Diagnostic Network and Connectivity Specialist- FIND

Organization:
FIND, the global alliance for diagnostics, seeks to ensure equitable access to reliable diagnosis around the world. We connect countries and communities, funders, decisionmakers, healthcare providers and developers to spur diagnostic innovation and make testing an integral part of sustainable, resilient health systems. We are working to save 1 million lives through accessible, quality diagnosis, and save US$1 billion in healthcare costs to patients and health systems. We are co-convener of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator diagnostics pillar, and a WHO Collaborating Centre for Laboratory Strengthening and Diagnostic Technology Evaluation.

For more information, please visit www.finddx.org

Project background:
The ability to make accurate diagnoses is crucial to the control of infectious diseases that have a high public health impact, including COVID-19, HIV, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Government of Australia, both directly and through multilateral agencies such as the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and malaria has been supporting laboratory strengthening in the Indo Pacific region. Under this effort DFAT through the Kirby Institute has established a consortium comprising of three Australian institutes (Kirby, Doherty and Burnet) and two international agencies (CHAI and FIND), to support laboratory response to infectious disease threats in three countries of the Indo-pacific region; Cambodia, Laos PDR and Papua New Guinea. Under this project FIND and the consortium lead Kirby will work in PNG towards following goals:

1. Diagnostic optimization of testing capabilities through greater integration of multi-disease PCR platforms across laboratory network
2. Enhanced digital information systems to support quality assurance, inventory control, public health reporting and response, and laboratory network optimization

Project:
The project through FIND will be focused on optimization of testing capabilities through a data driven approach to match the supply and demand of testing for COVID-19, HIV, TB, and malaria, and enhancing digital information systems to support quality assurance, inventory control, public health reporting and response. Diagnostic network optimization will aim to understand how diagnostic services are organized in a country to inform the optimal location of tools, testing capacity and sample referral systems. It will use national data to understand existing gaps that limit access to and utilization of diagnostic services, and to design the best solutions to address these gaps. This will aim to improve access of testing for these diseases. Further, the diagnostic instruments enabled with remote connectivity have the potential to increase efficiency and lower costs for testing, treatment, and disease surveillance programmes. Data collected from connected diagnostics inform decision making and policy recommendations for disease programmes and global health funding. The project will work for connecting diagnostic instruments (such as GeneXpert, TrueNat) with health information systems (such as DHIS2 and locally developed case management systems) to support automated integration of data from diagnostic devices into existing (or new) case management and surveillance digital tools. Different levels of dashboard will be developed to show key performance indicators at site/instrument-level for TB, HIV and COVID-19 and test results, stock management, and machine health to highlight malfunction or underutilization.
Number of positions: 01
Location: Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (PNG)

Job description:
The Diagnostic Network and Connectivity Specialist will work with country-level implementation lead, Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) in Laos and Cambodia, and the Kirby Institute in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and other consortium partners to undertake project implementation as per defined project plan. The specific activities will include but not be limited to:

1. Participate in the comprehensive assessment undertaken by the consortium partners to determine existing testing landscape and technical capabilities, particularly focusing on diagnostic data availability, instrument connectivity and digital infrastructure. Key strategic partnerships involved in testing will be identified along with existing and future laboratory related investments.
   - Work closely with multiple MOH departments and other stakeholders in the design and rollout of the assessment
   - Assist in the processing of Phase 1 assessments: formats assessment, organizes materials for scanning, delivery, and monitors for correctness in line with the MoH and context requirements.
   - Assist with the coordination of assigned digital landscape assessment components as well as providing support for other areas of implementation e.g. data entry, assessment planning and scheduling
   - Support MoH participants from the Digital Dx arm of MoH on administration of questionnaire and compilation of reports for stakeholders

2. Diagnostic Network Optimization related:
   - Coordinating collection of data from the provinces/ districts/ facilities related to location of the CBNAAT, TrueNat, their current capacity and utilization, patient flow and status of sample referral system under the TB/HIV/COVID-19 program
   - Map the location and capacity of TB/HIV/COVID-19 diagnostic testing services in selected private sector labs and propose engagement models and referral patterns to optimize overall network efficiency and increase patient access to diagnosis.
   - Recommend the optimal sample referral network design from health facility to molecular testing site/ referral lab, plus on-referral for C/DST/LPA using multi-stop estimation method.

3. Connectivity and Digital Solutions related:
   - Coordinating collection of data from the provinces/ districts/ facilities related to lab equipment and connectivity solutions utilized
   - Coordinate collection of information on various data bases, information systems used in the labs for managing lab data and connecting equipments.
   - Identify various digital reporting systems at the national/ provincial/ district-level that are used to report or manage HIV/TB/VCovid-19/Malaria public health program data
   - Coordinate with various sites and stakeholders for implementation of identified connectivity solutions.

4. Coordination and program support:
   - Assist Program Manager in field coordination of various activities and stakeholders.
   - Attend periodic meetings with lab facilities, country lead and FIND project management team to coordinate activities for project implementation.

Qualifications:
Minimum Qualifications:
   - Bachelor’s degree in information technology, management, business, public health, or other relevant fields
• A minimum of 2 years progressive work experience in conducting assessments, implementing, and evaluating programs in the private or public sector
• Excellent analytical skills, particularly in systems and/or information systems analysis
• Experience developing and administering evaluation tools for digital health
• Proficiency in MS Excel and PowerPoint
• Strong business-oriented verbal, visual and written communication skills.
• Fluent in Local language (Cambodia – Khmer, PNG – Tok Pisin)
• Fluent in English

Preferred Qualifications:
• Knowledge and experience in public health, particularly diagnostics and frontline health worker programs
• Experience of working in laboratory program or in the field of disease diagnosis
• Exposure to software development, testing or implementation would be a plus
• Experience living and working in developing countries

Nature of appointment:
The selected candidate shall be initially offered a consultancy contract for 12 months. The consultancy contract is with FIND, Geneva.

Compensation offered:
The gross remuneration budgeted for the position shall be commensurate with the qualifications, experience, and salary history, of the selected candidate.

Deadline to send your application:
Please mail a motivation letter, a detailed resume and three references to Hr-in@finddx.org and by 20 December 2021

But don’t wait until the deadline! We will start screening right away and if we find the right person, we will stop searching.