



EAST, CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA HEALTH COMMUNITY

Job Advertisement

Regional Learning and Knowledge Specialist

1.0 Background

The East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC) is a regional organization established in 1974 to foster cooperation among Member States for strengthening health programmes and advancing attainment of the highest possible standards of health. ECSA-HC in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) , is implementing World Bank funded Health Emergency Preparedness, Response and Resilience (HEPRR) Multiphase Programmatic Approach (MPA) as part of a regional effort to strengthen health emergency systems in 11 countries within Eastern and Southern Africa.

The AFE Health Emergency Preparedness, Response and Resilience (HEPRR) Program is a regional Multiphase Programmatic Approach (MPA) supported by the World Bank to strengthen multisectoral preparedness, response and health system resilience in Eastern and Southern Africa. The MPA integrates equity and inclusion considerations, including gender, and supports regional learning and harmonization across participating countries.

2.0 Program Development Objective (PDO)

The Program Development Objective (PDO) of the Health Emergency Preparedness, Response and Resilience (HEPRR) Program is to strengthen the multisectoral preparedness, response, and resilience of health systems in Eastern and Southern Africa to health emergencies.

3.0 MPA Program Components

The MPA is implemented through four components: (i) strengthening preparedness and resilience of regional and national health systems to manage health emergencies; (ii) improving detection

and response to health emergencies at regional and national levels; (iii) program management; and (iv) Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC).

3.1 Overall Objective

The Learning and Knowledge Specialist will lead the design, operationalization, coordination, and tracking of the HEPRR MPA Learning Agenda across participating countries. The role will ensure that learning questions, operational research priorities, and knowledge products are systematically generated, synthesized, and used to improve program implementation, support Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) decision-making, and contribute to regional and global evidence on health emergency preparedness, response, and resilience.

3.2 Specific Responsibilities

1. Coordinate implementation of the HEPRR-MPA Learning Agenda at regional level, including annual review, prioritization and updating of learning questions and research priorities.
2. Support regional coherence and alignment for the learning agenda between IGAD, WB, ECSA-HC, and participating countries; and
3. Develop and maintain a Learning Agenda tracker, consolidating country progress on learning products, research proposals, evaluations, after-action reviews (AARs), and dissemination activities.
4. Support countries and Communities of Practice (CoPs) to formulate, cost and implement priority learning activities, including operational/implementation research and rapid learning during outbreaks.
5. Provide technical support for knowledge product development (e.g., evidence briefs, case studies, success stories, policy briefs, manuscripts) and ensure alignment with quality standards and target audiences.
6. Coordinate peer learning and cross-country knowledge exchange through webinars, learning forums, regional newsletters, and the regional knowledge hub.
7. Coordinate planning and delivery of regional writing workshops and manuscript development processes to accelerate peer-reviewed publications on HEPRR innovations and lessons learned.
8. Translate complex evidence into clear, audience-specific content for policymakers, programme teams, and partners.
9. Support the integration of learning and adaptation into HEPRR MPA implementation and reporting processes.
10. Liaise with partners (e.g., WHO, Africa CDC, IGAD, IOM, academia) to support joint learning, harmonized tools, and dissemination of regional evidence.
11. Contribute to biannual/annual program reports and technical briefs, including learning sections for RAC and donor reporting.

4.0 Key Educational Qualifications and Professional Experience

1. A Bachelor's and Master's degree in public health/ Global Health/ Health Policy/Monitoring and Evaluation/ Health Systems/ Implementation Science/ Health Communication/Knowledge Management or a related field; a PhD is an added advantage.
2. Additional training in implementation science, knowledge translation, science communication, research utilization, or One Health is desirable.
3. At least 7 years of relevant experience in learning agenda coordination, operational/implementation research, knowledge management, M&E, or health systems strengthening – preferably in multi-country or regional programs.
4. Demonstrated experience in developing and managing knowledge products (policy briefs, case studies, evidence syntheses, manuscripts) and supporting publication processes.
5. Experience coordinating multi-stakeholder processes (countries, partners, academia) and facilitating peer learning platforms (webinars, communities of practice, learning events).
6. Experience working with governments, regional institutions, implementing partners, and development partners is essential.
7. Proven skills in data interpretation and translating evidence into program and policy recommendations.

5.0 Essential Skills and Competencies Required

1. Excellent writing, editing and synthesis skills for technical and policy audiences.
2. Strong facilitation and coordination skills, including ability to manage multi-country workplans and deliverables.
3. Competence in knowledge translation methods and evidence-to-policy approaches.
4. Ability to work effectively in multicultural and multidisciplinary teams and to engage senior stakeholders diplomatically.
5. Proficiency in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) and familiarity with collaboration tools and reference management software.
6. Strong organizational skills, attention to detail, and ability to meet deadlines under minimal supervision.

6.0 Reporting and Institutional Framework

The **Learning and Knowledge Specialist** will report on a day-to-day basis to the HEPRR-MPA Project Coordinator at ECSA-HC. The Specialist will work closely with country project focal persons, CoP leads, the regional M&E and KM functions, and relevant partners to ensure timely delivery of learning agenda outputs and integration of learning into program decision-making.

7.0 Duty Station

Arusha – ECSA-HC Headquarters offices, with travel to participating countries as required.

8.0 Contract Appointment

This is a 3-year contract appointment, renewable once based on exceptional performance and by mutual consent.

9.0 Method of Application

- a. Nationals of member States and project countries who wish to apply for the Post should do so by submitting the following:
- b. Brief Application Letter stating why the candidate feels suitable for the post.
- c. Detailed Curriculum Vitae.
- d. Completed Application form for ECSA-HC posts (available under vacancies/opportunities jobs on www.ecsahc.org).
- e. Certified Copies of Educational and Professional Certificates. Names of three (3) professional referees with their addresses, including telephone, fax, and e-mail.

Applications that have not met ALL of the above set criteria will not be accepted. Only candidates who have met ALL the requirements of the post and have been selected for an interview will be contacted.

10.0 Deadline for Applications:

Applications should reach the address below by 30th September 2026

The Director General

East, Central, and Southern Africa- Health Community

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The ECSA Health Community is an equal opportunities employer. Female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.