



AFENET Secretariat
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Job Opportunity

Date: December 10, 2018

Title: Epidemiologist/Technical Liaison-FETP Surveillance

Number of Positions: One

Application Deadline: December 21, 2018

Program: Ministry of Health and Sanitation

Duty Station: Sierra Leone

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-months Frontline FETP that targets public health workers at the local level, the middle of the pyramid is the 9-months intermediate FETP for regional level health workers and at the peak is the 2-years Advanced FETP for national level public health managers.

US CDC and AFENET have been supporting the Sierra Leone Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS) since 2016 to implement a Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) at the frontline and intermediate levels that has to date trained >100 health workers at the national and subnational levels. US CDC has also been supporting the MoHS to improve the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) system, and there is need to ensure that FETP is closely linked to the surveillance and response systems. A majority of FETP participants and graduates in Sierra Leone work within the MoHS Surveillance Program, so formalizing the collaboration between those two programs is a natural next step. For rapid detection and seamless responses to outbreaks, additional coordination is required between FETP, the MoHS surveillance program, the laboratory program, the animal disease surveillance program, and other program areas that rely on surveillance data such as the malaria program, the Expanded Program on Immunizations, and

maternal/reproductive health. Given that IDSR cuts across so many program areas, it is prudent to have someone dedicated to liaising between FETP, surveillance, and the myriad other groups to ensure information is appropriately shared and activities are conducted in a synergistic and non-duplicative manner.

AFENET is seeking to recruit a highly qualified & experienced **Epidemiologist** to serve as Technical Advisor and liaison for the Sierra Leone FETP and the MoHS Surveillance Program. This position will also work closely with MoHS to build capacity so that MoHS will ultimately be equipped to perform this coordination role independent of partner support.

Duties and Responsibilities

The Technical Advisor will work with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS), the Surveillance Lead for CDC in Sierra Leone, AFENET, and other partners to capacitate MoHS to coordinate activities within the surveillance program with other key programs areas. He/she will be responsible for strengthening the linkages between the field epidemiology training program and Directorate of Disease Prevention and Control at the MoHS and other relevant departments. She will ensure that the FETP is fully anchored in MoHS as a model for public health surveillance and response work force development.

Key functions will include:

- Serve as a liaison between the surveillance program and the FETP Team so that activities and outputs are aligned and offer synergy rather than duplication
- Support coordination between the surveillance program and the laboratory program and build capacity of MOHS to integrate surveillance and laboratory data systems as they relate to IDSR, including both aggregate weekly reports (eIDSR) and electronic case-based disease surveillance (eCBDS)
- Collaborate with MOHS to integrate surveillance and response activities including reporting for case investigations and outbreaks, data management and analysis, and feedback of response actions and outcomes to appropriate reporting mechanisms
- Serve as a liaison between human disease surveillance with animal disease surveillance stakeholders with particular focus on the 6 priority zoonotic diseases for Sierra Leone
- Guide MOHS in communicating surveillance data and findings with other Ministries (e.g., MAF) and programs as appropriate including the malaria program, maternal/reproductive health, and the Expanded Program on Immunizations
- Document success and challenges in coordinating human disease surveillance activities with laboratory, emergency preparedness and response, FETP, animal disease surveillance programs, and other relevant activities across Ministries and Directorates within the Government of Sierra Leone.

- Participate in routine surveillance meetings and events, outbreak investigations, and other relevant activities
- Develop a transition plan for how MOHS will assume ownership (after this position's term ends) of ensuring coordination continues between the MOHS surveillance program and the laboratory program, emergency preparedness and response, FETP, animal disease surveillance programs, and other relevant Ministries and Directorates within the Government of Sierra Leone.
- Prepare regular and timely technical reports on activities for submission to CDC, AFENET, MoHS and other partners
- Participate in monthly Cooperative Agreement meetings with CDC and AFENET
- Assist with other duties as assigned by CDC and AFENET

Position Qualifications:

1. Master of Public Health (Field 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
- 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



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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 February 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 Friday, December 21, 2018 by close of business (East Africa Time).**

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