Vacancy Advertisement for Senior Laboratory Specialist

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 Laboratory 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.

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.

3.0 Roles and Responsibilities of the Post

A. Coordinate and implement regional activities under the ECSA-HC workplan, as approved by the SATBHSS Regional Advisory Committee:

i. Establish and coordinate a peer review mechanism on laboratory quality systems in participating countries
ii. Facilitate the establishment of a Community of Practice (COP) on diagnostics and surveillance of diseases and support learning and knowledge sharing with the laboratory and disease surveillance Technical Working Groups under the East Africa Public Health Laboratory Networking Project
iii. Assist participating countries to organize training and capacity building activities (i.e. mentors, auditors, laboratory assessors) to benefit from the best expertise regionally
iv. In collaboration with the Senior Public Health Specialist, support design of laboratory-based research to be conducted at national level
v. Contribute to the design and development of laboratory-based surveillance at national levels as part of the Integrated Disease Surveillance response (IDSR) network

vi. Support participating countries to carry out regional disease surveillance activities, including simulation exercises, establishment of cross-border zonal committees and cross-border outbreak investigations.

vii. Conduct epidemiological analysis and coordinate publication of regular periodic surveillance bulletins and reports to guide interventions

viii. Contribute to the dissemination of project results, lessons and best practices related to the project at national and regional fora for both regional projects

ix. Contribute to the production of periodic project technical status reports

x. Implement laboratory strengthening related activities under the regional work plan under ECSA-HC for approval by the Regional Advisory Committee

xi. Work on relevant programs and projects managed by ECSA-HC as defined annually by senior management

B. Technical and Implementation Support to participating countries, as requested:

xi. Provide technical support in designing laboratory strengthening and networking interventions, including enrollment in the SLIPTA and SLMTA schemes in collaboration with WHO, CDC and other partners and roll out of mentorship support and cascading to country level training conducted regionally

xii. Facilitate establishment of local community-based trans-boundary integrated human and animal disease networks in the participating countries

xiii. Contribute to the design and development of an operational research agenda with a focus on new TB diagnostics

4.0 Qualifications and Professional Experience

i. Basic training in Medical Laboratory Sciences (Bachelors or Higher Diploma) with Masters in Medical Laboratory Sciences, Public Health or Epidemiology, with at least 5 of years of hands-on experience

ii. At least 7 years’ experience in:
   a. A laboratory set-up and involvement in implementing quality management systems
   b. Project/program planning, implementation and coordination at national and regional levels
c. Facilitating workshops and meetings at the national and regional levels
  d. Developing policies, guidelines and procedures for laboratory programs
  e. Conducting operational and scientific research
  f. Conducting epidemiological analysis, field epidemiology and coordinating disease surveillance and outbreak management

iii. Extensive knowledge and experience in laboratory mentorship and in the Step Wise Laboratory Process Towards Accreditation (SLIPTA) and the Strengthening Laboratory Management Towards Accreditation (SLMTA) schemes
iv. Knowledge and familiarity with laboratory quality systems, bio-safety, and tuberculosis diagnostics, especially the application of new diagnostic tools like molecular techniques
v. Outstanding oral and written communication skills in English; a working knowledge of Portuguese will be an advantage;

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, Njio Road
P.O. Box 1009 Arusha, Tanzania
E-mail: vacancies@ecsahc.org with copies to regsec@ecsahc.org and doid@ecsahc.org
Website: www.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