



JOB DESCRIPTION

IDENTIFICATION	
JOB TITLE	Laboratory Technical Advisor, EQA/PT
REPORTING TO	Project Director
DEPARTMENT/UNIT	Programmes
DURATION OF CONTRACT	5 Months*
DUTY STATION	Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

**Possibility of extension based on performance and availability of funding*

Amref Health Africa was founded in 1957 and has since grown to become the largest African-based international health development organization, currently implementing more than 120 programs, directly reaching more than 12 million people across 35 African countries. Headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, Amref Health Africa has offices in ten countries in Africa and an additional eleven advocacy and fundraising offices in Europe and North America. In the spirit of Ubuntu, partnership and networking are key elements of our approach. Amref has a staff complement of over 1,500.

Amref Health Africa is driven by its vision of ***'Lasting health change in Africa'*** and its mission ***'To increase sustainable health access to communities in Africa through solutions in human resources for health, health service delivery, and investments in health'***.

1. REGIONAL LABS PROGRAMME

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funded project has been designed to support the Ministries of Health in funded countries in the *Strengthening and Supporting the Development of a HIV-Related Proficiency Testing Network and Tiered Laboratory Continuous Quality Improvement Program* under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). The project aims to strengthen HIV/TB laboratory systems.

2. JOB PURPOSE

The Laboratory Technical Advisor, EQA/PT, will provide technical assistance on the establishment of country laboratory EQA/PT systems and principles at all levels of the diagnostic network to achieve the goals of the CDC project. Working under the supervision of the Project Director, the job holder will work closely with the national authorities to ensure establishment and maintenance of the highest quality standards to strengthen the HIV/TB laboratory systems to public health facilities offering antiretroviral therapy (ART) services and the HIV/TB National Reference Laboratories.

3. PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

External Quality Assessment/Proficiency Testing (PT)

Support the evaluation of PT results to improve the quality of laboratory system for accreditation toward international standards

- Provide TA bi-annually in CQI and HIV Rapid testing PT result and performance interpretation and root cause analysis for enrolled PEPFAR sites
- Provide TA in VL/EID PT results and performance interpretation, and root cause analysis for failed PT in enrolled sites

Support local capacity for PT/EQA panel production through protocol preparation and training, and review meetings

- Develop a protocol that can be used by the MoH for in-country HIV PT panel preparation, distribution, performance evaluation and reporting
- Develop a protocol for a VL/EID inter-laboratory comparison program for VL/EID reference laboratories
- Provide staff training on the protocols developed in 1.4 and 1.5 above
- Support training of HIV testing service (HTS) providers in the enrolled PEPFAR sites on the national testing algorithm
- Support bi-annual review meetings of the testing laboratories to review PT performance

Annual Performance Review

Support a project performance review meeting with all the stakeholders encompassing all thematic areas

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

4. Education and Professional Qualifications

- Minimum of Bachelor's degree in Medical Laboratory Sciences or Biomedical Sciences or other relevant field from a recognized university.
- Master's degree is an added advantage.

5. Required Qualifications and Experience

- Minimum of five (5) years' experience in design and implementation of Laboratory Quality Management Systems and implementation of EQA/PT and inter-laboratory comparison programmes.
- Demonstrated experience in implementation of quality management systems including ISO 15189, ISO 17043 and ISO 13528 standards.

6. Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Experience in building the capacity of national governments and peripheral health systems in quality management systems.
- Knowledge of ISO 15189, ISO 17043 and ISO 13528 standards, and experience in HIV Rapid PT and VL/EID EQA panels production.
- Good planning, coordination and organizational skills.
- Tact and diplomacy in dealing with governments and implementing partners.
- Experience in supporting the development of quality systems for donor funded projects.
- Dedicated team player with excellent interpersonal, communication, report writing and analytical skills both qualitative and quantitative using appropriate data analysis tools.
- Takes initiative and is able to work without supervision in a dynamic multi-cultural environment.
- Ability to exhibit professionalism and high ethical standards
- High level of integrity and able to maintain confidentiality.

- Excellent organizational skills including the ability to multitask.
- Excellent computer skills and experience with Microsoft Office applications
- Willingness to travel and spend long periods away from home

7. Languages

- Proficiency in both written and spoken English and French.

How to apply

Interested? Please visit our website <https://amref.org/vacancies/> to make your application. You will be directed to our online portal where you will need to create an account in order for you to be able to submit your application. Your application should include a cover letter detailing why you are the best fit for this position and your CV with relevant skills and experience. Kindly indicate *Laboratory Technical Advisor, EQA/PT* in your CV and cover letter. Closing date will be **June 10, 2022**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Duly note that Amref Health Africa does not require applicants to pay any money at whatever stage of the recruitment and selection process and has not retained any agent in connection with recruitment.

Amref Health Africa is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff to share this commitment. Amref Health Africa is an equal opportunity employer and has a non-smoking environment policy.