



EWB Long Term Fellowship MBC Africa

Role: Technical Advisor

Venture: MBC Africa

Website: <http://www.mbcafrica.org/>

Location: Accra, Ghana

Start Date: Training May 2017, placement start date June 2017

Duration: 12 months

Engineers Without Borders Canada (EWB) is a Canadian NGO that invests in people and ventures to create a thriving and sustainable world. Bolstered by its network of 36 chapters and 1600 members, EWB provides seed funding, talent and mentorship to social enterprises throughout sub-Saharan Africa. For more information on EWB, visit <http://ewb.ca>.

The EWB Fellows Program

The EWB Fellows Program exists to develop a cadre of Systems Change Leaders by equipping them with the opportunities, competencies and skills needed to build a more thriving and sustainable world. Every year we recruit 25-30 outstanding people for the 12-month Fellowship, placing successful candidates in one of our early-stage Ventures located throughout sub-Saharan Africa. This Fellowship opportunity is with MBC Africa and is based in Accra, Ghana.

About MBC Africa

MBC Africa is an initiative implemented by Engineers Without Borders Canada and the Lundin Foundation, and funded by Global Affairs Canada. MBC Africa works in the West African agribusiness ecosystem to deliver Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) training and middle management capacity building. MBC aims to address CEOs and managers' knowledge, skill and execution ability gaps through innovative training, consulting and mentoring programs. MBC Africa also aims to support youth to seize the vast opportunities in the agricultural sector.

About the role



MBC is currently seeking an exceptional candidate for an exciting position building our agribusiness Advisory and Consulting operations in West Africa. The position would involve working with our partners, clients, and local experts to develop and implement our unique method of Technical Assistance (TA) delivery to growing businesses in the agriculture industry.

Initially, the Technical Advisor will work as a member of a team on several concurrent TA projects with both pre-investment and post-investment businesses in a variety of agricultural value chains. The work will involve a mix of technical (engineering, process design, maintenance), financial, and managerial consulting according to the strengths and abilities of the candidate. In addition, the individual will help to enhance and scale our methods for delivering low-cost, customized consulting, as well as support the team in managing our overall financial sustainability. This position will quickly evolve into a leadership role within the Technical Assistance team within the first year.

This is an excellent opportunity for an experienced entrepreneur with a strong knowledge of social enterprise, agribusiness, and impact investing to help build a powerful network of TA providers in West Africa.

We are seeking professionals who will complement and diversify our team, and who align with our values, which are at the root of everything that we do.

If you are passionate about social change, if you are self-driven, and if you view the world as a never-ending opportunity to learn, you may fit. If you attack problems with creative solutions and like to push the boundaries of what is possible, you may fit. If you are flexible and adaptable to working in new environments and approach your difference with others with open-minded curiosity, you seem like someone we might want on our team.

As a Technical Advisor for MBC Africa, your responsibilities will include:

- Work with the team in Ghana to understand our goals, our methods, our history, and our partners
- Deliver Technical Assistance services to agribusiness clients to help them attain greater growth, generate social impact, and achieve MBC 's TA objectives
- Design and enhance our methods for offering Technical Assistance to enterprises of various sizes and maturity, and codify these techniques to facilitate greater adoption by other MBC team members and external partners
- Reach out to existing local organizations to explore partnerships and/or recruit and train local technical expertise based on the project pipeline
- Set up and manage TA projects with small-to-medium-sized businesses, provide coaching to clients and junior MBC staff, and manage projects



- Develop and perform Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, & Learning (PMEL) methods on MBC client businesses
- Support other MBC initiatives with technical expertise, project coordination, and integration with TA efforts as appropriate

Sound exciting? Here's who we are looking for.

Skills & Qualifications

Our ideal candidate:

- Is a strategic, systems thinker who is passionate about 'intelligent' development
- Knows how to cultivate a network of partnerships across different levels in a system in order to facilitate collective action towards change
- Possesses strong business acumen and systems design experience. Engineering expertise or agricultural experience is an asset
- Has practical knowledge of businesses in the start-up phase, identifying and solving problems both creatively and independently
- Demonstrates exceptional coaching skills, particularly in a client management context or in supporting the professional development of others
- Has the proven ability to refine and execute on a strategy that builds on existing capacities, identifies key leverage points, and effectively engages diverse stakeholders in a large and complex problem at scale
- Has strong communication skills, with the ability to clearly and concisely articulate complex issues to various groups of stakeholders including partners, funders, and the international market development and systems change communities
- Has a positive attitude and can maintain motivation in challenging environments

Pre-requisites/Level of Experience

- Undergraduate degree mandatory, Master's degree preferred
- 3 - 5 years of professional experience in a related field (e.g. business, start-ups, engineering, finance, consulting)
- Fluency in written and verbal English communications, French language fluency strongly desired
- Strong general technical problem solving skills
- Knowledge or experience of engineering, process design, and operational efficiency an asset (P.Eng. designation highly desired)
- Food processing quality assurance certifications such as HACCP an asset
- Experience working in an accelerator, incubator, or hub program an asset



- Knowledge of impact investment, experience structuring deals and performing due diligence on an asset
- Deep appreciation for and interest in African history, international development, macroeconomics, social justice, process efficiency, behavior change, agriculture, and finance

Please note: You must be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or landed immigrant in order to apply. No exceptions.

Compensation

All costs relating to the placement are either paid for directly by EWB (airfare, insurance, vaccinations, trainings) or indirectly through a living stipend, which covers food, living expenses, local travel, etc. Fellows also receive an honorarium to assist with repatriation costs. The stipend covers basic living expenses for a modest lifestyle in your placement country. You should not expect to save money during this year or use the stipend to cover previous expenses (e.g. student loans).

Additionally, EWB offers a range of benefits including insurance, a settlement allowance, professional development opportunities, and more.

Application Instructions

Submitting your application for the EWB Fellowship involves two steps:

Step 1: Under the subject line “Technical Advisor – MBC Africa”, submit your CV/Resume to recruitment@ewb.ca.

Step 2: Complete the following online application form. Please select "EWB Long Term Fellowship – MBC Africa" as the “Opportunity type” and ‘MBC Africa’ as the “Organization of Interest”. If you would like to submit your candidacy to more than one role, please fill out separate forms.

Applications will be reviewed, and interviews scheduled on a rolling basis, so please submit your application as soon as possible. If the posting is still on our website, consider the role available.

For more information about EWB, please visit our website: ewb.ca.