



Job opportunity

Date: Friday, February 2, 2024

Job Title: National Data Manager- Utilization of HealthCare Data in Addressing Health Services Inequality in Sierra Leone

Supervision: Technical Advisor-Public Health Informatics Specialist

Number of Positions: One (1)

Employment Type: Consultancy

Program: Sierra Leone Field Epidemiology Training Program, Intermediate Level

Application deadline: Friday February 16, 2024

Duty station: Freetown- Sierra Leone

Background:

The African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET) is non-profit non-governmental organization committed to enhancing public health capacity across the African continent. AFENET's mission is to ensure effective prevention and control of epidemics and other priority health problems in Africa. AFENET has a wide footprint in Africa, with operations in over 40 countries in the region. AFENET works closely with the Ministries of Health, National Public Health Agencies (NPHAs), Universities and other government and non-government agencies actively contributing towards public health advancement. AFENET's core competencies are: public health workforce development, outbreak investigation and response, health care systems and immunization program strengthening, epidemiological and other public health research, public health surveillance and laboratory systems strengthening, health informatics, public health service delivery, and logistics, fiduciary and human resource management.

AFENET started operating in Sierra Leone since 2016, after the Ebola outbreak, and has been one of the key technical non-governmental organizations supporting the Sierra Leone government in building the healthcare system mainly: workforce, surveillance, laboratory emergency preparedness and response.

Globally, although the maternal mortality rate decreased by 34% globally, about 287,000 women died during or following pregnancy and childbirth by 2020. Sub-Saharan Africa and southern Asia accounted for 87% of the of maternal mortality rate (253 000), and Sub-Saharan Africa alone accounted for 70% of maternal death (202 000).

Sierra Leone had one of the highest maternal mortalities in the world with 717 deaths per 100,000 live births (DHS 2019). However, there has been a gradual decline in the maternal mortality rate from DHS 2013 data (1,165 per 100,000 live births). Improving the health of mothers and children has been to reduce and prevent women's deaths and ensuring the children and adolescent's health and well-being are considered a priority of the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Sierra Leone.

Vital Strategies and AFENET have collaborated to support MoH, Directorate of Reproductive and Child Health (DRCH) to generate high-quality maternal mortality data to identify groups disproportionately affected and address these inequalities by July 2025. AFENET through Vital Strategies is also committed to supporting the MoH DRCH to strengthen and maintain the electronic data management systems and data quality.

Major Duties and Responsibilities

The Data Manager will work with the Ministry of Health (MoH), Directorate of Reproductive and Child Health (DRCH), Vital Strategies, AFENET and other partners to:

- Conduct consultative meetings to review variables of Maternal Mortality data collection tools.
- Review or Develop Standard operating procedures to address equity in the data.
- Identify disparities between districts and better understand the causes of deaths and conditions resulting in inequality.
- Conduct training targeting staff at the National level on data analysis focusing on equity disaggregation for resource allocation and guide policy development.
- Conduct mentorships for healthcare workers whose primary responsibility is data analysis and use at National level at DRCH.
- Calculate maternal indicator absolute inequality and relative inequality
- Calculate crude and age-standardized rates stratified using the chosen equity stratifier (s). Calculate summary measures of inequality using both absolute (difference-based) and relative (ratio-based) summary measures to quantify inequalities between groups
- Use logistic regression to identify factors associated with maternal mortality.
- Organise dissemination meeting to share findings on health disparities at the National level.
- Support one special continuous professional development workshop targeting FETP on scientific writing for FETP graduates.
- Publish and disseminate evidence related to maternal health inequality through reports, journal articles, manuscript etc.
- Document best practices
- Develop data repository and associated dashboards for real time visualization.
- Maintain and update the existing maternal health information system for accurate and reliable data for public health decision-making.

- Identify existing fragmented maternal health information systems.
- Serve as liaison between DRCH unit and NPHA for data management.
- Serve as liaison between key IT/IS stakeholders involved with DRCH data in DHIS2
- Provide guidance in identifying and defining data requirements
- Design, develop, and modify data management infrastructure to expedite data analysis and reporting
- Capacitate DRCH staff to assess data quality and monitor trends over time, including comparison of MDSR to eIDSR and eCBDS.
- In collaboration with MoH, CDC and other key stakeholders, document progress and challenges in implementing electronic tools in the DRCH.
- Identify existing health information systems used to collect maternal mortality data.

Qualifications:

Educational Qualifications and Experience:

- A minimum of University Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science, Information Technology, Biostatistics, Epidemiology, Public Health, or related field.
- Masters in relevant field and graduated from an accredited FE(L)TP-Intermediate or advance level are added advantages.
- Four (4 – 5) years' relevant professional experience in a similar position, preferably in an international organization.

Required Professional Work Experience:

- Knowledge in DHIS2, Maternal Mortality Surveillance, and other Statistical packages.
- Knowledge of the Sierra Leone Health System.
- Excellent practical knowledge of a wide range of modern ICT technologies and specifically in the area of data management is required.
- Proven experience in research, oral and written communication, and scientific publication.

A. Functional Skills

- Ability to develop and manage programs/projects within an agreed time frame.
- Experience working in a fast-paced International Organization is highly desirable.
- Mathematics — Knowledge of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, calculus, statistics, and their applications.
- Clerical — Knowledge of administrative and clerical procedures and systems such as word processing, managing files and records, stenography and transcription, designing forms, and other office procedures and terminology.



B. Computer Skills:

- Demonstrated ability to effectively use a computer and utilize computer systems (including hardware and software) to program, write software, set up functions, enter data, or process information.
- Proven capacity to work on office computer applications, well versed in the use of MS Excel and MS Word, MS Power Point, outlook and other office applications as well as the Internet.

C. Personal Abilities:

- Ability to deliver under tight deadlines and works well under pressure.
- Analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Able to operate in a multicultural environment.
- High level of autonomy at work, yet with profound team-spirit.
- Adaptive, Patient, resilient and flexible.
- Pro-active and solutions oriented.
- Able to work and relate with a diverse group of people.

BENEFITS:

AFENET offers a competitive remuneration package to the successful candidate.

How to apply:

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

- The Administration & Human Resource Office
- African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET)
- <https://recruitment.afenet.net> and a copy at email: sec@afenet.net

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

Please note that all applications must be submitted online by close of business at 5:30 pm (EAT) Friday February 16, 2024

Note: More details about this position can be obtained from our website: www.afenet.net