

Job Description

Job title:	Research Associate, Inclusive Education, Liberia
Job location:	Sightsavers' office in Liberia
Reporting to:	Global Technical Lead, Health & Disability Research
Responsible for:	Research consultants, fieldworkers
Department:	Evidence, Research and Innovations Directorate, PS2

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

Sightsavers is a non-governmental development organization, (NGDO) working on programmes and research with the aim to eliminate avoidable blindness and promote equality of opportunities for people with disabilities. Our current research portfolio includes a range of quantitative and qualitative studies in the areas of health and inclusion.

The postholder will lead and provide technical support to the Inclusive Education research in Liberia, which aims to conduct a nationally representative survey of disability and participation in education among school-aged children in Liberia. We are looking for an experienced researcher with a strong interest in education and disability research and excellent quantitative survey skills, including fieldworker training and supervision, data management, and analysis. The post holder will work with our global Research team and Liberia Country Office, as well as the Liberian Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) and the Ministry of Education (MoE) and partner organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) and will be responsible for setting up the study process and for collecting, analyzing and disseminating data generated by this research.

Significant travel throughout Liberia will be required.

Principal accountabilities:

- Work with the Sightsavers' Research team, Liberia Country office, and partners to develop the research protocol and data collection tools appropriate for the local context;
- Liaise with LISGIS and the MoE, relevant education and other stakeholders at different levels to secure their understanding and buy-in of the study and to obtain all necessary approvals, including ethics clearance;
- Work with LISGIS and the Research team to develop a training package and materials, develop fieldwork procedures and plans, and train, deploy and supervise fieldworkers in data collection;
- Review and manage the quality of data to ensure a complete and accurate dataset for analysis.
- In collaboration with LISGIS and the Research team, support the analysis of data and write up of findings.

- In collaboration with the Liberia Country Office and advocacy team, set up processes and lead on the communication and dissemination of research findings to all relevant stakeholders.

The principal 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 and related experience):

- Post-graduate degree at least at Masters level in a relevant discipline (statistics, epidemiology, education);
- Demonstrable experience of conducting and managing quantitative surveys in the areas of health, education, and/or disability in sub-Saharan Africa;
- Knowledge of disability measurement tools, such as Washington Group questions and Child Functioning Module;
- Experience of developing research protocols and tools;
- Experience of collecting quantitative data and fieldwork supervision;
- Experience of data analysis and report writing;
- Experience of working in partnership with stakeholders, including those in the national statistics and education systems;
- 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;
- Good data analysis skills using software packages, e.g. STATA, R.
- Excellent written and spoken communication skills in English.
- Ability to motivate and work within multidisciplinary and multicultural teams.
- Ability to work under pressure.
- Able to travel nationally within Liberia

Core behaviours:

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

Key relationships

Internal

- Research team
- Liberia Country Office
- Global Technical Leads (Education)
- Inclusive data team

External

- Liberian Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS)
- Ministry of Education of Liberia
- Local education authorities
- Community leaders and stakeholders
- School level managers
- Parents' associations
- Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs)
- Other iNGOs;
- Bi-lateral and multi-lateral development agencies;
- Research and other donor organisations.

Date as of: 12/11/2021