EAST, CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA HEALTH COMMUNITY (ECSA-HC)

Vacancy Advertisement for Senior TB Control Advisor

Southern African TB and Health Systems Support (SATBHSS) Project.

1.0 Background of the Organization

The East, Central and Southern African Health Community (ECSA-HC) invites applications for the Post of Senior TB Control Specialist for the Southern African TB and Health Systems Support (SATBHSS) Project. The position is tenable at the ECSA Health Community secretariat based in Arusha, Tanzania. The incumbent will report to the Project Coordinator through the SATBHSS Senior TB Control Specialist.

2.0 Background of the Project

ECSA-HC is the regional coordinating organization supporting the World Bank funded Southern African TB and Health Systems Support (SATBHSS) Project, which is being implemented in four countries, namely Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia. The objective of the Project is to improve coverage and quality of TB control and occupational lung disease services and to strengthen regional capacity to manage the burden of TB and occupational diseases and and strengthen country-level and cross-border preparedness and response to disease outbreaks.

3. Roles and Responsibilities of the Post

A. Coordinate regional activities under the regional ECSA-HC work plan as approved by the Regional SATBHSS Advisory Committee (RAC)

i. Provide technical guidance to conduct ongoing evaluation of existing policies and practices, and to design nationwide TB interventions/strategies, in line with global guidance and local evidence. This includes, but not limited to, newly available recommendations for TB detection, TB and MDR-TB treatment and prevention regimens and models of implementation, and patients psychosocial support, infection control, amongst others.

ii. Develop technical support packages to assist with introduction, implementation and scaling-up of above-mentioned interventions/strategies.

iii. Oversee the roll-out of continuous quality improvement programmes, aiming at improving coverage and disease outcomes for TB, TB/HIV, MDR-TB, and child TB

iv. Facilitate regional efforts to harmonize protocols, guidelines and standards for managing TB and support their adoption by participating countries and relevant regional bodies

v. Support regional systems to establish functional mechanisms for continuum of TB care across countries, among project and non-project countries. This includes, but
not limited to liaising with national TB programmes and regional organizations to ensure real time information sharing on linkage to care and quality of TB care across borders.

vi. Work closely with NEPAD on identifying and rolling-out innovative interventions to find the missing cases among key populations such as, mine workers, healthcare workers, prison populations and other congregate settings, and in relevant high-risk labor settings, as well as to strengthen quality management of TB.

vii. Collaborate closely with the Epidemiologist to develop cross-border and regional TB surveillance activities, and ensure integration into the existing regional platforms for disease surveillance.

viii. Coordinate the activities of the Community of Practice (COP) on Continuum of Care for TB, develop annual work plans based on demand from countries and ensure continuous best practices are shared within the scope of the CoP.

ix. Provide support to rollout and strengthen the Centres-of Excellence (CoE) on community TB care and MDR-TB countrywide, and ensure accreditation of the CoEs.

x. Collaborate with the Senior Public Health Specialist identifying and supporting implementation of operational research activities and providing technical assistance to the countries on the same.

xi. Develop and facilitate a technical training program on TB control based on the results of needs assessment, and approved regional work program, in collaboration with other partners.

xii. Collaborate with the M&E specialist to develop and implement effective target setting, data analysis, monitoring and evaluation, to ensure the proper coverage and quality of TB interventions that will contribute to timely attainment of global TB targets.

xiii. Provide guidance to establish a relevant operational research agenda, in line with latest TB updates, regional context and resources. Contribute to the development of priority TB related research in collaboration with the Senior Public Health Specialist, and as guided by the RAC.

xiv. Support dissemination of research on TB control at national, regional project, and international platforms.

xv. Facilitate learning and knowledge sharing on TB best practices and MDR program management with countries in the region.

xvi. Contribute to the production of the annual technical report for the project.

xvii. Work on relevant programs and projects managed by ECSA-HC as defined annually by Senior Management.

B. Provide technical and implementation support to countries, as requested to:

i. Design and implement best practice interventions in TB control;

ii. Provide technical guidance to translate routine data and results from operational research into the practice that will improve and propel progress towards end TB targets.

iii. Conducting TB programme reviews at all levels, and providing feedback on TB case management and TB programmatic performance.

iv. Provide national level and facility-based mentorship and monitoring in accordance with relevant national guidelines and international recommendations.

v. In collaboration with NEPAD, support countries to develop appropriate advocacy messages for policy change and sustained political commitment on TB prevention and control;
4.0 Qualifications and Professional Experience

a. Medical degree plus at least 5 years’ experience in clinical practice of TB, TB/HIV and MDR-TB management in resource limited countries.
b. Post graduate qualification in medicine, lung diseases, including certificates or accredited short courses in TB control equivalent to those offered by the IUATLD/Union TB constitutes an added advantage
c. At least 7 years of work experience in:
   i. Public health of which at least 5 years directly related with TB Control Programs at National and International level in high-TB burden settings
   ii. Designing and implementing TB control interventions on TB detection, management, and infection prevention and control, targeting vulnerable populations, including mining communities; healthcare workers cross-border areas, HIV/AIDS patients; and co-infected patients would be desirable
d. Strong skills in the development of innovative approaches to quality improvement of TB and MDR TB case management, and activities to reduce stigma and discrimination in healthcare workers and key populations,
e. Solid track record and experience providing strategic guidance to National TB Control Programs on new global strategies, policies and guidelines
f. Solid knowledge about regional and global TB policies, and track record and experience in translating policies into national contexts.
g. Direct working experience in African region TB programs is desirable
h. Prior experience developing and reviewing national TB strategic plans and policy guidelines and conducting external program reviews is an added advantage
i. At least 3 years’ experience in developing training and ability to organize, train and support technical staff in TB care, prevention and control
j. Prior experience in developing protocols and strategies for TB control and national TB annual work plans
k. Outstanding oral and written communication skills in English; a working knowledge of Portuguese will be an advantage;
l. Proven analytical skills and writing ability, as demonstrated by reports and scientific publications in the area of public health, TB or related fields.

5.0 Contract Appointment and Remuneration Package

This two-year performance-based contract may be renewable upon satisfactory performance, and is subject to availability of funds and mutual agreement between the employee and the employer. An attractive package will be offered to the right candidate.

6.0 Method of Application

This is an international competitive position and suitably qualified candidates are encouraged to apply for the post by submitting a brief application letter justifying the suitability of the candidate for the post, a detailed CV, Copies of Educational, Professional Certificates and other testimonials, Names, addresses and contact details (telephone, Fax and E-mail) of three referees. All applications should be sent electronically, with supporting documents as attachments.

7.0 Deadline for Applications

Applications should reach the address below by 18th July 2020.
The Director General
East, Central and Southern Africa-Health Community
Plot 157 Oloirien, Njoro Road
P.O. Box 1009 Arusha, Tanzania
E-mail: vacancies@ecsahc.org with copies to regsec@ecsahc.org, doid@ecsahc.org;
ECSA-HC is an equal opportunity employer, and female candidates are encouraged to apply.

For further information please visit our website: www.ecsahc.org