

Job Description

Job Title: Technical Advisor: Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) research: maternity cover (12 months)

Job Location: Haywards Heath, UK

Reports to: Director of SPIDER (Strategic Programme Innovations and Developments, Evidence and Research)

Responsible for: NA

Department: Research team within SPIDER (Strategic Programmes Innovations and Developments, Evidence and Research) department

Start date: October 2019 or earlier

Job Purpose:

Sightsavers is an international non-for profit organisation working to eliminate avoidable blindness and promote equity of opportunities for people with disabilities. High quality evidence and research are critical for our operations. We hold an independent research organisation status by the UK Research Councils and make significant investments in generating evidence from research, evaluations and routine programme systems.

We are looking for an experienced individual to co-lead and co-develop our Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) research portfolio and to provide technical expertise and management to our NTD research projects. The post holder will work alongside another Technical adviser for NTD research and a number of other research colleagues based in the UK and overseas.

Specific accountabilities:

1. Be the key Sightsavers contact and researcher for Azithromycin Impact Research (AIR) study, which will assess the impact of azithromycin on infant mortality in Nigeria and Ethiopia. The study will be implemented in collaboration with the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
2. Provide scientific leadership to the study evaluating the areas of unknown transmission of onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis and soil transmitted helminths (STH) in northern Ghana. This will include epidemiological and entomological components.
3. Design and assess funding opportunities for a study to investigate the foci at risk of transmission of chlamydia trachomatis in post-elimination settings in northern Ghana
4. Support development of NTD research portfolios in Liberia, Nigeria and Cameroon including contributing to funding applications.
5. Contribute to data analysis and publications on other existing projects and programmatically collected data.
6. Support NTD research communications and research dissemination efforts including active participation in the NTD conferences and other research meetings.

The principle accountabilities are not meant to be an exhaustive list of tasks. The need for flexibility is required and the job holder is expected to carry out any other related duties that are within the employee's skills and abilities whenever reasonably instructed.

Jobholder Entry Requirements - *the essential knowledge, skills and behaviours required*

Knowledge (Education & Related Experience):

- Masters in Public Health, Epidemiology or equivalent (Essential)
- Experience in conducting operational research in developing countries, including epidemiological surveys and NTD research (Essential)
- Good knowledge of leading NTDs (onchocerciasis, lymphatic filariasis and trachoma, soil transmitted helminths, and schistosomiasis) and other communicable diseases (Essential)
- Good knowledge of NTD organisations and networks (Essential)
- Experience of presenting at external meetings e.g scientific conferences and author on publications in peer reviewed papers (Essential)
- Experience of working on funding proposals to external donors (eg. DFID) (Essential)
- Project management experience (Essential)

Skills (Special Training or Competence):

- Excellent communication skills in English, both orally and in writing (Essential)
- Excellent data analysis skills using statistical analysis softwares e.g STATA (Essential)
- Ability to write funding applications, study protocols, scientific publications and donor reports (Essential);
- Project and consultant management skills (Essential);
- Ability to work across a variety of disciplines (Essential)
- Skills in planning and organising own work and that of others (Essential)
- An understanding of and commitment to, equality of opportunity for disabled people (Essential)
- Written and spoken French (Desirable)

Key Relationships

Internal

- SPIDER teams: Research, Global Technical Leads
- All Sightsavers departments, particularly the NTD department and Country Offices
- NTD technical advisors
- Performance and Finance teams

External

- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
- Schistosomiasis Control Initiative
- In-country governments, academic institutions and health professional networks
- World Health Organisation

Ability to Travel

Ability to travel - on planned visits, for up to 18 weeks a year, in sometimes difficult locations.

Date as of: 09th July 2019