PUBLIC HEALTH INTERNSHIPS IN THE MILLENNIUM VILLAGES

The Millennium Villages Project (MVP) Health Sector Internship provides an excellent opportunity for students to gain on-the-ground experience in global public health, as well as exposure to other sustainable development sectors, including business development, agriculture, education, and infrastructure. The MVP is a unique project, where interventions are implemented through a multi-sectorial, community-based model. Students are placed in one of 9 MVP sites, which are located in 8 countries across sub-Saharan Africa. (Though the MVP works in 11 sites across 10 countries, 2 of these locations – Mali and Nigeria – are off limits for student placements at the current time.) Students provide assistance to the MVP site teams and NY and Africa-based technical advisory staff, managing and implementing interventions, building local capacity, encouraging community engagement, devising program strategy, forming and strengthening partnerships, conducting research, carrying out critical assessments, and influencing local and national policies. Students will be supervised by a researcher at the Earth Institute in NY and/or a technical advisor at one of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Centers in Dakar, Senegal and Nairobi, Kenya, as well as a site-level Health Sector manager. Students will gain knowledge, tools, skills, and experiences that they can apply to their coursework as well as to their future professional pursuits. Students will have a rewarding and challenging experience and make a genuine contribution toward achieving the MDGs in sub-Saharan Africa. We welcome applicants who have an interest in public health and sustainable development, and who have demonstrated a commitment to working with underserved populations.

* Please note that this is a public health, non-clinical experience.

SESSION DATES AND APPLICATION DEADLINES

Summer Session: May/June – August/September 2014
Six-month Public Health Practicum: June – December 2014
*Other project timelines possible based on discussion with MVP staff and with approval from student’s advisor, where necessary

General Application Deadline: February 14, 2014
Acceptance Date / Assignment Finalizations: March 14, 2014

Interns must be able to commit at least 8 weeks to the MVP Health Internship.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Please completely fill out all of the following information:

A. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name ____________________________ SSN ________________
Address ____________________________ Phone ____________________
City, State, and ZIP ____________________________ DOB __________________
Email ____________________________
B. EDUCATION  
Undergraduate __________________________  Major __________________________  Degree ______
Graduate ______________________________  Major __________________________
Extracurricular Activities and Honors
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
C. DESIRED AREAS OF INVOLVEMENT: From the list of potential project areas below, please choose the two projects of most interest for an internship with the Millennium Villages Project Health Sector, and explain your interest. Please note that this list is intended to provide a general sense for the type of work that students might perform in the upcoming year, and are subject to change before final placement. Terms of Reference are developed based on need at the MVP sites. Please also indicate your top three preferred site placements, as well as any sites to which you would not be willing to travel. The MVP sites to which students may be sent are located in Ethiopia (Koraro), Ghana (Bonsaaso, SADA), Kenya (Sauri), Malawi (Mwandama), Rwanda (Mayange), Senegal (Potou), Tanzania (Mbola) and Uganda (Ruhirira). We are not able to send students to Nigeria or Mali at this time. Proficiency in French is required for placement in Senegal and preferred for placements in Rwanda. Please also note that placements in any country may be revoked due to political instability and safety/travel warnings. For more information about MVP and these sites, please visit www.millenniumvillages.org.

Projects of interest and explanation of interest:

1) ________________________________________________________________________________
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   ________________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________________

2) ________________________________________________________________________________
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Preferred site placement:

1) _______________________________

2) _______________________________

3) _______________________________
1) **Project Title:** Improving maternal and newborn health outcomes with the Safe Childbirth Checklist  
**Project Area of Focus:** Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health  
**Possible sites:** Ruhiira (Uganda), Koraro (Ethiopia), Sauri (Kenya)  
**Length of Internship:** 3 months  

**Background:**  
The Safe Childbirth Checklist (SCC) is a quality improvement tool developed by the WHO to increase the chances of survival for mothers and babies during childbirth. The Checklist prompts users to complete essential tasks that have been proven to reduce the leading causes of maternal and neonatal deaths, including postpartum hemorrhage, infection, obstructed labor, and intrapartum complications. In addition to a randomized-controlled trial being conducted in India, the WHO launched the SCC Collaboration in late 2012 to field-test the tool in various settings. As a member of the collaboration, the Millennium Villages Project is now implementing the Checklist in 8 sites to understand the most effective ways of implementing and using the checklist in rural, resource-constrained settings.

**Prospective Intern Role:**  
The internship would involve working closely with the RMNCH Facilitator/Health Coordinator to implement and/or evaluate the usability, acceptability, and effectiveness of the Checklist.

Tasks may include: (1) meeting with key stakeholders (within and outside the MVP cluster area) to present the Checklist and identify health facilities for rollout/scaling up, (2) assessing health facilities for capacity to implement the Checklist, (3) adapting the Checklist to local standards, training health workers on using the checklist, (4) conducting focus groups and interviews with health care providers, (5) supervising use of the Checklist, (6) analyzing clinical data to evaluate the Checklist's impact on maternal and child health outcomes, (7) participating in calls with and preparing reports for the WHO SCC Collaboration, (8) and providing recommendations to the MVP and SCC Collaboration on how to improve its implementation and uptake.

2) **Project Title:** Strengthening delivery of essential maternal and child health services  
**Project Area of Focus:** Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, and Child Health  
**Possible Sites:** Ethiopia (Koraro), Ghana (Bonsaaso, SADA), Kenya (Sauri), Malawi (Mwandama), Rwanda (Mayange), Senegal (Potou), Tanzania (Mbola) and Uganda (Ruhiira)  
**Length of Internship:** 3 months  

**Background:**  
The 1,000 days between conception and a child's second birthday represents a critical window of opportunity to impact a child's long-term health, academic achievement, and earning potential. Undernutrition results in 3 million under-five deaths each year, and contributes to lifelong cognitive deficits, poor physical growth, and weakened immune systems in a quarter of all children under five.

The Millennium Villages Project has developed a 1,000 Days Checklist to help ensure that all pregnant women and children under 2 receive essential health services, including antenatal and postnatal care, vaccinations, nutrition counseling and supplementation, growth monitoring and promotion, and HIV screening and treatment. The 1,000 Days Checklist and a mobile health application is used to longitudinally track services received by all pregnant women and children under 2 and prompt Community Health Workers (CHWs) to proactively offer health care, counseling, and referrals in accordance with specific milestones.
**Prospective Intern Role:**
This placement would involve working closely with CHWs and health care workers to evaluate the Checklist's impact on CHW coverage, service provision, and uptake of health services by pregnant women and caregivers of children under 2.

Tasks may include: (1) shadowing CHWs to monitor & document use of the Checklist, (2) interviewing CHWs, pregnant women, caregivers, and health care providers to assess knowledge (3) attitudes and practices related to the Checklist and essential maternal and child health services, (4) analyzing mHealth, clinic, and other data, (6) writing a report and providing recommendations for the project.

3) **Project Title:** *Evaluation/Assessment of LAMP Initiative*
**Project Area of Focus:** Reduction in Stunting of Children under 5.

**Possible sites:** Malawi (Mwandama), Senegal (Potou), Tanzania (Mbola)
**Length of Internship:** 2 months (or more, depending on availability)

**Background:**
The 1,000 Days Initiative has drawn renewed attention to the importance of nutrition during the first thousand days of life leading up to a child's second birthday. Most stunting occurs during this critical window of opportunity, which is thought to be the result of a combination of inadequate nutrient intake and infectious disease. The Millennium Villages Project is rolling out length monitoring and promotion (LAMP) interventions as a strategy to accelerate reductions in stunting. These activities involve routine length measurements taken by Community Health Workers (CHW’s) on children less than two years of age. While weight monitoring and promotion activities are standard components of nutrition interventions in many settings throughout the world, the promotion of length is novel and there are no published examples of how effective this strategy is, or how it can be integrated into the day-to-day routine of CHW’s.

**Prospective Intern Role:**
This placement would offer the opportunity to be involved in the evaluation of this activity at one or more sites. The intern will use a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods to help evaluate (1) how the process of LAMP is being implemented including documenting the amount of time spent by CHW’s, conducting focus groups with communities and CHW’s about length monitoring and promotion activities, and making recommendations on how to improve the process (2) analyze data collected through the MVP's M&E systems on how many children recover from stunting (3) help develop a publication on the MVP experience of LAMP in collaboration with the Director of Nutrition Research at CGSD and other interns. The project can be completed within 2-3 months, though opportunities to extend the internship into the fall (helping to write the publication) are possible.

4) **Project Title:** *Evaluation/Assessment of the Supply Chain Initiative*
**Project Area of Focus:** Supply Chain Strengthening

**Possible sites:** Ethiopia (Koraro), Ghana (Bonsaaso, SADA), Kenya (Sauri), Malawi (Mwandama), Rwanda (Mayange), Senegal (Potou), Tanzania (Mbola) and Uganda (Ruhiru) – with focus on Koraro (Ethiopia)
**Length of Internship:** Flexible, based on discussion with the Project Lead

**Background:**
Supply Chain Initiative was started in 2012 to ensure that there is a sufficient stock of medical supplies in the health centers supported by MVP and to upgrade existing systems to prevent future stock-outs of essential supplies for maternal and child health and infectious diseases, including childhood vaccination, anti-malarials, antiretrovirals and others.
Prospective Intern Role:
Tasks may include (1) writing a one-year assessment of the supply chain initiative and providing daily support to supply chain managers on stock monitoring (data entry and reporting), procurement, forecasting, and storage (2) providing assessment and training on products utilization according to MVP revised protocols.

5) Project Title: Data Collection for Continuing Development of Field Guide
Project Area of Focus: MVP Field Implementation Guide

Possible Sites: All Sites: Ethiopia (Koraro), Ghana (Bonsaaso, SADA), Kenya (Sauri), Malawi (Mwandama), Rwanda (Mayange), Senegal (Potou), Tanzania (Mbola) and Uganda (Ruhíra)

Length of Internship: Flexible, based on discussion with the Project Lead

Background:
The Field Guide is an open source online tool, that organizes lessons learned and best practices in the Millennium Villages for practitioners to use as a guide to design and implement millennium villages or similar multi-sectorial, community-led projects.

Prospective Role:
Tasks may include: (1) Collect information (processes, tools, lessons learned, case studies) for the Field Guide for all sectors (Agriculture, Education, Infrastructure, Health and cross-sector programs Environment, WASH (Water, Sanitation & Hygiene), Nutrition, and Gender) and systems (community, partners, infrastructure, transportation, supply chain, finance, planning, and information systems).

6) Project Title: Optimization of CHW program implementation
Project Area of Focus: MVP CHW program

Possible Sites: Ethiopia (Koraro), Ghana (Bonsaaso, SADA), Kenya (Sauri), Malawi (Mwandama), Senegal (Potou), Tanzania (Mbola) and Uganda (Ruhíra)

Length of Internship: 6 months

Background:
CHW’s (Community Health Workers) are trained, salaried, high-school graduates who are recruited from the community in which they will provide health care services. They play an integral role in the primary health system acting as a link between the health sector and community. Evidence suggests that by taking basic health care services from the clinics to the households, it is possible to improve disease prevention efforts as well as early detection, treatment, referral and follow-up of patients. As the second phase of MVP approaches an end, the goal is to address any intervention gaps of the CHW program, standardize protocols, and incorporate it into the national system

Prospective Role:
Tasks may include: (1) assessing operational gaps for the CHW program including appropriateness of CHW numbers, household ratio and task-load (2) conducting KAP survey to assess household knowledge, actions, and practices (3) conducting review on national CHW policies and conduct gap analysis with MVP CHW policies (4) assessing effectiveness of supervision program / CHW supervisor performance, as well as usability of supervisor tools and supervision curricula.

7) Project Title: Data Accuracy of CommCare
Project Area of Focus: Millennium Village Information Systems for Health
Possible Sites: Ethiopia (Koraro), Ghana (Bonsaaso, SADA), Kenya (Sauri), Malawi (Mwandama), Senegal (Potou), Tanzania (Mbola) and Uganda (Ruhiiira)
Length of Internship: 6 months

Background:
CommCare is a free open-source software application that can be used to capture data in an electronic repository. It is a valuable tool used by CHW’s to keep track of patients and collect various health indicators including malaria incidence and mortality, stunting, and child mortality.

Prospective Intern Role:
Tasks may include: (1) Investigating data accuracy (2) assisting eHealth specialist in implementing changes recommended by results of usability surveys.

8) Project Title: Improving Oral Health Status in the Village of Koraro
Project Area of Focus: Oral Health

Possible Sites: Koraro (Ethiopia), Potou (Senegal)
Length of Internship: 2 months

Background:
Studies conducted in Ethiopia about oral hygiene and its effects report that only 2% of those examined have teeth with no debris, and 17% have teeth that are considered clean. A baseline assessment, to measure the current oral health status of a total of 1421 community members in the Village of Koraro, and approximately 3000 community members in Potou, indicated four main barriers to good oral health in the community: (1) Poor perception of the consequences of oral disease (2) Poor knowledge of their causes (3) Paucity of regular oral hygiene practices (4) Barriers to access in acquiring oral hygiene tools and curative treatment. The plan to eliminate these barriers focuses on six main areas: (1) Research: understanding the burden of oral disease documenting findings to formulate evidence based oral health strategies (2) Community Outreach: educating and encouraging the community to access health centers (3) Training and capacity building for oral health: developing human resources via training healthcare workers and teachers using tailored curriculums (4) School oral health programs: educating the youth of the significance of maintaining good oral hygiene and methods by which to do it (5) Improving the referral system: training health workers to accurately refer community members to health clinics and hospitals and (6) Advocacy and Social mobilization: advocating oral health among policy makers, community leaders, institutions, social groups, and community members at national, regional and local levels.

Prospective Intern Role:
Tasks may include: (1) conducting and supervising quantitative and qualitative assessments for the following 2 interventions: the Oral Health and Hygiene School educational program, and women development unit oral health educational program. (2) Qualitative assessment (mainly organize and conduct focus groups and in-depth interviews) to assess the oral health training received by community health workers, nurses and mothers/guardians. (3) Develop a policy memo based on the quantitative and qualitative data collected that delineate the outcomes up-to-date and provide evidence-based recommendations to the regional and national ministries of health. (4) Organize an end of project stakeholder meeting to share project results, recommendations and lessons learnt.

9) Project Title: Assessment of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) in Senegal
Project Area of Focus: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Possible Sites: Senegal
Length of Internship: Flexible, based on discussion with the Project Lead
**Background:** The objectives of the WASH initiative include ensuring (1) safe drinking water (2) improved sanitation (3) adequate hygiene practices, and (4) adequate disposal of biomedical waste in health facilities, as well as clean and accessible water for the community.

**Prospective Intern Role:**
Tasks may include: (1) conducting an assessment of WASH conditions in Koranic schools in Potou Senegal and (2) developing an advocacy toolkit (photos, videos, human interest stories and factsheets on sanitation, water and hygiene) that could be used to raise funds to support the Koranic schools and raise the awareness of all stakeholders about the situation in Koranic schools in Senegal.

10) **Project Title:** Supervision and Training of CHW’s to use eCompliance, a tool to monitor TB patients
**Project Area of Focus:** HIV/TB

**Possible Sites:** Bonsaaso
**Length of Internship:** Flexible, based on discussion with the Project Lead

**Background:**
Directly Observed Therapy (DOTS), the WHO standard approach to ensuring full retention of patients in TB treatment programs requires direct observation of patient drug intake and manual recording on individual patient cards. Programmatically, manual tracking is time-consuming, and particularly difficult in high-volume settings where hundreds of patients need daily supervision. eCompliance is a biometric system that simplifies the monitoring of TB patients on treatment by scanning their fingerprint on a netbook during every visit. The proposed project aims to increase TB patient retention in DOTS programs and reduce the rate of drug resistance and death due to inadequate TB treatment.

**Prospective Role of Intern:**
The potential role of the intern will be to train CHWs and nurses on the correct use of eCompliance, and supervise the implementation in one selected MVP site.

11) **Project Title:** Male Clinics
**Project Area of Focus:** Male involvement in health care

**Possible Sites:** Bonsaaso
**Length of Internship:** Flexible, based on discussion with the Project Lead

**Background:**
While MVP is encouraged by the quality and quantity of care it provides, its staff has persistently observed that few men attend the clinics for routine care. This phenomenon is particularly prevalent in Bonsaaso, Ghana. Because of this issue, the MVP staff has identified increasing male visits to Bonsaaso’s health clinics as a major objective to improve its health delivery in the district. Increasing male involvement could in turn also facilitate access for women and children.

While there are many theories to why men are reluctant to visit health clinics in Bonsaaso - including services that are primarily directed towards women and children, primarily female health care providers, concerns over confidentiality, and cultural beliefs that do not support the health centers - MVP has yet to formally conduct research into the obstacles that prevent Ghanaian men from attending the health centers, or fielded male patients’ suggestions for ways in which the health centers could draw more men for routine care.

**Prospective Intern Role:**
The potential role of the intern will be, in Phase I of the project, to prepare focus groups to discuss possible reasons for the low attendance, then propose particular activities requested by men in the communities to be implemented during "male clinics" and subsequently organize those male clinics in Phase II of the project.

D. COURSES AND INTERNATIONAL AND OTHER RELATED EXPERIENCE

Have you been to Africa before? __________  Where? ________________  For how long? ___________
For what purpose? ___________________________________________________________________________
Other international and related experience:
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________  
_____________________________________________________________________________________

E. LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Please list the languages you speak and your proficiency level: __________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

HIGH: You can communicate effectively in most social and work situations
MODERATE: You can communicate comfortably in familiar social and work situations
BASIC: You can communicate in predictable contexts and on familiar topics, but with some difficulty

F. DURATION OF INTERNSHIP

Please indicate your preferred duration for an internship with MVP: ________________

G. FUNDING

If you have funding available to you, please indicate the source/amount of funding: ________________

H. PLEASE ATTACH ADDITIONAL PAGES WITH THE FOLLOWING:

- Resume/CV
- Description of your career goals and relevance of this project to those goals

Please submit all application materials and direct all questions to:
Preet Minhas
MVP Health Program Coordinator
pminhas@ei.columbia.edu