



Job Description

Job Title: Country Advocacy Coordinator

Job Locations: Abuja/Kaduna Nigeria

Reports to: Country Director with accountability to Global Advocacy Advisor.

Department: Operations, Performance and Finance or Policy and Programme Strategies (PS2)

Background context:

The Nigerian Country office has grown significant in the last ten years and now has 95 staff and consultants working on over 20 programme programmes (NTDs, eye health and disability). One of the key responsibilities of the Country Director (CD) is to develop strong relationships with government agencies, donors, international agencies, media and communities to raise the profile of Sightsavers, with the ability to advocate and influence at senior levels. In order to adequately do this effectively one must consider the country size and programme portfolio. A good example is Nigeria where the population of one state is more than the population of some African countries and in a situation where Sightsavers covers 14 states through direct support and downstream partners which the CD needs to cover, and this could become overwhelming if the CD also has to perform other responsibilities as well. The responsibility for advocacy still lies with the CD and the advocacy coordinator will support the CD, DPO and Global Advocacy Advisor (Anglophone WA) to ensure that all advocacy plans are implemented.

The organisational strategy refresh is built on a programme implementation approach focussing on influencing (policy and advocacy) and evidence (uptake and learning) and Nigeria is one of the countries that the advocacy team is working with to develop a long-term advocacy plan to achieve the strategic principles of the organisation.

The Accelerate supported trachoma elimination programme in Nigeria has achieved quite a lot in meeting its output targets. Most endemic local government areas have passed impact assessments and now in surveillance. One of the key activities that needs to be completed and included in the dossier for elimination is getting the endemic states to have transition plans for ensuring sustainable service delivery.

Job Purpose:

The role will report directly to the Country Director with functional line management to Global Advocacy Advisor (Anglophone WA). The post holder will strategize for and deliver advocacy across all sightsavers thematic areas. He/She will, under the leadership of the CD, lead in implementation of advocacy work and coordination of advocacy support to all Sightsavers supported programmes in Nigeria – preventing

avoidable blindness (including NTDs), disability rights and inclusive education – as well as crosscutting priorities such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as implementation at the country office level. The person will interpret Sightsavers policy as it relates to the Nigeria context with support from PGA and ensure that Sightsavers' work is rooted in the change it wants to see in social inclusion, inclusive education, neglected tropical diseases and eye health (including NTDs) particularly having state transition plans for the trachoma elimination programme in Nigeria.

The role is responsible/reports to the Country Director and accountable to GAA West Africa on particular advocacy matters as may be discussed and/or assigned. The CD would set performance objectives around the long-term advocacy plans for Nigeria and the Global Advocacy Advisor (Anglophone WA) would provide oversight on implementation and alignment with global policy priorities.

Principal Accountabilities:

1. Work with CD, DPO and Global Advocacy Advisor WA to develop and implement country policy influencing objectives and advocacy plan by organising round tables and set up meetings with policy/decision makers for influencing strategic partners at national and state levels.
2. Ensure that Nigeria Country Office policy objective and advocacy plans align with Sightsavers global priorities on eye health, inclusion, and inclusive education.
3. Will lead on the development and building of strategic partnerships and alliances with national inter-governmental bodies and multilaterals to maximise advocacy opportunities as delegated by the CD. The role will identify opportunities to strategically influence thematic areas and share with the CD and GAA for decision making purposes.
4. Represent Sightsavers at senior level to decision makers. Deputise for the Country Director when required on all advocacy issues.
5. Ensure that NCO advocacy plan/work is integrated within Sightsavers' programme planning and Monitoring & Evaluation systems. Ensure effective use of advocacy reporting and monitoring tools e.g., SARA App.
6. Lead on providing technical support to Nigeria Country Office on context analysis, stakeholders mapping, development of advocacy messages and plans address systemic issues in eye health, health systems strengthening, social inclusion and Neglected Tropical Diseases.
7. In conjunction with country office staff and the Global Advocacy Advisor WA and policy team Multilateral and Policy Campaign Manager, lead on the development and delivery of appropriate policy campaigning in Nigeria CO.

8. Work with the various government partners to ensure that transition plans are put in place towards elimination of trachoma in Nigeria.
9. Produce information, materials and documentation to support the achievement of Sightsavers' advocacy objectives in Nigeria CO.

Jobholder Entry Requirements - *the essential knowledge, skills and behaviours required*

Knowledge (Education & Related Experience):

- Master's degree in a social science or the equivalent level of experience
- Significant experience of working as a development professional with INGOs, especially of advocacy work
- Experience of building staff capacities to develop and deliver advocacy plans
- Experience of developing and implementing systems to record and measure the impact of advocacy activities **OR** Specific experience of health sector advocacy at national, regional and international levels
- Experience of leading or coordinating advocacy efforts at national level.
- Familiarity with policy development
- Knowledge of current issues and best practice in development particularly in health, education, rights and governance

Skills (Special Training or Competence):

- Ability to represent the organisation to external bodies
- Ability to think strategically and translate into effective action plans
- Ability to develop and implement effective advocacy plans and M&E systems
- Strong communication and relationship building skills with internal and external audiences

Core Behaviours:

- Communicating & Influencing
- Team Working
- Planning & Organising
- Change & Improvement
- Delivery and Implementation
- Excellent interpersonal and collaborative skills
- Ability to network and inspire others to collaborate
- Resilience, strong cultural sensitivity
- Resilient

Key Relationships:

Internal

- Management team Nigeria CO
- Policy and Global Advocacy Directorate
- Global Advocacy Advisor WA
- Programme Development Advisors

External

- Government decision-makers and influencers
- OPDs/CSOs

- Multi-lateral policy staff
- Alliance partners

Dated: July 2021