

Volunteer - Rural Financial Products and Services Expert

WHERE: Malawi

START DATE: November 19, 2018

DURATION: 30 days

REPORTING TO: Program Manger, Malawi (IRFITCO)

DEADLINE: October 12, 2018

Note: This is a voluntary assignment. Domestic and international economy airfare, ground transport, visa, travel insurance, out of country accommodation, and a meal/incidental allowance will be covered by CDF Canada. *Applicants must be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident.*

BACKGROUND:

With funding support from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), CDF Canada in partnership with MUSCCO is implementing a five-year Program (2016-2021) entitled “Improving Rural Financial Inclusion through Cooperatives (IRFITCO)”. The Program is aimed at improving the financial inclusion of the rural poor in Malawi through strengthened financial cooperative network. IRFTCO will build the capacity of MUSCCO to better develop and deliver products and services to its member SACCOs to improve outreach to the rural poor with attractive, safe and effective financial services that will contribute to national financial inclusion agenda.

ABOUT THE ASSIGNMENT:

The Financial Product and Services Expert will review existing standard Financial Products and conduct a market assessment of new financial products for rural men and women to develop and tailor appropriate financial products and services. The assignment seeks to benefit the rural agricultural cooperatives who are grossly underserved with financial services despite their huge potential for success, owing to tact that a majority of Malawians live in rural areas and are engaged in agriculture. The expert will assess existing financial products, explore new opportunities and suggest efficient and effective implementation arrangements within the rural areas, utilizing connections with the modern urban financial cooperative networks. He/she will therefore explore the best procedures for agricultural cooperatives, associations and groups that can be linked to existing financial cooperatives or establish their own independent financial cooperatives.

ACTIVITIES AND DELIVERABLES:

Focus

The expert shall update CDF and MUSCCO about the following;

- Existing financial products and services that the rural poor access in their communities
- The potential for new financial services and products that could be adapted by rural women, men and youth
- The number of rural men, women and youths using those products and services
- Factors affecting the intensity of formal financial services in rural areas
- Key issues affecting the growth and delivery of financial services and products rural areas
- Recommend strategies and interventions that enhance adoption by women, men and youth

Scope of the Assignment and Methodology

The volunteer shall use secondary data and/or consultations with MUSCCO, the Malawi Government through the Reserve Bank and other relevant government Ministries, other financial service providers, selected rural groups with potential for financial networking and other sources to gather this information. The volunteer will be responsible for data collection and analysis, report-writing and validating the results with CDF, MUSCCO, some selected SACCOs, selected rural groups and relevant stakeholders.

Communication, Report and Timeline

With the assistance of CDF Canada and MUSCCO Secretariat, the volunteer will be responsible for identifying information sources and design necessary tools. A draft report containing the analysis followed by recommendations should be submitted by December 30, 2018.

- Work plan (to be approved by CDF and MUSCCO Secretariat)
- Feedback session or workshop to present results
- Draft report of the assessment submission and soliciting input
- Final report of the Assessment submission

Documentation

- Creating procedural documentation and relevant reports (when instructed)

QUALIFICATIONS:

The Volunteer must demonstrate full competence in implementing the scope of work with strong expertise and relevant background in designing rural financial products and services. Specifically, the Volunteer must have:

- A degree in agricultural economics, social sciences or international development
- Demonstrated experience working with financial cooperatives, rural livelihoods associations and cooperatives or civil society organizations (CSO)
- The practical knowledge of community mobilization including group formation, cooperative and association governance
- Good verbal and written communication skills in English
- Expertise in lobbying and advocacy

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Please submit a resume and cover letter by October 12, 2018 to apply@cdfcanada.coop. You must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident. Successful candidates will be required to obtain a police-check from their local police/RCMP detachment. **No phone calls please. All applicants are thanked for their interest in CDF Canada; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.**

Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada

Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada (CDF Canada) is an international development charity that helps improve the lives of women, men, children and their communities through cooperatives. We envision a world where self-reliant communities flourish. CDF Canada is working with local partners in Africa, Asia, Latin America and in Eastern Europe to establish and grow community owned co-operatives that help people achieve more prosperous, self-reliant lives. For over 70 years, CDF has been mobilizing financial resources, volunteers and knowledge – mostly from Canadian co-ops and credit unions – to make the world a better place. For much of that time, CDF Canada worked with partners to help communities move toward prosperity and create more secure lives through community-owned cooperatives. For more information about CDF Canada, visit www.cdfcanada.coop