Sightsavers

Job Description

Job Title: Research Associate/ Senior Research Associate: Statistics (Level dependent on experience)
Job Location: UK with flexibility
Reports to: Global Technical Lead: Heath & Disability Research
Responsible for: N/A
Job Holder: Vacant
Department: Policies and Programme Strategies Department (PS2)

Job Purpose:

Sightsavers is a not-for-profit organisation working in over 30 countries to eliminate avoidable blindness and promote equality of opportunities for people with disabilities. Evidence-based decision-making and high-quality research is at the heart of our operations and we hold Independent Research Organisation (IRO) status from UK Research and Innovation. Our in-house Research team includes over 20 staff based across seven countries, with expertise in epidemiology, economics, social science, GIS methods and systematic reviews. Our current research portfolio includes a wide range of studies in Africa and Asia addressing questions in the areas of health and inclusion. We conduct studies using a variety of designs and methodologies and engage a variety of statistical approaches to analyse our datasets.

We are seeking a highly motivated experienced individual to provide technical support to our quantitative studies, particularly cross-sectional surveys and randomised controlled trials. The post holder will work alongside other research staff and provide technical inputs into study design, data collection and management, and statistical analysis. They will also work with programme and advocacy colleagues to ensure that complex statistical information is well understood and used in policy and practice.

Principal Accountabilities:

1. Lead and contribute to the development of study protocols including study design, sampling strategies, identification and deployment of appropriate tools, and analysis plans.
2. Contribute to the training and oversight of study enumerators, including designing and managing quality assurance processes;
3. Lead and contribute to data management, cleaning, analysis and reporting.
4. Support dissemination of research findings through reports, peer-reviewed publications, targeted blogs and presentations;
5. Liaise with academic partners, Sightsavers in-country staff, and project implementation partners and contribute to different aspects of collaborative research project management.
6. Support and develop cross-organisational initiatives to support statistical data capacity within the organisation;
7. Contribute to the development of funding and ethics applications.
8. Support the delivery of Research seminars and other learning meetings.

The principal accountabilities are not meant to be an exhaustive list of tasks. The need for flexibility is required and the jobholder 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):

- Postgraduate degree in medical statistics, statistics, epidemiology, or related field with a strong statistical component;
- Training and experience in advanced statistical analytical techniques; *(Senior Research Associate would be expected to have considerable experience)*
- Experience of developing survey tools and managing large datasets; *(Senior Research Associate would be expected to have considerable experience)*
- Understanding of the key principles and governance of research;
- Experience of contributing to scientific outputs, e.g. peer-reviewed publications;
- Experience of writing research grant applications.

Skills (Special Training or Competence):

- Proficiency in statistical languages appropriate for data handling and statistical analyses eg Stata, R, Python;
- Experience designing data collection systems using systems such as CommCare (or similar);
- Excellent interpersonal skills, including the ability to communicate complex information effectively to a range of stakeholders both orally and in writing;
- Logical and solution focused approach to problem solving;
- Excellent organizational skills and ability to multi-task;
- French or Portuguese language skills are desirable

Ability to Travel
Ability to travel - on planned visits, for up to 10 weeks of the year, in sometimes difficult locations.

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

Key Relationships:

Internal
- Research team
- Country offices
- Monitoring, evaluation and learning team;

- Data analysis and reporting team;
- Policy & Global Advocacy
- Thematic Global Technical Leads

External
- In-country and international academic and research institutions;
- In-country implementation partners: Ministries of Health/ Education, etc;
- Local and international NGOs;
- Donor institutions.

Date as of: June 2021