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
Fax: +256 312 265 595
www.afenet.net

Job opportunities

Date: Monday December 23, 2024

Department: Africa CDC Headquarters

Duty Station: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Application deadline: Monday January 6, 2025

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.

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) was officially launched in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on January 31, 2017. 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.

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
Fax: +256 312 265 595
www.afenet.net

The Saving Lives and Livelihoods (SLL) program is a strategic partnership among Africa CDC, the African Union Member States, and the Mastercard Foundation. The main objective of the programme during Phase I was to acquire vaccines against COVID-19 and to vaccinate vulnerable groups as a priority, while reaching millions of other people across the continent. The program also laid the foundations for local vaccine production in Africa, with a particular focus on human capital development and capacity building at Africa CDC. In Phase II of the programme, the partnership has revised its objectives, with a focus on geo-mapping, vaccination of health workers and priority groups, and integrating COVID-19 management into routine immunization. Additionally, the initiative aims to prepare for future pandemics by investing in genomic sequencing, enhancing bioinformatics laboratories, supporting local vaccine, therapeutic, and diagnostic manufacturing, and strengthening the Africa CDC's capacity.

Africa CDC now invites applicants who are citizens of African Union Member States to apply for the following positions for the Saving Lives and Livelihoods Programme.

1. Post

Job title: **Technical Officer for Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)**
Number of posts: 1 (one)
Division: **Advocacy & Social Mobilization at Africa CDC**
Supervisor: **Regional Programme Team Lead**
Duty Station: **RCC West – Abuja, Nigeria**

Job Purpose

The Technical Officer for Risk Communication and Community Engagement will support the emergency preparedness and response for public heath emergencies. It is a cornerstone of the International Health Regulations (IHR) core capacities, aimed at strengthening public health emergency preparedness and response. RCCE is an essential approach that effectively educates individuals and communities about healthy behaviors, while preventing the spread of infectious diseases during public health emergencies.

Major Duties and Responsibilities:
Technical Officer for Risk Communication and Community Engagement will:
- **Strategy Development**: Develop and implement RCCE strategies and plans to support emergency preparedness and response efforts across Africa. Ensure strategies are tailored to specific public health risks and are culturally relevant.

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
Fax: +256 312 265 595
www.afenet.net

- **Community Engagement**: Facilitate community engagement activities, working closely with local leaders, community groups, and stakeholders to design participatory response strategies during public health emergencies.
- **Media and Public Messaging**: Develop and disseminate accurate, consistent, and timely public health messages through multiple platforms, including media, digital platforms, and community networks. Ensure that public health messaging is clear, factual, and reaches diverse populations.
- **Capacity Building and Technical Assistance**: Provide technical assistance to African Union Member States to strengthen their RCCE capacities. Conduct training sessions and workshops to enhance the RCCE skills of public health professionals and community leaders.
- **Stakeholder Coordination**: Coordinate with national governments, regional bodies, international partners, and civil society organizations to ensure the alignment and effectiveness of RCCE interventions during public health crises.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)**: Establish M&E frameworks to assess the impact of RCCE activities, collecting and analyzing data to inform continuous improvement of RCCE strategies. Provide reports on RCCE activities, highlighting key outcomes and areas for enhancement.
- **Crisis Communication**: Respond rapidly during public health emergencies to address misinformation and rumours, ensuring accurate information is disseminated to the public.
- **Documentation and Reporting**: Regularly document RCCE activities and prepare reports for Africa CDC leadership, outlining key successes, challenges, and recommendations for future interventions

Qualification and work experience required

Bachelor's Degree in Public Health, Communication, Social Sciences, Behavioral Sciences or related fields and a minimum of 5 years of relevant work experience. Proven experience designing and implementing RCCE strategies during public health emergencies. Experience working in an African or international context, preferably in a public health-related role.

- **OR**

Master's Degree in Public Health, Communication, Social Sciences, Behavioral Sciences or related fields and a minimum of 2 years relevant work experience. Proven experience designing and implementing RCCE strategies during public health emergencies. Experience working in an African or international context, preferably in a public health-related role.

Required skills and Competencies: Functional skills
- Proven work experience in supporting or managing strategic and health communications at the national and international levels, preferably in the development sector.

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
Fax: +256 312 265 595
www.afenet.net

- Proficiency in the use of relevant software for design, analysis and word processing
- Ability to use modern digital communication technologies to reach different groups of audiences.
- Knowledge and experience of content creation for social media and other digital platforms.
- Understanding and ability to apply modern marketing, public relations and media concepts and principles to the communication of public health emergenciesRequired Skills:
- Experience in developing audio-visual content for advertising, promotional and publication purposes.

- Proven experience in developing key messages on public health emergencies and disease outbreaks.
- Experience in developing and implementing communication strategies for national government or public sector, regional or international government or non-governmental organisations, multinational organisations, advertising agencies or leading media companies will be a distinct advantage.
- Demonstrated ability with regard to computer skills, including excellent word processing capabilities, proficiency with e-mail and internet applications, experience in using office software such as MS Power Point, Word and Excel

Personal Abilities
- Strong problem-solving abilities
- Ability to plan ahead and predict potential and emerging barriers
- Ability to build strong relationships internally and with external stakeholders
- High level of autonomy at work, yet with profound team spirit
- Ability to work under pressure, with minimal supervision, and in a culturally diverse team
- Adaptive, patient, resourceful, resilient and flexible

Language Requirement

Proficiency in one of the African Union working languages (Arabic, English, French, Spanish, Kiswahili and Portuguese) is required. Knowledge of one or several other working languages would be an added advantage.

Tenure of Appointment

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
Fax: +256 312 265 595
www.afenet.net

The appointment will be made on a fixed term contract for a period of one (1) year, of which the first three months will be considered as a probationary period. Thereafter, the contract will be renewed annually subject to satisfactory performance and fund availability.

Gender Mainstreaming

The AU Commission is an equal opportunity employer and qualified women are strongly encouraged to apply.

Remuneration

Indicative basic salary of US$ 31,073 (P2 Step1) per annum plus other related entitlements e.g. Post adjustment 57% of basic salary (US$17,711.61), Housing allowance of US$ $21,832.68, education allowance (100% of tuition and other education related expenses for every eligible dependent up to a maximum of US$ 10, 000.00 per child per annum), etc. for internationally recruited staff.

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 on Email: sec@afenet.net

*ONLY successful candidates shall be contacted for an interview.

Please note that all applications should be sent online by close of business 5:30 pm (EAT) Monday January 6, 2025.

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