Project Coordinator

Organization:
Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND) is established in India as an independent non-profit organization created under Section 8 (Indian) Companies Act, 2013 with its office in New Delhi. The organization is dedicated to activities that result in 1) new diagnostic tools; 2) expanded access to these tools; and 3) strengthened diagnostic testing capacity for poverty-related diseases. FIND India has several projects in TB, Hepatitis C (HCV), COVID-19, Malaria, Fevers and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).

Your mission/Overall objective:
Drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB) continues to be a public health threat to achieving the global TB elimination goals. Worldwide in 2019, close to half a million people developed multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB with India bearing ~27% of this global burden. The recent national anti-TB drug resistance survey conducted in India estimates it is critical to identify these drug resistant cases early so that they are managed appropriately. The National TB Elimination Program (NTEP) therefore endeavours to provide Universal Drug Susceptibility Testing (UDST) to all TB patients through the rapid scale up of automated Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests (CBNAAT and TrueNat) for diagnosing rifampicin resistance and LPA (Line Probe Assay) for INH and SL drugs. With over 2,000 CBNAAT and TrueNat sites across the country the DST for rifampicin is now decentralized and easily accessible. However, the LPA labs, due to their special infrastructure and HR requirements, are limited and centralized causing delayed DST for second line drugs and INH.

In West Bengal there are currently two functional LPA laboratories to manage the existing load of LPA testing. While, the state is in the process of establishing three additional LPA laboratories which are expected to be functional by late 2021, in the interim there is urgent need to supplement the state’s LPA testing capacity in select districts. The project aims to bridge this gap during the interim period.

Goal of project:
To support the state of West Bengal in strengthening DR-TB LPA services ensuring access to timely testing ultimately improving treatment outcomes for diagnosed TB patients.

Objectives:
1. Identification of eligible private sector accredited laboratories with capacity to conduct FL/SL LPA testing
2. Contracting and procuring LPA services from selected laboratories in line with the state’s demand projection
3. Providing technical support to the state towards implementation and monitoring of service quality, post implementation

For more information about the organization, please visit http://www.finddx.org/

Location: Kolkata, West Bengal

Your Responsibilities:
1. Lead planning, implementation, supervision, and monitoring of all activities for the current project.
2. Collaborate with the WB State and district TB Program to create a work-plan and identify collection centres for LPA testing services.
3. Assist in the tendering process for contracting of a private lab partner for LPA services.
4. Supervise and ensure the implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for outsourced LPA testing services, including specific aspects such as collection, testing and reporting TATs and related workflow(s).
5. Visit collection sites periodically for feedback/monitoring of quality of LPA services and implementation
6. Collaborate with the selected private lab partner to ensure that the LPA testing occurs in a quality and timely manner
7. Ensure that project performance indicators are met and report project milestones & progress to internal and external stakeholders (NTEP, donor).
8. Perform other duties as assigned by the Regional Technical Director

Skills and experience required:
- M.Sc. (Biology or Microbiology)/MPH/MBA (Healthcare)/MBBS or related fields, with a minimum of 3 years of supervisory experience in healthcare or National/State public health projects (preferably TB, Malaria, HIV/AIDS, Integrated Disease Surveillance Programs etc)
- Preference will be given to candidates with experience of working:
  - Candidates with experience of working with the NTEP
  - Working on projects engaging public sector institutes/state health authorities
  - State / National experience of working with government/ health departments
- Proven ability to work in a private or public health setup with decision-makers
- Ability to coordinate with internal & external stake holders and on-site teams.
- Demonstrated ability to coordinate between multiple sites and ensure strict adherence to project targets and mandates
- Should have good communications skills and be proficient in basic computer applications like Word, Excel, and Power Point
- Have sound knowledge of data analysis, analytical software, and ability to make meaningful interpretation for effective supervision
- Ability and willingness to travel (20%), based on the need of the job.
- Good interpersonal skills, able to work as part of a team

Nature of Appointment:
The selected candidate shall be initially offered a fixed term employment contract of 9 months. The position will be prolonged subject to satisfactory performance, project extension and fund availability.

Compensation:
FIND India offers a competitive salary and shall be commensurate with the skill and experience of the selected candidate

Deadline to send your application: 7 June 2021
Please mail a motivation letter, a detailed resume and three references to HR-IN@finddx.org.

Due to high applicant volume, you may not receive a response from FIND India. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. (But don’t wait until the deadline! We will start screening right away and if we find the right person, we will stop searching)