



External Publication of Job Posting

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Job Posting Title

SENIOR TECHNICAL OFFICER (Public Health Institutes & Research) – AFRICA CDC

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18.06.2018

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Job Title

SENIOR TECHNICAL OFFICER (Public Health Institutes & Research) – AFRICA CDC

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 Centres 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 programmes.

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 Senior Technical Officer for the Africa CDC.

Candidates from the following least represented countries at the African Union Commission are encouraged to

apply: Algeria, South Africa, Morocco, Angola, Ghana, Congo (DRC), Equatorial Guinea, South Sudan, Namibia, Mali, Madagascar, Guinea-Conakry, Cape Verde, Central African Rep., Seychelles, Somalia, Guinea-Bissau, Saharawi Arab D.R., Comoros, Sao Tome and Principe

Department

POST:

Job title: Senior Technical Officer - Public Health Institutes and Research

Grade: P3

Department/Agency: Africa CDC

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

Duty Station: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Number of Positions: One (1)

Project

JOB PURPOSE:

The Senior Technical Officer for the Division of Public Health Institutes and Research, Africa CDC will be responsible for providing technical assistance for advancing African CDC strategic priorities and initiatives by working through regional implementing partners. These programmes and activities are designed to improve the health of the people of Africa through the conduct of scientific research and building capacity to reduce disease burden in the continent. In carrying out the work of the Division, the Senior Technical Officer supports the implementation of public health operational and outcomes based research. The position is responsible for provision of technical assistance in policy, guidance and standards for agency research strategies and programmes carried out through the agency Regional Collaborating Centres (RCC) in collaboration with Member State National Public Health Institutes (NPHI). Division work is implemented primarily through Africa CDC Regional Integrated Surveillance and Laboratory Networks (RISLNET), and coordinated by Regional Collaborating Centres, and in collaboration with Member States, National Public Health Institutes, WHO and other technical partners to strengthen capacities and enhance efficiencies of existing public health assets in the region to conduct operational and outcomes-based research. Factors in terms of the Africa CDC social and environmental will be relevant – including demographic, hardship, travel and other local conditions.

Tasks

MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Senior Technical Officer shall:

- a) Provide technical assistance to ensure the vision, mission and guiding values of the Africa CDC are developed, communicated, and implemented by Africa CDC Regional Collaborating Centres (RCC) and implementing partners as appropriate;
- b) Plan, develop, and implement Division specific policy and programme objectives, strategic plans, annual work plans, activity action plans, resource plans and budgets, staff performance plans necessary to achieve core strategies, outcome-oriented goals, and objectives. Evaluate and report on progress;
- c) Provides expert advice and consultation to Member States, RCC's, NPHI's, key stakeholders and partners regarding implementation of Africa CDC operational and outcomes-based research. This work may also involve supporting other strategic initiatives and programmes, e.g., Events Based Surveillance (EBS), strengthening disease monitoring and surveillance and laboratory systems and health information systems, workforce development and other activities through the regional integrated surveillance and laboratory networks (RISLNET);
- d) Facilitate and coordinate development of standard operating procedures and scientific protocols for

- strengthening regional and national public health research activities, programmes and networks;
- e) Facilitate and coordinate development of planning tools and reference guidance and other tools for development of individual research capacity;
 - f) Facilitate and coordinate crosscutting support across Divisions and Regional Collaborating Centres as appropriate to infuse principals and tools of operations and outcomes-based research into ongoing work.
 - g) Works closely with the office of the Head of Management and Administration to ensure all resource requirements for Division activity implementation are communicated, processed and delivered. Facilitates and ensures monitoring and reporting for Division expenditures.
 - h) Facilitate and coordinate, and lead when appropriate, the design of technical proposals/programmes and/or write, contribute and/or review proposals for implementation of agency initiatives, programs and projects;
 - i) Facilitate, coordinate and contribute to the development of briefing notes, strategy documents, guidelines, and standard operating guidelines. Help lead efforts to document results and lessons from projects, in white papers or journal articles. Prepare input for reports, slides, and other materials as required;
 - j) Under the direction of the designated Africa CDC Incident Commander, provides technical services delivery in support of Africa CDC Emergency Response activities as appropriate and assigned.
 - k) Performs other duties as assigned.

Requirements

1. EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS & WORK EXPERIENCES REQUIRED:

- a. University Master's Degree in public health or a related discipline such as but not limited to public health, epidemiology and health-services research
- b. A clinical degree (e.g., M.D, MPhil, in medicine, nursing or PharmD) AND a Masters' degree in a related discipline or Doctoral degree (e.g., Ph.D., Sc.D. or D.PH.) in a relevant discipline such as, but not limited to, public health, epidemiology, health-services research, health outcomes research, biostatistics, environmental science or decision sciences is preferred.

Required professional Work Experience:

- a) A minimum of 5 years of relevant experience* in implementing public health programmes, with special emphasis on operational and/or outcomes-based research. Experience in epidemiology and surveillance or other public health programme and/or health sciences and outcomes research in any setting, including a governmental agency, academic institution, research organization or a life-sciences company is also desired.
- b) Clear understanding of health systems on the African continent and fair knowledge of operations of the Ministry of Health in Member States.
- c) Knowledge of public health programmes, health sciences research and health systems strengthening, and experience in supporting projects and programmes under government ministries and external donors.
- d) Demonstrable experience in development and implementation of operational and/or outcomes-based research protocols.
- e) Experience in workforce capacity development in the area of public health research.
- f) Knowledge of public health issues in Africa, and at least 10 years' previous experience working in Africa.

*Relevant experience is defined as implementing/supporting public health preparedness and response and/or emergency management activities and programmes, epidemiology and surveillance or other public health programmes and/or health sciences research.

2. REQUIRED SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES:

A. Functional Skills:

- Technical expertise and experience in supporting and/or managing complex, public health programmes related to disease prevention and control, epidemiology and surveillance and other health information systems.
- Familiarity with the administrative and management practices and processes typically employed by public health and other public sector programmes.
- Sound technical writing skills, in addition to narrative and financial reporting skills.
- Excellent organizational and time-management skills and a proven ability to deliver under tight deadlines and works well under pressure.
- Excellent skills and abilities applied to translating technical information into presentations, briefings and report and funding proposals for both technical and lay audiences.
- Excellent interpersonal skills to work in a multicultural environment
- Excellent communication (oral and written) and good presentation skills, provide programme consultation and credible response to inquiries.
- Excellent technical and scientific writing skills, in addition to narrative and technical reporting skills.
- Resourceful and skilled at collecting, analyzing and using data to recommend, make and communicate decisions of a technical nature for both technical and lay audiences.
- Excellent computer skills, including office administration and statistical software applications and online digital information systems.

B. Personal Abilities:

- Ability to work under pressure, stay on track and meet deadlines
- Good analytical and problem solving skills
- Ability to use clear, concise language in correspondence as well as including content fitting for the purpose and audiences when preparing written briefs and reports
- Ability to work in a multicultural environment
- High level of autonomy at work, yet with profound team-spirit
- Adaptive, patient, resourceful, resilient and flexible
- Pro-active and solutions oriented

3. LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT:

Proficiency in one of the African Union working languages is a requirement. Knowledge of one or more of the other AU working languages would be an added advantage.

4. TENURE OF APPOINTMENT:

The appointment will be made on Regular term contract for a period of three (3) years, of which the first twelve months shall be considered as a probationary period. Thereafter, the contract will be for a period of two years' renewable, subject to satisfactory performance and deliverables.

5. GENDER MAINSTREAMING:

The AU Commission is an equal opportunity employer and qualified candidates, including women, are strongly encouraged to apply.

6. REMUNERATION:

Indicative basic salary of US\$ 37,453.00 (P3 Step1) per annum plus other related entitlements e.g. Post adjustment (46% of basic salary), Housing allowance US\$ 22,932.00 (per annum), education allowance (100% of tuition and other education related expenses for every eligible dependent up to a maximum of US\$ 10,000.00 per child per annum), etc. for internationally recruited staff of the Commission.

HOW TO APPLY:

All applications must reach the African Union Commission not later than 20 July 2018

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

Regular (Long Duration)

Employment Fraction

Full-time

Branch

Headquarters