

Job Description:

Job title: Regional Consultant for influenza surveillance activities in Ghana, Rwanda and Nigeria

Project: Strengthening Influenza Sentinel Surveillance in the African region of WHO (SISA)

Duty station: In one of the following countries: Uganda, Ghana, Rwanda or Nigeria

Context:

Influenza disease burden is to a large part unknown in sub-Saharan Africa. In order to improve the understanding of the disease in this part of the world the WHO aims to provide additional support to countries to either set up or strengthen/improve collection, analysis and reporting of influenza surveillance data through WHO tools.

Project description:

AMP has received 12 months grant to support influenza sentinel surveillance in the African region of WHO in the following countries: Angola, Cameroon, Sierra Leone, Zambia, Ghana, Rwanda, Nigeria and Senegal. The project in the following four countries - Angola, Cameroon, Sierra Leone and Zambia - will be implemented through the assistance of four Local Consultants based in the countries. In the remaining four countries, support will be provided by two Regional Consultants. Main objectives of the project are: strengthening of influenza surveillance capacities in selected sub-Saharan African countries; support collection of epidemiology and virology data; strengthen data reporting and analysis capacities at a national and international level through the WHO supported web-based reporting tools, FluNet and FluID.

AMP has subcontracted AFENET to manage this project in 3 of the countries namely: Rwanda, Ghana and Nigeria. The AFENET regional consultant will be primarily in charge of these three countries: **Nigeria, Ghana and Rwanda**, but might be requested to support additional countries if needed.

Main responsibilities of the consultant

In collaboration with the project coordinator at AMP and AFENET the incumbent will be required to:

- 1) *Conduct a needs assessment analysis (assessment missions to **Nigeria, Ghana, Rwanda**)*
 - Assess current influenza surveillance capacities and identify relevant MoH counterparts in each country
 - *Identify current status of existing surveillance documents including any data Management, reporting and analysis guidelines or protocols.*

- 2) *Provide regular on-site and off-site support in project implementation, including through regular visits to **Nigeria, Ghana, Rwanda***
 - Support MOH in developing national influenza surveillance plans, sentinel site protocols and data management and reporting SOPs;
 - Review draft documents;
 - Assist with developing and conducting training courses for project sites
 - Monitor implementation of surveillance and data management guidelines through FluNet and FluID;

- Monitor project progress in each country through regular visits and provide feedback and oversight as needed;
- Regularly liaise with the project lead team
- Provide quarterly consolidated progress reports for each country
- Inform project lead of any problems and propose solutions.

Note: All in-country activities will be carried under the oversight of the local WHO representative (WR).

Training: Medical doctor, university degree in Public Health and Epidemiology

Experience:

Scientific and technical experience: Significant experience in surveillance of infectious diseases in sub Saharan Africa. Knowledge of healthcare systems and surveillance systems in the African region. Experience in developing guidelines, SOPs, protocols and training materials. Excellent writing skills. Experience in providing training to healthcare personnel.

Desirable: experience in sentinel surveillance, and project management.

Organizational skills: Good managerial skills. Ability to work in a multicultural environment. Ability to work independently. Good diplomatic and negotiating skills. Working experience with WHO would be an asset.

Language skills: Excellent knowledge of English (speaking and writing). Knowledge of French would be an asset.

Travel: This position involves 40-50% of travel throughout Africa and potentially to Europe.

Salary: The salary is very competitive and commensurate with the candidate's training and professional experience.

Availability: April 2011.

How to apply: Interested candidates should send their applications and curriculum vitae by email to sec@afenet.net and cc nayebazibwe@afenet.net before **25 March, 2011**. For more details call the AFENET Secretariat on +267417700650.