



## Job Description

**Job Title:** Global Technical Lead– NTD Research

**Job Location:** Global- UK or any of the following countries Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon

**Reports to:** Head of Portfolio- NTD Research

**Responsible for:** Research associates, advisers and consultants

**Department:** Evidence, Research and Innovations, Policy and Programme Strategy Directorate

## Job Purpose:

Sightsavers is a non-for-profit organisation working in over 30 countries in Africa and Asia to eliminate avoidable blindness and promote equality of opportunities for people with disabilities. We are one of the major global players in the delivery of programmes targeting elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) working primarily on five preventive chemotherapy NTDs, - trachoma, onchocerciasis, lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis and soil transmitted helminths (STH). High quality research is at the heart of our operations and we hold Independent Research Organisation (IRO) status by UK Research and Innovation (UK RI). Our in-house Research team includes over 20 staff with expertise in epidemiology, economics, social science, geospatial analysis methods and systematic reviews.

We are seeking a Global Technical Lead to provide strategic and technical guidance to a range of studies in our NTD research portfolio. The post holder will be based in the Research Directorate but will work closely with the NTD Technical Hub and Country Offices. You will lead on the management of specific NTD studies, provide direct line management to research staff and consultants and play a critical role in the growth of our NTD research portfolio.

## Principal Accountabilities:

1. Provide scientific leadership and technical inputs to specific NTD studies, acting as principle or co-investigator and ensuring the research is delivered on time, on budget and to the highest possible ethical and methodological standards.
2. Work closely with the NTD Technical hub and NTD programmes to identify programmatic challenges that could be addressed through operational research and support the integration of research within NTD operations.
3. Work with fundraising teams and NTD technical leads to raise new income for NTD research and innovations; provide scientific leadership on NTD research grant applications; ensure technical oversight of deliverables, reports, budget management and donor compliance and communication.

4. Work with the research uptake and learning (RUL) advisers and Sightsavers communications team to contribute to the delivery of the RUL and Research communication strategies and ensure that Sightsavers NTD research is known, well understood, widely disseminated and effectively used in programmes, advocacy and media communication.
5. Make significant contributions to raising the profile of Sightsavers NTD research through effective academic and non-academic partnerships, high impact peer-reviewed publications and presentations at scientific fora. Build capacities of NTD programmes and Country offices in effective dissemination and uptake of research findings.
6. Line manage relevant research staff and consultants in line with organisational policies and support staff professional development and goals.
7. Provide contribution to cross-departmental and cross-organisational initiatives, including Thematic strategies, Research, Knowledge and Dissemination group, Learning questions agenda, Innovations agenda, Programme and Council meetings and others .

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

#### **Knowledge (Education & Related Experience):**

- A degree in Biosciences, Medicine or similar discipline (Essential)
- A Postgraduate degree in Public Health, Epidemiology or equivalent (Essential)
- A PhD or Professional Doctorate (Desirable)
- Excellent knowledge of NTDs and communicable diseases (Essential)
- Excellent knowledge of different study designs and methods, both quantitative and qualitative
- Experience in leading and conducting operational research in low income countries, including epidemiological and entomological surveys (Essential)
- A record of submitting funding applications to external donors (UK Research Councils, FCDO, USAID, Taskforce for Global Health, Philanthropy Foundations,) (Essential)
- Knowledge of NTD research organisations and networks (Essential)
- Experience of disseminating research through scientific conferences and peer reviewed publications (Essential)
- Experience of managing research staff (Essential)
- Good knowledge of disability issues and equity measurements

#### **Skills (Special Training or Competence):**

- Strong ability to design, lead and manage research projects (Essential)
- Excellent communication skills in English, both orally and in writing (Essential)
- Excellent data analysis skills using statistical analysis software e.g. STATA (Essential)

- Knowledge of qualitative data analysis methods, eg. using NVIVO (Essential);
- Strong ability to write funding applications, study protocols and donor reports (Essential);
- Project, team 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)
- Strong ability to write academic reports and publications (Essential);
- Experience of GIS software e.g ArcGIS, QGIS (Desirable)
- Strong decision making skills (Essential)
- Commitment to equality of opportunity for disabled people (Essential)
- Written and spoken French (Desirable)

## **Key Relationships**

### **Internal**

- Evidence, Research and Innovations Directorate
- NTD Technical Director - NTD Technical Hub
- NTD Programme Directors – NTD operations
- Country offices and programmes
- Other relevant teams, Institutional Funding, Campaigns and Communications, Policy and Advocacy, Performance and Financing

### **External**

- NTD community and networks, including WHO, ESPEN, COR-NTD and others
- Academic institutions in the UK, particularly LSHTM, LSTM, Imperial College
- Academic and research institutes in countries, where Sightsavers works
- Ministries of Health, National NTD programmes
- Donors, specifically Task Force for Global Health, FCDO, BMGF, UKRI
- Other NGOs and Coalitions
- Drug manufactures and donation programmes

## **Ability to Travel**

Ability to travel - on planned visits, for up to 12 weeks of the year, in sometimes difficult locations.

Date as of: 27 September 2021