Sightsavers

Job Description

Job Title: Research Advisor, (East, Central and Southern Africa)
Job Location: Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Uganda, Kenya or Tanzania
Reports to: Senior Research Advisor
Responsible for: N/A
Job Holder: Vacant
Department: Policy & Strategic Programme Support

Job Purpose (the overall purpose and function of the job):

To support research and other evidence-generating activities within Sightsavers' programmes in health, education and social inclusion in East, Central and Southern Africa (ECSA). Our current research portfolio includes a wide range of quantitative and qualitative studies, including prevalence surveys, behaviour studies, operational and system research and impact evaluations. We are looking for a motivated and passionate researcher with a strong interest in health and disability research and a broad range of expertise using both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. The post holder will work with our global Research team and our programmes in ECSA region to support a range of research activities and related issues. They will facilitate the development of strategies to address those issues to support a broad range of programme activities and studies.

Principal Accountabilities (specific activities and end results):

- Work with the Sightsavers Research team and country offices to identify research questions pertinent to our programmes and to integrate operational research within our ongoing projects;
- Collate country specific information and evidence to underpin our new programmes and funding applications;
- Contribute to the development of study protocols and research tools; and submit ethics applications;
- Liaise with in-country academic partners and/or consultants and supervise all aspects of the fieldwork;
- Contribute to data collection; data analysis; reporting and dissemination of findings through peer-reviewed publications and presentations;
- Discuss research findings with programme managers and implementation partners and ensure that the implications of research are well understood and used in future programmes and advocacy;
- Contribute to organisational capacity building in the area of research skills and knowledge.

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

Knowledge (Education & Related Experience):

- Undergraduate degree in a relevant discipline (or equivalent);
- Postgraduate degree (or similar) in public health, epidemiology, statistics; social or behavioral sciences; research methods or related discipline;
- Good knowledge of different research paradigms and methods, including both quantitative and qualitative approaches;
- Good knowledge of survey research, including a practical and well-organised approach to the analysis of survey data;
- Good knowledge and experience of research in ECSA;
- Experience of writing literature reviews, research grant applications, research reports and peer-reviewed publications;
- Understanding of research governance and ethical principles particularly in relation to research with children and vulnerable people.

Skills (Special Training or Competence):

- Excellent analytical skills;
- Ability to plan, design, undertake and supervise research projects;
- Ability to collect data using both quantitative and qualitative techniques;
- Demonstrable proficiency in the application of standard statistical methods, e.g. descriptive and univariate analyses at a minimum;
- Good data analysis skills using software packages, eg. STATA, SPSS, NVIVO
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills in English are key, as collaboration with cross-functional teams is vital to the role's success;
- Ability to work under pressure;
- Able to travel for up to 16 weeks a year (national and international and including to rural locations)

Core Behaviours:

- Communicating & Influencing
- Team Working
- Planning & Organising
- Change & Improvement
- Decision Making
- Delivery and Implementation

Key Relationships
Internal

- Research team;
- Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) team;
- Global Technical Leads (Eye Health, Education, and Social Inclusion)
- Regional and Country Directors and Programme Managers;
- Global fundraising teams
- Policy and advocacy team

External
- Academic institutions;
- Other iNGOs;
- Bi-lateral and multi-lateral development agencies;
- Research and other donor organisations.

Date as of: January 2020