

***Join Our Team***

**Advert for Agronomist/Irrigation Officer**

In 2021 Self Help Africa and United Purpose combined almost 60 years working in Malawi to scale our operations and reach 1.2 million Malawians, each year. As of September 2023, we are jointly known as Self Help Africa. (SHA) . SHA is an international non-governmental organisation working to create opportunities for lasting improvement in peoples’ lives. We work in partnership with others to support a range of livelihoods and food security, WASH and health, sustainable energy and gender equality programmes reaching over 1,200,000 people a year across Malawi. Globally, we work in 17 countries across Africa, Asia and South America. SHA currently operates in 14 districts in Malawi, supporting 24 on-going projects. This is an exciting time to join us as we seek to tackle the global challenges in progressive and innovative ways.

SHA is working with the World Food Programme (WFP) to restore and create household and community assets which will help the targeted communities to enhance livelihoods and build resilience to future shocks. The project will target 4,000 households in Mulanje. This will be achieved through achieving the following four outcomes:

* Households meet short term hunger gaps while creating assets that build resilience to shocks.
* Strengthen the ability of households to adapt and absorb shocks (integrated risk management (insurance, credit, climate services), activities)
* Build capacities of smallholder farmers’ production, aggregation, and marketing
* Enhance the promotion of gender equality and the protection of affected populations.

**Job Purpose**

The Agronomist/Irrigation Officer is required to provide technical support for Agronomy, Irrigation, Soil and Water management component of the Project while overseeing Flood Damage and Drought Risk Management and Mitigation Project in assigned areas. The project aims to support the relevant Ministry responsible for Water Resources and Meteorology in Mulanje in its efforts to address flood and drought risk management and mitigation.

**Key Duties and Responsibilities:**

He /she will be responsible for the following scope of work:

* Is responsible for the planning, implementation, and monitoring of the agricultural component of the project (crop production, vegetable gardening, fruit plantation) in collaboration with the District Council officials, as well ensuring that agribusiness approach is incorporated in all project activities. The Agronomist/Irrigation officer will coordinate the agriculture component and support the agribusiness.
* Network with other agribusiness development initiatives and investors to ensure continuous sharing of experiences, effective learning and creation of functional networks and synergies.
* Conduct assessment and recommend crops which can adapt to the environment for better yield.
* Organize on job trainings and field days to the extension workers, field monitors and lead farmers. in line with WFP Food for Assets (FFA) approach.
* Review the irrigation water requirements and water balance analysis performed during Community Based Planning and recommend further detailed studies as needed.
* Work together with project team members in the preparation of work programs and schedules in line with WFP Food for Assets (FFA) approach.
* Assist district council in site identification/verification, topographic surveys, and preparation of detailed design activities, bid documents, and construction works of the irrigation project.
* Develop a quality assurance program for civil works for the irrigation component, and train staff in implementation of the quality control program.
* Work in collaboration with the Irrigation Officer at District level in production of a detailed design irrigation scheme
* Review completion of work and compliance with standards prior to completion certificates being issued.
* Provide the much-needed technical supervision of irrigation component of the project, including contract management.
* He/she will be responsible for providing technical support to district council/field staffs in site selection and preparation of detail design implementation of other water works.
* He/she will be responsible for providing technical support to the road sector of the council in design and implementation of community access road and culverts/ local bridges.
* He/she will be responsible to provide technical support to any other civil works planned to be implemented in the site such as post-harvest facilities (solar drier, grain stores)

**Desirable Qualifications & Experience**

* The Agronomist/Irrigation Officer will have degree in Agriculture Engineering/Irrigation/water resources/hydraulics Engineering.
* Minimum of 5 years’ experience in planning and design of irrigation development projects and water development.
* He/she will have extensive work experience in a related field, a good knowledge and understanding of irrigation and agricultural systems in Malawi River Basins and considerable work experience in the Southern Region.
* The candidate is required to demonstrate ability to work in a multidisciplinary team and excellent communication (written and oral) skills.
* Excellent written and verbal communication skills, with strong data analysis and critical thinking skills.
* Analytical thinking, problem solving and decision-making ability
* Strong respect and empathy for rural communities, and an affinity to SHA’s mission and values of integrity, dignity and environmental respect.
* Demonstrable understanding and skills in safeguarding.
* Experience in incorporating gender issues across the programme life cycle.
* Excellent written and spoken English and Chichewa, including the ability to write clear, field reports.
* Proactive and highly motivated individual who requires the minimum of supervision.
* Ability to represent the organisation in a highly professional manner with a range of high-level stakeholders.

**How to apply**

Qualified and interested candidates who meet the stated requirements must submit a completed Application Form, downloadable on <https://gsha.box.com/v/applicationform>. The completed application form should be uploaded together with the Cover letter, Curriculum Vitae and Copies Certificates saved in your name to <https://selfhelpafrica.org/ie/careers-apply/?jbcd=500QD000003tKCk%20-%20Advert%20for%20Agronomist/Irrigation%20Officer%20(50400>

No hard copies / physical applications will be accepted. Please note that zipped Folder will not be accessed.

Closing date for the receipt of completed application forms is 12:00 Midnight of 22nd November, 2023 Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Self Help Africa takes the safety and well-being of all those we work with, and our staff, very seriously. We have a zero-tolerance policy on abuse. Our recruitment is safe, meaning that we recruit staff with the highest values and standards of ethical behaviour. Self Help Africa has a Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy, which reflects our commitment to protecting the people with whom we work. All candidates will be expected to comply with this policy and its procedures.

For more information about the organization, please visit our website at [www.selfhelpafrica.net](http://www.selfhelpafrica.net).

**SHA is an equal opportunity employer.**