (and particularly participatory research techniques)
 - Experience in managing a multi-disciplinary team
 - Good writing and knowledge management skills
 - Excellent listening and negotiating skills
 - Good communication skills
 - Good analytical skills
 - The ability to make presentations in English
 - The ability to work in isolated areas
 - The ability to work and live in difficult conditions (stress, limited comfort, travelling).

Conditions :

- Recruitment depends on the necessary funding being obtained
- Salary based on Groupe URD's pay scale + per diem + lodging
- Based in Kabul, with frequent travelling and particularly in the zone where the project is taking place (Badakhshan)
- Type of contract: renewable temporary contract of 1 year (possibility of permanent contract)

Please send applications (CV and covering letter) before the 15th of January to André PRINCE aprince@urd.org