



AFENET Secretariat
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www.afenet.net

Job Opportunity

Date: January 30, 2018

Title: Field Epidemiologist

Number of Positions: Two (02)

Application Deadline: February 13, 2018

Program: Field Epidemiology Training Program

Duty Station: Liberia

Back ground:

The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in collaboration with the African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET) has been supporting Ministries of Health in Sub Saharan Africa to implement field epidemiology training programs (FETPs) for public health workers at national and subnational levels of the health systems. FETPs are field-based trainings with participants spending 25% of the time in class room and 75% in the field providing public health services while acquiring core competencies in field epidemiology. In order to address the need to improve field epidemiology capacity at all levels of the health system, US CDC developed a three-tiered pyramid model for FETP implementation. At the base of the pyramid is the 3-month Frontline FETP that targets public health workers at the local level, the middle of the pyramid is the 9-month Intermediate FETP for regional level health workers and at the peak is the 2-year Advanced FETP for national level public health managers.

US CDC and AFENET have since 2015 been supporting the Liberia Ministry of Health to implement a frontline FETP that has to date completed the training of six cohorts comprising 146 surveillance officers and other public health workers from the district, county and national levels of the public health system. In April 2017, The Ministry of Health with continued support from the US CDC, CDC country office and AFENET initiated an Intermediate FETP. The 9-month in service training seeks to strengthen capacity for public health surveillance, outbreak investigation and response, public health operational research design, data collection, analysis and dissemination at the national and subnational levels of the health system. One cohort of 14 health workers mainly county surveillance officers and a few national level public health workers has since completed the program.

AFENET is seeking to recruit **two (02)** highly qualified & experienced **Field Epidemiologists** to serve as trainers and field mentors for the FETP in Liberia and support the Ministry of Health & CDC country offices in other program activities.

Duties and Responsibilities

Work with the Liberia FETP Resident Advisor (RA) to:

- Develop and implement a field epidemiology training plan for public health workers at the national and subnational levels.
- Periodically review and adapt the existing field epidemiology curriculum and training materials as may be required to suite the specific needs of the country.
- Participate in the selection of appropriate public health workers to be enrolled into the field epidemiology training programs.
- Conduct the in-class field epidemiology trainings for the selected public health workers.
- Provide mentorship, coaching, and supervision for the trainees during the field placement periods to ensure acquisition of key field epidemiology skills and competencies.
- Provide technical assistance to participants to identify public health problems and conduct surveys to generate data that will guide public health decisions to solving such problems.
- Provide technical assistance to trainees in preparing scientific presentations for local, national and international levels dissemination of key findings and recommendations from their field projects.
- Participate in disease surveillance, outbreak investigation and response activities at the national and subnational levels together with the trained surveillance officers as a means to demonstrate best practices.
- Develop a database for all the FETP alumni in the country
- Evaluate of the impact of the FETP program on participants' skills & core competencies as well as on the general public health surveillance systems in Liberia Prepare regular and timely technical reports on program implementation in Liberia for submission to AFENET, through the immediate supervisor
- Undertake any other duties as shall be assigned by the Liberia FETP Resident Advisor and the AFENET regional technical coordinator for the seamless implementation of the FETP in Liberia & the region.

Position Qualifications:

1. Master of Public Health (with a concentration in epidemiology), MSc. Epidemiology/Biostatistics and/ or any other relevant qualifications from an Advanced Field Epidemiology Training Program in Africa.
2. Bachelor's degree in any of the following fields: Human Medicine, Nursing, Public/environmental Health, laboratory Science, Pharmacy, and Veterinary Medicine.

Experience and Skills

- At least 3 years of experience working in the field as a practicing field epidemiologist
- Sound knowledge of WHO standards and policies such as the IDSR and IHR.
- Extensive knowledge and understanding of the functionality of surveillance systems at national, sub national, local and community levels of the health systems in Africa.
- Experience in preparing and facilitating trainings for in - service public health workforce development initiatives in Africa preferably within an existing FETP.



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- Experience with participatory and adult learning activities.
- Strong scientific writing, publication and presentations skills including presentations at national and international scientific conference.
- Experience verifying, analyzing and presenting data.
- Proficiency in the use of the following software:
- Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint. Additional IT knowledge would be an asset.
- Statistical Packages: Epi Info, Stata or SPSS or SAS

Required qualities:

- Ability to work collaboratively with multiple partners and teams at national and sub national levels.
- Good team player
- Strong interpersonal, communication, leadership, collaborative and good listening skills
- Ability to work independently with minimum supervision
- Openness to new ideas and willingness to accept different opinions and feedback
- Ability to complete tasks in a timely manner
- Patience and sense of humor
- Willingness to travel for extended periods of time within the country, sometimes through rough terrain and weather conditions

Benefits: A competitive remuneration

Others: Candidate must be able to begin work in March 2018.

Application Process

Interested candidates should submit their Application Letters detailing their experiences and skills, Curriculum Vitae, copies of relevant academic documents and 3 references to: **The Human Resource Office, African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET). Email: sec@afenet.net on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 by close of business (East Africa Time).**

Note: In your application provide: Your name, nationality, email address, reliable telephone numbers.