

CONSULTANT - In country Technical Coordinator (Sierra Leone - based)

Description:

The Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal) is a cutting-edge institute addressing global public health challenges through research, translation into policy and education. ISGlobal has a broad portfolio in communicable and non-communicable diseases including environmental and climate determinants, and applies a multidisciplinary scientific approach ranging from the molecular to the population level. Research is organized in three main areas, Malaria and other Infectious Diseases, Child and Maternal Health, and Urban Health, Climate & Non-Communicable Diseases. ISGlobal is accredited with the Severo Ochoa distinction, a seal of excellence of the Spanish Science Ministry.

What We Are Looking for:

ISGlobal is seeking an experienced Epidemiologist who is interested in working in the research activities of the ongoing projects of the **Maternal Child and Reproductive Health Initiative** in Sierra Leone, namely:

1) **Improving Care through Azithromycin Research for Infants in Africa (ICARIA)**: A large-scale clinical trial, “An efficacy trial of the incremental mortality benefit of IPTi plus azithromycin” whose goal is to contribute to reduce child mortality in areas of high malaria and mortality burden in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The five-year project, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and co-funded by La Caixa Foundation is coordinated by ISGlobal. Through the project we will evaluate the impact on childhood mortality of azithromycin (AZi) plus intermittent preventive treatment with sulphadoxine-pyrimethamine (IPTi-SP) administered through the Expanded Program on Immunisation (EPI) in Sierra Leone.

The ISGlobal-led consortium includes ISGlobal, as lead research and principal recipient and responsible to the funders for the implementation of the project, and national counterparts, namely, the Ministry of Health and Sanitation and the College of medicine and applied health sciences (COMAHS) in Sierra Leone. The consortium will work closely with other stakeholders such as the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, and GAVI to ensure that all study outputs are met.

ISGlobal is the lead evaluation and research organization and is responsible for implementing a set of studies to generate evidence for global guidance on AZi administration and IPTi-SP. Specifically, ISGlobal will be responsible for designing and implementing the trial’s evaluation plan, as well as designing, analyzing and reporting the clinical and biological research studies to assess the efficacy and impact of the intervention. The ICARIA clinical trial will apply a community-based approach that fosters partnership and strengthens the dynamic link between communities and health

facilities, especially for the most vulnerable people. A learning-driven approach will be employed throughout the project to generate sufficient evidence to inform WHO policy recommendations and future actions in Sierra Leone and similar sub-Saharan countries, in an effort to expand the intervention over the long-term.

2) **“Multiple doses of IPTi” (MULTIPLY):** MULTIPLY is a large-scale implementation project, which includes public and private European and African institutions aiming at maximising the delivery and uptake of Intermittent Preventive Treatment for malaria in infants (IPTi), to achieve full potential and effectiveness of this intervention. It will be carried out in selected country districts of Mozambique, Sierra Leone and Togo.

The 40 months project, is funded by the European and Developing Countries Trial Partnership (EDCTP) and coordinated by ISGlobal, the Barcelona Institute for Global Health, in partnership with the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD), France, the Fundação Manhiça (FM), Mozambique, the University of Lomé (UL), Togo, the University of Sierra Leone, Sierra Leone and the Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV), Switzerland.

The consortium will work closely with the Ministries of Health in Sierra Leone, Togo and Mozambique, the World Health Organization (WHO) as well as other stakeholders, to ensure that all project outputs are met.

MULTIPLY will generate evidence for change and expand access to preventive chemotherapy for malaria in infants in sub Saharan Africa apply a community-based approach that fosters partnership and strengthens the dynamic link between communities and health facilities, especially for the most vulnerable people. A learning-driven approach will be employed throughout the project to generate sufficient evidence to inform WHO policy recommendations and future actions in each country, in an effort to expand the intervention over the long-term.

Field research: (please, highlight the fields that define the position)

- Medical sciences Epidemiology

Training and experience /Qualifications:

- Advanced University degree in biomedical sciences
- Master or PhD studies in Epidemiology or Public Health

Specific Requirements:

- At least 3 years of experience of clinical research in low-income countries
- Verifiable experience in conducting community-based surveys
- Experience in managing a team
- Experience in managing and analyzing large data sets of clinical, laboratory, and field data
- Experience working in Sierra Leone (desirable)
- Based in Sierra Leone
- Exclusive dedication
- Ability to adapt to new environments, work effectively as part of the team and use own initiative when required
- Ability to design and develop activities, to achieve milestones and specific deliverables, and to meet deadlines
- Effective written and verbal communication skills
- To have a genuine interest in biomedical research of infectious diseases, capacity building and global development

Key Responsibilities:

- Support the implementation of the ICARIA trial in Sierra Leone
- Coordinate and oversee the daily activities of the MULTIPLY project team in Sierra Leone
- Supervise data collection
- Coordinate, supervise and perform training activities with local counterparts as required
- Interact with local counterparts in Sierra Leone (MoHS, COMAHS, national stakeholders), and colleagues from ISGlobal
- Support in the elaboration of progress reports, workplans and other documents as required by ISGlobal's Coordinating team
- Prepare documents for different meetings and research conferences as required
- Participate in writing up of scientific manuscripts derived of the research activities

Specific Duties:

Under the guidance of ISGlobal's Coordinating team (Project Director (PD), Senior Advisor (SA), the candidate will be expected to:

DUTIES:

- Travel on a regular basis to the project sites within the country to coordinate and supervise the monitoring, evaluation and research activities of the ICARIA & MULTIPLY projects
- Support all operational research activities as required
- Interact with local project counterparts in Sierra Leone
- Prepare and present reports of the activities and field trips to the Project Director / Senior Advisor
- Carry out any other duties that are within the scope, spirit and purpose of the job, as requested by ISGlobal Project Director /Senior Advisor

Skills

- Excellent writing ability in English to elaborate high-quality and concise technical reports. Excellent presentation skills
- Excellent ability of initiative, coordination and team work in multicultural environments, and of interaction with staff at the project country, with governmental organizations and NGOs
- Flexibility. Open to new ideas and new working methods, adapt positively to change, exchange views and opinions with colleagues.
- Able to work independently while understanding his/her own limits
- Oriented to train and transfer knowledge to biomedical staff in African contexts.
- Knowledge of Microsoft Office, STATA (or similar statistical packages), communication applications and Web technologies

Language level:

- A very good command (advanced level) of the English language

Conditions:

Duration: 48 months

Starting date: 1 March 2021

Contract: long-term consultancy contract

During the crisis caused by COVID19, standard working conditions will be adapted to sanitary requirements.

How to apply:

Applicants must fill in the request form and include the following code reference

position: **TechnicalCoordinator_Constant_SierraLeone_Feb21**, attach the

CV and a Cover Letter. Each attached document must be named with the candidate name and surname.

The receipt of applications will be open until 28 February 2021.

Applications will be accepted until 17.00 CET of the closing date.

Only the applications submitted through the request form will be considered.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

The interviews could be placed during the reception candidatures period.

In ISGlobal we are committed to maintaining and developing a work environment in which the values and principles of our organization are respected and equal opportunities between women and men be promoted in each of the areas in which we operate, not tolerating discrimination based on criteria such as age, sex, marital status, race, ethnicity, disabilities, political leanings, religion or sexual orientation.