



Job Announcement *Approved*

The Near East Foundation (NEF) is a non-profit international development organization that has supported livelihoods recovery and community-based economic development in the Middle East, Africa, and Caucasus since 1915. NEF draws on local teams, experience, and partnerships in these regions to create community-led solutions to reduce poverty, create economic opportunity, and empower conflict and crisis-affected groups to improve their future outlook and wellbeing. Our programs are organized around three pillars: Inclusive Economic Development, Climate-resilient Development, and Stabilization and Peacebuilding.

Title: Value Chain & Economic Development Officer

Reports to: Senior Capacity Building & Economic Development Specialist

Location: Rumbek, South Sudan

Travel: Frequent travel between project sites

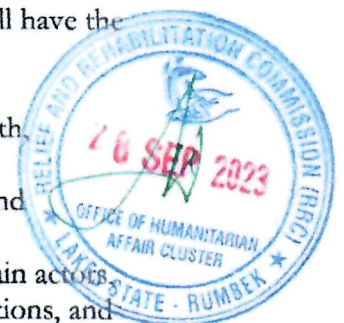
The Near East Foundation (NEF) is seeking applicants for a **Value Chain & Economic Development Officer** to be based in Rumbek, in South Sudan. Since 2021, NEF has supported conflict, displacement, and climate change-affected communities in South Sudan to improve food security and self-sufficiency through agricultural production as well as health and wellbeing through community-led initiatives in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). In Lakes State, NEF is launching a project to localize the supply chain for essential agricultural and fishing inputs. The project aims to support local production of agricultural tools for immediate markets; and support vulnerable households to procure tools for crop production.

Position Description:

The VC & ED Officer is a key member of the Near East Foundation team in South Sudan. They will provide technical and implementation support to build the resilience of conflict and climate affected communities in Lakes State.

Under the overall supervision of the Senior CB & ED Specialist, the Officer will have the following **duties and responsibilities:**

- Conduct value chain analysis to identify priority value chain with high growth, commercialization, and poverty reduction potential;
- Apply a value chain approach to ensure project interventions are targeted and responsive to evolving market requirements;
- Work closely with technical teams, to map priority value chain including main actors, flow of products, service providers, infrastructure facilities, financial institutions, and supporting organizations;
- Support technical design of activities that promote market linkages in the agriculture, livestock, and fisheries sectors within priority value chains, bringing together producer organizations, wholesalers, traders, and private sector service providers to make local production competitive in domestic and regional markets;





- Collaborate with NEF's technical specialists (Livelihoods, Protection, and Agriculture Specialists) to support comprehensive capacity building activities, and economic development and community-led priority interventions (social innovation initiatives and community initiatives);
- Coordinate with other project staff to support farmer and producer organizations to provide ongoing evaluation of market requirements and response plans;
- Build and maintain effective relationships with partner organizations and other organizational stakeholders in areas related to organizational capacity building;
- Coordinate with the program's MEL Lead to track supported stakeholders' progress in achievement of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs);
- Represent NEF at relevant clusters and working groups in Lakes State; and
- Perform other job-related duties as assigned.

Key Qualifications:

- University degree in in Agricultural Economics, Agribusiness Management, rural development, or related field;
- A minimum of 2-5 years of relevant experience in management of complex projects on livelihood diversification, value chain, rural business development and agricultural marketing;
- Demonstrated experience in conducting value chain assessments and determining appropriate interventions to enhance agricultural productivity and market access for smallholder producers;
- Experience of working with key value chain stakeholders (producers, traders, enterprise groups rural financing institutions/banks and research/policy associations
- Demonstrated experience in the facilitation of formal trainings and strong interpersonal skills for coaching and mentoring in informal settings;
- Demonstrated experience in Collaborating, Learning and Adapting (CLA);
- Strong interpersonal and oral communication and presentations skills, including ability to plan, organize, and write reports;
- Professional proficiency in verbal and written English, and Dinka is required; knowledge of Arabic is a plus.

Application Deadline: October 15, 2023

To apply:

Please apply by visiting the Near East Foundation Careers Page at www.nearcast.org/careers with the following documents:

1. Cover letter outlining relevant experience and skills based on the requirements outlined above
2. Curriculum Vitae
3. List of three references (including one from current, or most recent, employer)

Please note only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.





Applicants are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Near East Foundation by visiting the NEF website at www.nearcast.org.

The Near East Foundation promotes Equal Employment Opportunities for all applicants seeking employment and NEF employees.

Pre-employment Checks

Any Employment with the Near East Foundation will be subject to the following checks prior to start date:

- A satisfactory Restricted Party Screening.
- Receipt of satisfactory references.
- Proof of eligibility to work in the national location for this role.



II. Approved by RRC office for humanitarian & NGO affairs.

