



AFENET Secretariat
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www.afenet.net

Job opportunity

Date: Monday February 3, 2025

Department: Africa CDC Headquarters

Duty Station: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia & Nairobi Kenya

Application deadline: Friday February 14, 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.



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 position of **Senior Technical Officer Pathogen Genomics** for the Saving Lives and Livelihoods Programme.

1. Post

Job title: Senior Technical Officer Pathogen Genomics
Number of posts: Two (2)
Division: Institute of Genomics
Supervisor: RCC roles – RCC Director and HQ role – Africa CDC Pathogen Genomics Lead
Duty Station: Lusaka, Zambia

Job Purpose

The Senior Technical Officer for Pathogen Genomics is responsible for providing technical expertise and guidance for the implementation of Saving Lives and Livelihoods pathogen genomics activity to enable timely response to outbreaks/epidemics and improved surveillance of priority pathogens of public health significance.

Major Duties and Responsibilities:

The Senior Technical Officer for Pathogen Genomics shall:

- Support the implementation of the Africa CDC genomics pathogen program
- Provide technical oversight for the effective implementation of the pathogen genomics program
- Support National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs) on sampling methods, data collection, analyses, interpretation and reporting.

- Provide technical assistance to NPHIs and other relevant institutions for strengthening the use of pathogen genomics for routine infectious disease surveillance.
- Maintains a dashboard for monitoring technical assistance and overall implementation of pathogen genomics by countries for the Programme.
- Supports the adoption and implementation of priority use-cases at both country and regional level
- Supports the creation and running of technical working groups including development of ToRs and supporting them to meet the deliverables
- Supports the establishment and function of the laboratory network including coordinating referrals as well as quality assurance systems
- Coordinates the development and implementation of minimum quality standards for genomics laboratories and subsequent certification to ensure generation of quality data for public health use
- Draft periodic reports and publications for dissemination of information
- Represent Africa CDC in a professional manner, which creates a positive image and enhances the credibility of the organization
- Perform any other duties as requested by the supervisors

Qualification and work experience required

- Master's degree in molecular epidemiology, genomics, genetics, bioinformatics, or other related science-based fields with 7 years of work experience.
- At least 3 years of supervisory and managerial experience. PhD degree is an added advantage.

OR

- Bachelor's degree in molecular epidemiology, genomics, genetics, bioinformatics, or other related science-based fields with 10 years of work experience.
- At least 3 years of supervisory and managerial experience.

Required skills and Competencies:

Functional skills

- Experience in public health, molecular epidemiology, infectious diseases and health Science including diseases surveillance, or emergency preparedness and response
- Demonstrated scientific knowledge and understanding of molecular epidemiology with sound knowledge of Next Generation Sequencing
- Significant experience in programs and ability to employ different approaches to implement public health programs.

- Strong organizational skills and evidence of leading multiple workstreams simultaneously with Effective prioritization
- A good understanding of public health systems in Africa and a fair knowledge of operations of National Public Health Institutions (NPHIs) and Ministry of Health in Member States
- Excellent computer skills, including word-processing capabilities, proficiency with email and internet applications, experience in using office software applications such as MS Excel, Power Point and Word

Personal Abilities

- Leadership and management abilities. Pro-active and solutions oriented.
- Analytical and problem-solving abilities.
- Ability to build strong relationships internally and with external actors.
- Proven ability to use clear, concise language in correspondence as well as when preparing written briefs and reports.
- 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

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\$ 37,453 (P3 Step1) per annum plus other related entitlements e.g. Post adjustment 46% of basic salary (US\$17,228.38), Housing allowance of US\$ \$22,932.00, 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.



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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)
Friday February 14, 2025**

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