



AFENET Secretariat  
Lugogo House, Ground Floor (Wings B&C)  
Plot 42, Lugogo By-Pass  
P.O BOX 12874, Kampala, Uganda  
Tel: +256 417 700 650  
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[www.afenet.net](http://www.afenet.net)

## Job Opportunity

**Date:** Thursday September 19, 2019

**Post:** Public Health Officer

**Grade:** AU P2/1 equivalency

**Department:** Africa CDC Regional Collaborating Center, Libreville, Gabon

**Supervisor:** Director Africa CDC

**Duty Station:** Libreville, Gabon

**Application deadline:** October 4, 2019

### Background:

The African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET) is a non-profit organization established in 2005 with a mission to improve human health through the strengthening and expansion of applied epidemiology and laboratory capacity in partnership with Ministries of Health, Non-Governmental Organizations, international agencies, private sector and other public health agencies. AFENET has its headquarters in Kampala, Uganda with operations in more than 30 African Countries.

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.

Officially launched in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2017 as a specialized technical institution of the African Union, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) is Africa's first continent-wide public health agency. Africa CDC 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's 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.



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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. Africa CDC has established Regional Collaborating Centers in the 5 regions of Africa. These Centers are in Egypt, Kenya, Zambia, Gabon, and Nigeria.

AFENET therefore seeks to fill this position with applicants who are nationals and citizens of AU Member States. The position is based at the Africa CDC Regional Collaborating Center in Libreville, Gabon.

### **Job Purpose**

The Public Health Officer is responsible for supporting development of the RCC and implementing its primary activities. As a representative of the Africa CDC and RCC, the Public Health Officer will work with Member States, other agencies of the African Union, and partners to develop systems, processes, and programs, support meetings and workshops, implement the ECHO platform for regional collaboration, and support the Regional Integrated Surveillance and Laboratory Network (RISLNET) for the Central African Region. The Program Coordinator will also support emergency response to acute public health threats in the Central African Region.

### **Major Duties and Responsibilities**

The Public Health Officer shall:

- Develop and implement systems and processes for establishment of the RCC, including administrative and technical.
- Support implementation of RISLNET in the Central African Region
- Support weekly or biweekly videoconferences, using the ECHO platform, to strengthen health security in Member States.
- Provide logistic and technical support for regional meetings, workshops, and training activities.
- Collaborate with WHO, donors, non-governmental organizations, and other partners in addressing priority public health activities in the region.
- Deploy to Member States for support of acute public health response activities.

### **Minimum Qualification**

- a. Candidates must have a minimum University Bachelor's degree in public health, epidemiology, health science, health-services research or related health discipline and at least 3 years of relevant experience. Preference will be given to candidates possessing an advanced degree in, public health, epidemiology, medicine, health science, health-services research or related health discipline.

### **Required Experience**

- a. Implementing public health programmes, with special emphasis on 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.
- 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. Knowledge and experience in supporting public health programmes or other public sector projects and programmes under government ministries and external donors.
- e. Knowledge of public health issues in Africa and previous experience working in Africa.
- f. Understanding of the African Union way of working and managing associated relationships with Member State entities and partners.

### **Skills and competencies required**

#### **A. Functional Skills**

- a) Diplomatic, representational, interpersonal and communication skills, including experience successfully interacting with stakeholders and decision-makers in technical and other professional settings;
- b) Knowledge of public health principals and practice as they relate to the implementation of public health programmes and service delivery;
- c) Technical and scientific writing skills, in addition to narrative and financial reporting skills;
- d) Ability to deliver under tight deadlines and works well under pressure;
- e) Project planning and management skills for organizing, planning and executing public health projects from conception through implementation;
- f) Translate technical information into presentations, briefings and report and funding proposals for both technical and lay audiences;
- g) Collect, analyze, and use data to recommend, make and communicate decisions of a technical nature to both scientific and lay audiences;
- h) Demonstrated ability with regard to computer skills, including excellent word-processing capabilities, proficiency with e-mail and internet applications, experience in using office software applications such as MS Excel, Power Point and Word;



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### **Personal Abilities**

- Ability to work under pressure, stay on track and meet deadlines
- Analytical and problem solving abilities
- Proven 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;
- Able to operate 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

### **AU Language Requirement**

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

### **Remuneration:**

Competitive based on qualification and experience.

### **How to apply:**

**Submit your resume, application letter, and relevant documentation to:**

The Administration and HR Office email; [sec@afenet.net](mailto:sec@afenet.net)

\*ONLY successful candidates shall be contacted for an interview.

**Please note that all applications should be sent online by close 5:30pm (EAT) Friday October 4, 2019.**

**Note: More details about this position can be obtained from our website: [www.afenet.net](http://www.afenet.net)**