TITLE: Gender and Youth Engagement Officer

PARTNER(S): Small and Medium Enterprises Development Institute (SMEDI)

COUNTRY AND PLACE OF ASSIGNMENT: Malawi, Lilongwe

CONTRACT DURATION: 12 weeks

DESCRIPTION:

Uniterra is a leading Canadian international volunteer cooperation and development program, jointly implemented by the Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI) and World University Service of Canada (WUSC). Uniterra contributes to improving the socio-economic conditions of poor and marginalized communities in 14 countries and with over 170 partners in Africa, Asia and the Americas through the exchange of expertise and knowledge of Canadian and international volunteers. Uniterra believes that economic growth, when inclusive, is the most powerful driver of poverty reduction. The purpose of the Uniterra program is to improve the lives of some of the world’s most vulnerable populations by stimulating growth and facilitating access to the benefits of growing and diversified markets. To make this happen, we are working with our local partners to enhance the income of poor and marginalized women and youth through better access to employment and income generation opportunities. Uniterra country program staff work with our local partners to design Uniterra assignments in the context of the country strategy, supporting the inclusion of women and youth in key economic subsectors.

For more information on the Uniterra program, our approach and countries of focus please visit: Uniterra.ca.

Small and Medium Enterprises Development Institute (SMEDI)’s mission is to promote the development and growth of sustainable micro, small and medium enterprises in Malawi, partnering with the Government of Malawi and other role players to create an enabling environment, to facilitate access to finance, information and markets for MSMEs and to provide relevant, needs-based business development services.

The Gender and Youth Advisor will contribute to building the capacity of SMEDI staff and partner committees on gender and youth related activities. The assignment will be adjusted according to the expertise of the selected volunteer.
RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Ensure the alignment of SMEDI’s annual work plan with the gender and youth inclusion action plan;
- Assist in drafting gender and youth policies;
- Support in facilitating capacity building activities for staff and clients on gender and youth related issues;
- Follow-up with interested affiliates to develop strategies and tools for youth and women engagement and participation;
- Ensure the documentation and knowledge-sharing of gender and youth inclusion tools and findings by actively participating in the maintenance of community’s EWM virtual library;
- Ensure the participation of women and youth, as well as their representation, in all activities of and all program benefits; and
- Write reports required by SMEDI and the Uniterra program.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Any experience in gender analysis or
- Experience with facilitating trainings or workshops (or other relevant capacity-building work such as teaching);
- Demonstrated interest in innovative pedagogical methods and youth engagement;
- Ability to work and communicate effectively in intercultural settings;
- Excellent judgement and problem-solving and self-management skills;
- Ability to work effectively both in a team and independently;
- Experience with gender inclusion and/or youth entrepreneurship in an intercultural setting is an asset;
- Experience in project management is also an asset.