

## **Terms of Reference: Programme Researcher for the Human Right to Food Initiative**

### **Who is hbs?**

The Heinrich Böll Stiftung (hbs) is a German Political Foundation affiliated with the Green Party in the German Federal Parliament. The hbs Regional Office for East and Horn of Africa based in Nairobi acts as a people-centric green think-tank. We facilitate inclusive dialogues, offer expertise and, in partnership with like-minded people and organizations, develop innovative perspectives along the core themes: Gender Democracy, Sustainable Development and Regional Dialogue.

### **Our vision**

East and Horn of Africa is a beacon of political stability and an engine for inclusive growth in Africa with a democratic, accountable and inclusive leadership that actively promotes gender equality, religious and ethnic tolerance and rights of minorities, including sexual minorities; investing its resource wealth in creating opportunities for an educated, healthy, largely young and politically active population while following a low carbon development path and supporting climate resilient livelihoods, committed to the principles of food sovereignty.

### **What are we looking for?**

Heinrich Böll Stiftung is looking for a full-time **Programme Researcher** for the Human Right to Food Initiative (HRFI). The HRFI is a programme that implements an innovative communications and influencer-led approach to the problem of chronic food insecurity in Kenya.

While Article 43 in the Constitution of Kenya recognises the right to adequate food, national legislation, policy and practice fail to implement and monitor progressive solutions to food security. The HRFI seeks to address the issue by contributing to a socially inclusive political discourse about chronic food insecurity across sectors with the goal of realising the human right to food.

In this context, the Programme Researcher would be responsible for carrying out and coordinating research-based tasks as well as generating evidence-based knowledge necessary to support HRFI programme activities. The role requires both an ability to synthesise pre-existing publicly available information as well as conceptualising and implementing HRFI-specific research assignments.

The ideal individual will have diverse research, knowledge generation and information gathering experience and is as comfortable at their desk as they are doing field work. The successful candidate will be self-inspired to achieve social justice and democratic accountability in the country.

### **Key roles and responsibilities: What would the Programme Researcher do?**

**Strategic:**

- Provide overall, evidence-based guidance on the political orientation and prioritisation of HRFI programme activities.
- Provide strategic analysis of longer term trends.
- Contribute to the HRFI programme strategy by identify opportunities and needs from deep contextual understanding of political dynamics in Kenya,

**Programmatic:**

- Be the custodian of all facts and figures published by, or closely affiliated to, the HRFI.
- Actively monitor and synthesise published research from local and international institutions insofar as it's relevant to the HRFI programme strategy and present analysis at monthly team status meetings. This would include sourcing information from academic studies, but also mapping information trends from alternative sources such as blogs or media articles.
- Source and supply data for HRFI publications. For example, a Regional Food Atlas.
- Conduct adhoc research assignments deemed necessary by the HRFI team to close identified knowledge-gaps.
- Carry out regular stakeholder and partner mapping tasks in targeted parts of Kenya or mapping of prominent actors within certain sectors / topic-categories.
- Work with the programme team to write evidence-based blog articles and mainstream media submissions as well as fact-check articles authored by external individuals for the HRFI.
- Work with the Programme Coordinator to develop data-driven design briefs for HRFI communications content.
- On receipt of a detailed brief, support the HRFI project partners with information and evidence for various activities or public-facing engagements and fulfil a fact-checking / editing function if partner materials are readily available.

**Education and professional background**

- Masters Degree in Research, Political Science, Economics (Cooperation and Human Development), Environment, Health, Climate Change and Adaptation, Agricultural and Applied Economics, or related fields.
- At least 5 years of relevant professional experience in an international organisation working in Kenya or the region.

**Experience and skills-set**

**Research skills and techniques:**

Recognising research problems | critical thinking | knowing current work in field | research methods | critical reviewing | documenting and reporting

**Research environment:**

Understanding the research context | complying with ethical requirements | following good research practice | understanding research funding and evaluation | justifying research methods | understanding academic and commercial exploitation

**Research management:**

Organising your work | information management | using information sources | data storage & IT

**Communication skills:**

Academic writing | presenting to non-academics | creative academic presentations | promotion of public understanding | knowledge-sharing and mentoring

**Networking and team-working skills:**

Building relationships and continue to invest in established networks | working in a team within a diver multi-cultural setting | giving and receiving feedback

**Person profile**

A passion for social justice and a demonstrated commitment to the goals or priorities of the hbs

Highly motivated, pro-active individual able to work under minimal supervision

Ability to prioritize and act on initiative

Believes in creative and innovation, flexibility and open-mindedness.

**What is on offer?**

We offer a challenging, creative and intellectually stimulating career experience as part of a global network of professionals that drive social innovation, transformation and political change. We believe in honouring our staff's commitment to our work and vision, providing opportunities for the professional and personal growth of our team members. Salary will be based on industry norms commensurate with skill and experience. Benefits include insurance and pension schemes.

**Application process**

Please click on the link and answer this short quiz: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HDDK35F>

Please email your application to [HRFI@ke.boell.org](mailto:HRFI@ke.boell.org) with the subject line, *Application: Programme Researcher HRFI*. Include a detailed CV with at least three references and a short motivation letter. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

First published 22 August 2017. Position remains open until filled. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an interview.

