



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

Job Advertisement

Value Chain and Commercialisation Advisor Embassy of Ireland, Lilongwe

Our mission is to promote and protect abroad the values, interests and economic well-being of Ireland and its people. We do this under the political direction of our Ministers, through our staff at home and through our Embassy network abroad.

The primary responsibility of this post is to contribute to the Malawi's food systems transformation agenda for increased production, commercial viability and climate resilience in order to achieve sustainable and inclusive economic growth, particularly for the more vulnerable communities.

The Value Chain and Commercialisation Advisor will provide technical advice and leadership for a range of the Embassy's agribusiness, Value Chain and Commercialisation initiatives and will provide the Embassy team with robust agribusiness and commercialisation analysis to support Ireland's country strategy, programmes and practices in Malawi

Role and Responsibilities:

The precise range of duties will vary over time according to the needs of the Embassy, but will include the following:

- Ensure that Ireland's country strategy and programmes are guided by appropriate advice and informed by relevant analysis with respect to the evolving agricultural sector transformation and commercialisation context in Malawi;
- Guided by Ireland's current country strategy for Malawi, support the design, appraisal and development of programmes that address specific Value Chain, agribusiness and access to market challenges, supporting realisation of nutrition and dietary diversification outcomes;
- Maintain strong management and financial oversight of interventions, strategies and grants focused on value chain and access to market interventions, with a particular focus on management for development results and risk management;
- Ensure that the Embassy's agribusiness, Value Chain and access to market interventions are fully aligned with the Malawian Government's priorities and policies and with best international practise and where appropriate advocate for policy reforms,
- Promote partnership and dialogue with government (at national and local levels), civil society, bi-lateral and multi-lateral partners, to ensure coherent and efficient delivery of support;
- Ensure that policy priority actions, in the areas of gender, nutrition, environment, and climate change, HIV and AIDS and governance are addressed in our agribusiness/Value Chain and Commercialisation engagement;
- Participate as needed in all relevant internal and external meetings and events including coordination sessions, technical discussions and partnership meetings; and
- Effectively represent and communicate the results and impact of our agribusiness, value chain and access to market interventions



Essential requirements:

- Candidates must have a qualification in a relevant discipline such as agricultural economics, economics, investment finance or business management;
- Candidates must have a minimum of five years' experience, working at a management level, in the area of agribusiness management/Value Chain and Commercialisation in Malawi. It is desirable that at least two of these years will have been spent working with a national or international organization with experience of engaging with and advocating on agribusiness/Value Chain and Commercialisation reforms.
- Candidates must demonstrate experience in the designing, development and planning of Value Chain development and access to market programmes; and have good understanding of Malawi's agribusiness/Value Chain and Commercialisation ecosystem and at international level;
- Candidates must demonstrate a clear and analytical understanding of political economy issues surrounding value chain development such as processing, structured markets, import and export requirements, food standards and safety among others.
- Candidates must have good understanding of, and ideally exposure and experience with international processes and initiatives to address agribusiness/Value Chain and Commercialisation ecosystem development.
- Candidates must have a good understanding of, and experience in, incorporating gender, environment and climate change, HIV and AIDs and governance issues within agribusiness/Value Chain and Market work interventions.
- Candidates must clearly demonstrate experience and proficiency in policy analysis and in the management and synthesis of varied quantitative and qualitative data.
- The candidate must provide evidence of flexibility, efficiency and effectiveness showing strong organisational skills, attention to detail, able to work under pressure and to manage multiple tasks;
- The candidate should provide examples of being solutions-oriented, and committed to delivering results, including by adapting approach if necessary;
- The candidate must demonstrate using work based examples of providing excellent interpersonal skills, being persuasive, working in a team but also dealing effectively with people in external organisations;
- The candidate must have a working knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite (Outlook, Word, Excel);
- The candidate must be fully bilingual in English and Chichewa; (a language test may be included as part of the shortlisting process);
- **The successful candidate must have a legal entitlement to live and work in Malawi prior to recruitment.**



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Desirable Skills and Experience

- A good understanding of the role of the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy;
- The successful applicant will have demonstrated competencies and capabilities across a range of policy engagement, programme management and team working contexts.
- Previous experience in a diplomatic mission is desirable, but not essential;
- Excellent at building up and maintaining a network of contacts, counterparts and colleagues.

Terms and conditions of employment:

- The successful candidates will be hired on a fixed-term contractual basis and will be based at Embassy Lilongwe;
- Monday to Friday, 35 hours per week, with standard office hours from 7:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Thursday. Normal working hours on Friday are from 7:30am to 12:30pm.
- Annual Leave entitlement 24 days per annum;
- The starting salary for the position is MWK 30,723,757 per annum of the relevant pay scale, paid locally, on a monthly basis. Salaries are paid direct to a bank account, therefore, the successful candidate must have a bank account. The salary is subject to PAYE.

How to apply

You must complete the application form, which is available on the Embassy's website www.dfa.ie/Malawi. To access the form, navigate to About Us >> Job Opportunities >> Value Chain and Commercialisation Advisor.

Completed application forms should be sent via e-mail only to LilongweEMjobs@dfa.ie, with the subject line **Value Chain and Commercialisation Advisor Vacancy**.

Applications must be received before 16:30 hrs. (Local time) on 6 November 2023

(No applications will be accepted after this deadline).

Please note only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

Selection Process:

- A short-listing of candidates to be called for a competency-based interview will be undertaken based on the Essential/Key Requirements above.
- The candidates will be informed of the date for the competency based interview; and
- A written and numerical skills test will be included in the recruitment process;



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General Data Protection Regulation:

All personal information received will be kept in line with GDPR guidelines.

Security Clearance for Local Staff

Police security clearance will be sought in respect of individuals who come under consideration for appointment. Enquiries may also be made with the police force of any country in which the applicant under consideration for appointment resided. If unsuccessful, this information will be destroyed. If the applicant subsequently comes under consideration for another position, they will be required to supply this information again.

Please note that canvassing will disqualify applicants.

The Embassy of Ireland in Lilongwe is committed to a policy of Equal Opportunity.