



AFENET Secretariat
Lugogo House, Ground Floor (Wings B&C)
Plot 42, Lugogo By-Pass
P.O BOX 12874, Kampala, Uganda
Tel: +256 417 700 650
Fax: +256 312 265 595
www.afenet.net

Job Opportunity

Date: Friday April 16, 2021

Job Title: Regional Event-based Surveillance Analyst

Grade: AU P2 equivalency

Number of posts: Five (05) 1 per Africa CDC Regional Collaborating Centres (RCC)

Department: Africa CDC

Supervisor: RCC Coordinator, Africa CDC

Duty Stations: Libreville, Gabon for the Central RCC; Nairobi, Kenya for the Eastern RCC; Lusaka, Zambia for the Southern RCC; Addis, Ababa for the Northern RCC, and Abuja, Nigeria for the Western RCC

Application deadline: Friday May 7, 2021

Background:

The African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET) is a non-profit organization established in 2005 with a mission to improve human health through the strengthening and expansion of applied epidemiology and laboratory capacity in partnership with Ministries of Health, Non-Governmental Organizations, international agencies, private sector and other public health agencies. AFENET has its headquarters in Kampala, Uganda with operations in more than 30 African Countries.

The African Union, established as a unique Pan African continental body, is charged with spearheading Africa's rapid integration and sustainable development by promoting unity, solidarity, cohesion and cooperation among the peoples of Africa and African States as well as developing a new partnership worldwide. Its headquarters is located in Addis Ababa, capital city of Ethiopia.

Officially launched in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2017 as a specialized technical institution of the African Union, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) is Africa's first continent-wide public health agency. Africa CDC envisions a safer, healthier, integrated and stronger Africa, where Member States are capable of effectively responding to outbreaks of infectious diseases and other public health threats. The agency's mission is to strengthen Africa's public health institutions' capabilities to detect and respond quickly and effectively to disease outbreaks and other health burdens through an integrated network of continent-wide preparedness and response, surveillance, laboratory, and research programmes.



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Towards meeting its mission, the Africa CDC will work with African Union Member States, WHO, and partners in the five geographic sub-regions of Africa to strengthen their capacity in five strategic priority areas: (1) public health surveillance and disease intelligence; (2) public health emergency preparedness and response; (3) public health laboratory systems and networks; (4) disease control and prevention; and (5) public health research and public health institutes.

In seeking to achieve this objective, the African Union intends to strengthen its capacity to deliver by, among others, the reinforcement of its organizational structure and expertise.

AFENET therefore seeks to fill this position with applicants who are nationals and citizens of AU Member States. The position is based at the different RCCs of the Africa CDC.

Job Purpose

The regional Event-based Surveillance (EBS) Analyst will work as part of a team to coordinate and conduct Africa CDC's routine media scanning for public health events across the continent. Familiar with the fundamentals of public health surveillance, the Analyst will review media reports using systems like Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources, GPHIN, and ProMED to identify and verify human, animal, and environmental events of public health importance that will be included in a weekly report or outbreak brief. The Analyst will coordinate with all AU Member States within their region to detect, verify and report public health threats to RCCs and Africa CDC EBS network. The Analyst will also contribute to improving existing EBS protocols and procedures, including training new staff and strengthening Member State EBS capacity when needed.

Major Duties and Responsibilities

The EBS Analyst shall:

- Coordinate and conduct Africa CDC's event-based surveillance activities, including media scanning, event verification, risk assessment, report writing, and report dissemination within the assigned region.
- Collaborate with Africa CDC HQ, other RCCs, Member States, and international and regional organizations, such as WHO, FAO, OIE, and WAHO to verify media reports.
- Maintain EBS event tracker and convene routine EBS team meetings within the RCC and HQ as needed, to update events being monitored.
- Produce and disseminate, daily, weekly EBS reports or other relevant EBS products to all relevant stakeholders in the assigned region.
- Represent the region and contribute to continental alerts, reports, and outbreak briefs.
- Work with a team of experts to publish reports, including scientific articles and guidance documents on EBS and disease intelligence in Africa.



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- Coordinate with the Africa CDC Division of Surveillance and Disease Intelligence EBS unit to provide technical support to Member States in the establishment of EBS.
- Collaborate with the Africa CDC Division of Emergency Preparedness and Response staff for events that need technical support from Africa CDC and/or hosting RCC.
- Perform any other tasks or activities as assigned by supervisor.

Minimum Qualification

- a. Bachelor's (e.g. BSc) or Master's Degree (e.g., MPH, or MS) in a relevant discipline such as but not limited to, public health, infectious diseases, basic health science (e.g., biology), epidemiology or related discipline and relevant years of experience in public health or epidemiology or related discipline or completion of a Field Epidemiology Training Program.
- b. Practical experience is defined as implementing/coordinating public health epidemiology and surveillance or other related public health program in any setting, including a governmental agency, non-governmental organization, academic institution, research organization or a life-sciences company is required

Required Experience

- a. A minimum of 2 years (5 years for Bsc) of relevant* practical experience in public health with special emphasis on public health surveillance and disease intelligence, or other public health programmes in any setting, including a governmental agency, academic institution, research organization or a life-sciences company.
- b. Clear understanding of public health surveillance systems on the African continent and fair knowledge of operations of the Ministry of Health in Member States.
- c. Knowledge of public health surveillance guidelines, frameworks and data capture, reporting and analyses platforms and tools on the continent.
- d. Knowledge and experience in supporting public health surveillance programmes or other disease intelligence initiatives with government ministries and partners.
- e. Knowledge of establishing public health EBS in regional, national, or subnational settings.
- f. Knowledge of relevant public health issues in Africa, and at least 2 years previous experience working in Africa.
- g. Deep understanding of the African Union way of working and managing associated relationships with Member State entities and partners.

*Relevant experience is defined as implementing/coordinating public health epidemiology and surveillance or other public health programme and/or health sciences research programme.



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Skills and competencies required

A. Functional Skills

- a) Excellent diplomatic, representational, interpersonal and communication skills, including experience successfully interacting with stakeholders and decision-makers in technical and other professional settings;
- b) Mastery of public health principles and practice as they relate to the implementation of public health programmes and service delivery;
- c) Excellent technical and scientific writing skills, in addition to Narrative and financial reporting skills;
- d) Excellent organizational skills and a proven ability to deliver under tight deadlines and works well under pressure;
- e) Demonstrated project planning and management skills for organizing, planning and executing public health projects from conception through implementation;
- f) Skills in translating highly technical information into presentations, briefings and report and funding proposals for both technical and lay audiences;
- g) Resourceful and skilled at collecting, analysing and using data to recommend, make and communicate decisions of a technical nature to both scientific and lay audiences;
- h) Demonstrated ability with regard to computer skills, including excellent word-processing capabilities, proficiency with e-mail and internet applications, experience in using office software applications such as MS Excel, PowerPoint and Word;

Personal Abilities

- Leadership and management abilities
- Ability to work under pressure, stay on track and meet deadlines
- Analytical and problem-solving abilities
- Proven ability to use clear, concise language in correspondence as well as including content fitting for the purpose and audiences when preparing written briefs and reports;
- Able to operate in a multicultural environment
- High level of autonomy at work, yet with profound team-spirit
- Adaptive, patient, resourceful, resilient and flexible
- Pro-active and solutions oriented

AU Language Requirement

Proficiency in one of the four African Union official languages (Arabic, English, French or Portuguese). For all regions, knowledge two or more of the official languages is an advantage. For West and Central Africa, knowledge of French is desired.

Remuneration:

Competitive based on qualification and experience.



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How to apply:

Submit your resume, application letter, and relevant documentation to:

The Administration and HR Office email; sec@afenet.net

*ONLY successful candidates shall be contacted for an interview.

Please note that all applications should be sent online by close 5:30pm (EAT) Friday May 7, 2021

Note: More details about this position can be obtained from our website: www.afenet.net