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Job Posting Title

Head of Division, Public Health Institutes and Research

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CDC201708143

Job Title

Head of Division, Public Health Institutes and Research

Organization

The African Union, established as a unique Pan African continental body, is charged with spearheading Africa's rapid integration and sustainable development by promoting unity, solidarity, cohesion and cooperation among the peoples of Africa and African States as well as developing a new partnership worldwide. Its Headquarters is located in Addis Ababa, capital city of Ethiopia.

The Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) was officially launched in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on January 31, 2017. The Africa CDC is Africa's first continent-wide public health agency and envisions a safer, healthier, integrated and stronger Africa, where Member States are capable of effectively responding to outbreaks of infectious diseases and other public health threats. The agency mission is to strengthen Africa's public health institutions' capabilities to detect and respond quickly and effectively to disease outbreaks and other health burdens through an integrated network of continent-wide preparedness and response, surveillance, laboratory, and research programs.

Towards meeting its' mission, the Africa CDC will work with African Union member States, WHO, and partners in the five geographic sub-regions of Africa to strengthen their capacity in five strategic priority areas: (1) public health surveillance and disease intelligence; (2) public health emergency preparedness and response; (3) public health laboratory systems and networks; (4) public health information and technology systems; and (5) public health research and public health institutes. The guiding principles of the Africa CDC include Leadership, Management, Finance, Workforce, Partnership and Innovation.

In seeking to achieve this objective, the African Union intends to strengthen its capacity to deliver by, among others, the reinforcement of its organizational structure and expertise. The Commission of the African Union invites applicants who are national and citizens of Member States for a position of Head of Division, Public Health Institutes and Research for the Africa CDC.

Department

Job title: Head of Division, Public Health Institutes and Research
Grade: P5
Department: Africa CDC
Supervisor: Director of Africa CDC
Duty Station: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Number of Positions: One (1)

Project

Head of Division, Public Health Institutes and Research directs and oversees multi-functional program activities involving a broad and complex range of public health programs and research activities that align with the Africa CDC strategic plan. S/He will be responsible for developing policy, guidance and standards for agency strategies, programs and research carried out through the agency Regional Collaborating Centres (RCC) in collaboration with Member State National Public Health Institutes. The work requires an extensive breadth of public health and medical/scientific/public health program knowledge, intensity of efforts, and provision of guidance to multiple projects and programs operating concurrently. In carrying out these functions and imperatives, the incumbent participates in achieving agency health impact goals through strong liaison, coordination, and collaboration efforts with many other internal and external colleagues, stakeholders, partners, and customers.

Tasks

Head of Division, Public Health Institutes and Research of the Africa CDC shall:

- Establish the Africa CDC public health research agenda with goals and objectives to address priority health issues.
- Establish and lead a (virtual) research unit within the Africa CDC
- Strengthen public health research infrastructures and human capacity within public institutions in partnerships with academic institutions in Member States
- Promote collaboration and coordination among existing networks to conduct research on priority issues of public health research agenda
- Liaise with WHO on behalf of the African Union to develop the framework for an African Public Health Network.
- Coordinate efforts to re-characterize the known burden of "disease" and other health concerns from a continental and/or regional perspective
- Assess effectiveness of existing public health interventions on health conditions that have been prioritized by the health policy instruments of the African Union
- Support research on surveillance methodologies: quality interventions and innovative technologies
- Apply multi-sectoral/cross-cutting One Health strategies to the Africa CDC public health research agenda.
- Lead efforts to develop, and enhance existing, capacities for the systematic translation of research findings to inform policy and programs
- Leads efforts to ensure the continual scientific development of staff through training and developmental experience and mentorship.
- Provide scientific leadership and expertise in the development and execution of research projects, ensuring scientific soundness and technical feasibility.
- Lead efforts and internal processes to assess, makes recommendations and approves research study designs, internal and external peer reviews, abstracts and presentation clearances and publication of data and research findings.
- Provide expert medical, technical, and scientific advice to the professional and technical staff of the agency and its' constituent partners in the planning, conduct, implementation, analysis, and publication of applied scientific research.

- Establish continental ethical and scientific review mechanisms and provide advice on human subject protection and links to the agency institutional review board as well as other appropriate institutional review boards.
- Performs other duties as required.

Requirements

1. Educational Qualification & Work Experience Required:

University Master's Degree in Public Health, Epidemiology, Health-Services research, health outcomes research, biostatistics, environmental science or decision sciences with 12 years of practical experience in public health research and epidemiology out of which 7 years of experience at a specialist/expertise level in management of epidemiology, health services or outcomes research within a government agency or academic institution or research organization within a public health context. Applicable and relevant private-sector experience within a research organization or life-sciences company. Proven track record scientific management and technical expertise related to all applicable functional areas
A Doctor of Medicine (MD) in relevant field is an added advantage.

OR

University Bachelor Degree in Public Health, Epidemiology, Health-Services research, health outcomes research, biostatistics, environmental science or decision sciences with 15 years of practical experience in public health research and epidemiology out of which 5 years of experience at a specialist/expertise level in management of epidemiology, health services or outcomes research within a government agency or academic institution or research organization within a public health context. Applicable and relevant private-sector experience within a research organization or life-sciences company. Proven track record scientific management and technical expertise related to all applicable functional areas

2. Required Skills and Competencies:

- Mastery of the theories, concepts, principles, practices, methods and techniques of public health program administration and other aspects of the field of public health in order to resolve especially difficult and critical questions, problems and issues that may not be resolved by traditional methods.
- Mastery of a wide range of qualitative and/or quantitative methods for the assessment and improvement of program effectiveness or the improvement of complex management processes and systems.
- Expert knowledge of the principles, concepts, methods and techniques used in the field of international/national public health in order to analyze, evaluate and provide expert advice and consultation in planning, developing and enhancing scientific research and program delivery.
- Possess ability to identify and quantify requirements to support public health initiatives.
- Comprehensive knowledge of strategic planning and evaluation processes.
- Proven ability to work collaboratively and lead effectively in a multicultural and cross-functional team environment.
- Record of high-quality, peer-reviewed epidemiology and/or outcomes research publications is required
- Ability to effectively communicate both orally and by writing, program goals, and objectives, including scientific justification of research and programs and specific requirements.
- Good computer skills, including office administration and statistical software applications and online digital information systems.
- Ability to manage complex operations and teams; ability to apply effective leadership and interpersonal skills through use of strategic thinking, team and project leadership, decision-making skills and personnel development – including proven skills in supervision, team building, and motivating and developing people
- Excellent diplomatic, representational and interpersonal skills

- Good analytical and problem solving skills
 - Strong attention to details and accuracy
 - Delegation skills
 - Ability to work in a multicultural environment
- High level of autonomy at work, yet with profound team-spirit
Adaptive, patient, resilient and flexible
Pro-active and solutions oriented

3. Language Requirement:

Proficiency in one of the African Union working languages (Arabic, English, French and Portuguese) is required. Knowledge of one or more of the other AU working languages would be an added advantage.

4. Tenure of Appointment:

The appointment will be a fixed term contract for a period of One (1) years, of which the first Three (3) months shall be considered as a probationary period. Thereafter, the contract may be renewed for a similar period subject to funding availability, satisfactory performance, and agreed deliverables.

5. Equal Opportunities:

The African Union Commission is an equal opportunities employer. Qualified women are encouraged to apply.

6. Remuneration:

The indicative annual salary attached to the position is a lump sum of US\$110,107.14 (P5) inclusive of all allowances for internationally recruited staff, and US\$ 98,501.89 inclusive of all allowances for locally recruited staff.

How to Apply

All applications must reach the African Union Commission not later than 15th September 2017 through the AU Commission's website <http://www.aucareers.org>.

Applications are pre-screened by the system according to the published requirements of the job opening on the basis of the information provided in the application. In relation to the requirements of the job opening, applicants must provide complete and accurate information pertaining to their qualifications, including their education, work experience, and language skills. Each applicant must bear in mind that submission of incomplete or inaccurate applications may render that applicant ineligible for consideration for the job opening. Initial screening and evaluation of applications will be conducted on the basis of the information submitted. Applications cannot be amended following submission. Candidates under serious consideration for selection will be subject to a reference-checking process to verify the information provided in the application.

Directorate of Administration and Human Resources
Management, African Union Commission
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Contract Type

Fixed Term Contract

Branch

Headquarters