



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:** Friday October 12, 2018

**Post:** Mortality Surveillance Program Lead (Re-advertised)

**Grade:** AU P4 equivalency

**Department:** Africa CDC

**Supervisor:** Director, Division of Surveillance and Disease Intelligence, Africa CDC

**Duty Station:** Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (preferred), potential to work remotely

**Application deadline:** Friday October 26, 2018

### 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.

AFENET in collaboration with African Union under the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) which was officially launched in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on January 31, 2017; shall through a grant by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation support Capacity for Public Health for the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC). 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.



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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.

AFENET therefore seeks to fill this position with applicants who are nationals and citizens of AU Member States. The position is based at the AU Secretariat in Addis Ababa-Ethiopia.

### **Job Purpose**

The Mortality Surveillance Program Lead is responsible for driving and implementing a known strategy for improving mortality surveillance and data access across the continent. As a subject matter expert in surveillance and related public health programme implementation, the Program Lead will shape the strategy for working with country stakeholders to improve the representativeness and accuracy of mortality data surveillance systems. He or she will also work to ensure data quality and access by designing standards for tracking quality and by developing and maintaining a repository for data from across the continent.

### **Major Duties and Responsibilities**

The Lead of the Africa CDC Mortality Surveillance Program shall:

- Design and implement a strategy for improving the representativeness and quality of national mortality data through country-led mortality surveillance programs
- Interface with country leaders (e.g., NPHIs, MOHs, Ministers of Statistics) to advocate for improved mortality surveillance
- Facilitate dialogue amongst all country stakeholders to ensure alignment and buy-in for mortality surveillance programs
- Collaborate with technical assistance partners, build capacity of new technical assistance partners in Africa, and connect them with countries interested in improving mortality surveillance
- Design and maintain standards for data formatting and quality control to enable integration of data across the continent
- Design and maintain data repository for continent-wide mortality data

- Form data sharing agreements with countries to allow compilation of data in mortality data repository.
- Identify potential funding partners, advocate for mortality surveillance funding, and connect funders to country leaders interested in improving mortality surveillance
- Assist countries with grant proposals for mortality surveillance funds

### **Minimum Qualification**

- a. Doctoral Degree (e.g., Ph.D., Sc.D. or D.Ph.) in a relevant discipline such as, but not limited to, public health, basic health science (e.g., biology, chemistry), epidemiology and health-services research, **or**
- b. Medical Degree (e.g., M.D., MBBS) and Master's university degree in infectious diseases, public health, or related sciences and relevant years of experience in medicine, public health or epidemiology or related discipline or completion of a Field Epidemiology Training Program.
- c. Practical experience is defined as implementing/coordinating public health epidemiology and surveillance or other public health program and/or health sciences and outcomes research, in any setting, including a governmental agency, academic institution, research organization or a life-sciences company is required

### **Required Experience**

- a. 7+ years of combined experience in coordinating/implementing public health programmes, strategic planning and research, with emphasis on infectious diseases, management, public health workforce development. Relies on this extensive experience and judgment to plan and accomplish goals.
- b. Experience in public health, epidemiology, infectious diseases and health Science including diseases surveillance, mapping, prevention & control, emergency preparedness and response.
- c. Clear understanding of the health systems on the Continent and fair knowledge of operations of the Ministry of health in Member States
- d. Proven track record of strong leadership and effective health diplomacy in scientific and technical domains.
- e. Experience in the preparation of strategic plans, policy and operational guidance, and technical proposals for advancing public health initiatives and programmes, and related goals and objectives.
- f. Demonstrable experience in working in the public health sector;
- g. Comprehensive knowledge of public health research and surveillance, and experience in managing projects and programmes under government ministries and external donors
- h. Demonstrable experience in drafting scientific and technical documentation for executive level consumption and/or peer review.
- i. In-depth knowledge of public health issues in Africa, and previous experience working and in Africa

- j. Demonstrable experience in supervising and leading teams and individuals, and delegating tasks and authority
- k. Deep 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) Excellent diplomatic, representational, interpersonal and communication skills, including experience successfully interacting with stakeholders and decision-makers in technical and other professional settings;
- b) Mastery of public health principals and practice as they relate to the implementation of public health programmes and service delivery;
- c) Excellent technical and scientific writing skills, in addition to Narrative and financial reporting skills;
- d) Excellent organizational skills and a proven ability to deliver under tight deadlines and works well under pressure;
- e) Demonstrated project planning and management skills for organizing, planning and executing public health projects from conception through implementation;
- f) Skills in translating highly technical information into presentations, briefings and report and funding proposals for both technical and lay audiences;
- g) Resourceful and skilled at collecting, analyzing and using 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;

#### **Personal Abilities**

- Leadership and management 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



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## **AU 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.

## **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 26, 2018.**

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