



## JOB ADVERT

IDENTIFICATION	
JOB TITLE	Technical Officer, Malaria Diagnostics
REPORTING TO	Technical Advisor
DEPARTMENT / UNIT	Regional Laboratory
DURATION OF CONTRACT	2 Years
DUTY STATION	Freetown, Sierra Leone

### BACKGROUND

Amref Health Africa was founded in 1957 and has since grown to become the largest African-based international health development organisation, currently implementing more than 180 programmes, reaching more than 40 million people across 35 African countries, and a staff complement of over 2,000. Headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, Amref Health Africa has offices in ten African countries – Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Guinea (Conakry), Kenya, Malawi, Senegal, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. An additional eleven advocacy and fundraising offices are located in Europe and North America.

Amref Health Africa is driven by its vision of '*Lasting health change in Africa*' and its *mission 'To catalyse and drive community-led and people-centred health systems while addressing social determinants of health.'* We believe that the power to transform Africa's health lies within its communities and therefore strive to ensure that health systems are not only functional but communities are empowered to hold these systems accountable for delivering of quality and affordable health care.

### OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT

Amref Health Africa (Amref) in partnership with the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) seeks a Technical Officer, Malaria Diagnostics, for the USAID-funded **Reaching Every At-risk Community and Household with Malaria Services (PMI REACH Malaria)** global project. PMI REACH Malaria aims to provide implementation support services and technical assistance to countries to accelerate progress in the comprehensive delivery of facility and community-based malaria services, including malaria case management, prevention of malaria in pregnancy (MiP), seasonal malaria chemoprevention (SMC), health systems strengthening, data collection and use for service delivery, and other malaria prevention interventions.

### JOB SUMMARY

The Technical Officer, Malaria Diagnostics, will report to the Amref Technical Advisor, Malaria Diagnostics, who will provide technical oversight and programme management for implementation of the scope of work for malaria diagnostics, as outlined in the PMI REACH Malaria Sierra Leone Annual Workplan.

S/he will work in close collaboration with the PMI REACH Malaria Sierra Leone project team, including other Technical Advisors and Technical Officers to contribute to continuity across Programme

implementation areas and service delivery, with an emphasis on malaria diagnostics, malaria case management, supportive supervision, quality improvement systems and training and orientation systems.

The Technical Officer, Malaria Diagnostics, will also work closely with the Amref Regional Laboratory technical and Programme staff to ensure comprehensive technical and programmatic support for the PMI REACH Malaria project.

S/he will be responsible for the development, implementation, and monitoring of the project's malaria diagnostics workplan activities.

## **KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Provide technical assistance in the development and/or revision of national malaria diagnostic policies and guidelines, their dissemination and implementation.
- Provide support to the planning and implementation of national and subnational quality assurance mechanisms, including proficiency testing for malaria blood slides and rapid diagnostic tests (mRDT), slide rechecking and on-site technical support supervision.
- Provide technical support to developing and implementing in-service capacity-building activities in laboratory diagnostics within the country, including refresher training and national and international competence assessments of malaria microscopists (NCAMM and ECAMM).
- Provide technical support to review of relevant pre-service training curricula and requirements for strengthening pre-service training in malaria diagnostics.
- Support in development and implementation of plans to address gaps and challenges identified during supervision, training activities and proficiency testing outcomes.
- Introduce and/or review laboratory diagnostic components in existing MOH supervisory tools to strengthen integrated systems for supervision.
- Ensure alignment of reported malaria diagnostic activities with MOH reporting and M&E frameworks.
- Maintain a database of trained diagnostics personnel and their key competencies.
- Actively liaise with the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) staff to ensure representation on relevant technical working groups, and to provide updates on project diagnostic activities.
- Present programme activities and results to the NMCP and other stakeholders as required.
- Assist the country project team in the preparation of technical reports, work planning, budgets and other documents, as required.

## **QUALIFICATIONS, KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE**

### **Education and Experience**

- Bachelor of Science Degree in Medical Laboratory Sciences with a minimum of 3 years' experience **OR** a Diploma in Medical Laboratory Sciences with a minimum of 5 years' experience.
- Minimum of 3-5 years post-qualification experience providing technical assistance and in project management in malaria and/or other public health programmes.
- Experience in providing technical assistance, supervision, mentorship and capacity building in malaria diagnostics, including knowledge of laboratory quality management systems and quality assurance.
- Experience in managing and/or providing technical assistance to the National Malaria Control Programme and county health departments.

- Experience with health information systems and other relevant country information systems.
- Excellent understanding and management of USAID programmes.
- Certification in the WHO External Competency Assessment of Malaria Microscopists (ECAMM) programme is an added advantage.

## **Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities**

### **Skills**

- Medical laboratory technical skills including internal quality control (QC), external quality assessment (EQA) and management of proficiency testing schemes.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Computer literate, and familiar with programs for word-processing, spreadsheets, database management, presentations, and electronic communication

### **Competences**

- Self-motivated and diligent.
- Strong organizational skills, responsible, and reliable.
- Ability to work in multi-cultural teams.
- Ethical conduct, able to maintain confidentiality and work with integrity.
- Able to work within tight deadlines.
- Willing to spend up to 30% of the time out of station assessing progress and taking corrective actions.

## **WORK ENVIRONMENT**

- Around **50%** of the Job will involve travelling.

## **HOURS OF WORK**

- Normal Working Hours.

## **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. Closing date will be **November 29, 2024**. 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. Although Amref may use different job boards from time to time to further spread its reach for applicants, all open vacancies are published on our website under the Vacancies page and on our official social media pages. Kindly also note that official emails from Amref Health Africa will arrive from an [@amref.org](mailto:@amref.org) address.*

*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.*