

Project Manager

Project: Building sustainable & scalable mechanisms to improve paediatric TB sample collection, establish efficient sample referral and transportation

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-convenor 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

Diagnosing TB in children is particularly challenging because they are often unable to produce sputum. In addition, TB can mimic many other common childhood diseases. Children <14 years (~30% of India's population) are expected to contribute 13% of the TB caseload but in 2019 the NTEP reported only 0.15mn cases. If TB is undetected and untreated, children are at high risk of mortality, especially in the context of multidrug resistance. Considering the End TB strategy, as per WHO's targets, 40 mn people with TB need to be reached with care during the period 2018–2022, including 3.5 mn children.

One of the major bottlenecks in improving paediatric TB diagnosis is difficulty in collecting quality specimens for testing. This becomes even more challenging in tribal and rural terrains further compromised by non-availability of trained medical personnel at district and sub-district levels to collect appropriate samples from presumptive paediatric cases. In order to address these gaps, under aegis of NTEP, steps have been undertaken including establishment of a network of national and regional Centres of Excellence (COEs). However, gaps remain in management of paediatric TB due to minimal number of functional COEs and suboptimal linkages to the district and sub-district levels. In line with the global policy, the NTEP has prioritized this vulnerable group under the National Strategic Plan 2017–25 and efforts are being made to integrate TB case finding and management into general child health activities. Considering this, FIND in consultation with the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) Govt. of India, aims to improve sample collection capacity and transportation mechanism in peri-urban, rural, and tribal geographies (4 diverse districts) in 4 geographically representative states of India including:

- Ludhiana, Punjab
- Mayurbhanj, Odisha
- Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- Bagalkot, Karnataka

Project objectives:

The larger aim of this proposal is to improve paediatric TB case detection through improved sample collection capabilities and establishing efficient sample referral and transportation mechanisms at district and sub-district health care levels. We propose to do so through the following objectives.

- A. Building capacity of peripheral block level health-care professionals (including medical officers and staff nurses) on paediatric TB sample collection both in public and private sector, establishing sample collection for complex samples (like CSF, aspirations and biopsies) as well as training hubs at district hospitals in addition to strengthening linkages with paediatric COEs or nearest tertiary hospitals (medical colleges etc.)
- B. Developing and implementing a reliable sample referral, transportation and tracking mechanism between CHCs, district hospitals and tertiary level facilities to ensure appropriate and timely diagnosis.
- C. Developing an e-consultation and a distant clinical mentoring mechanism to connect peripheral health facilities (HF) with specialised centres for guidance on sample collection including advice on type of sample to be collected.

Location: New Delhi

Job description

The Project Manager will work closely with the senior management and project team at FIND, as well as the State NTEPs and other stakeholders to lead implementation of all activities under the project:

The specific activities will include but not be limited to:

- Setup and creation of project workflows, M&E indicator sheets
- Lead operationalization, implementation, monitoring and supervision of all project activities and assist in evaluation of project deliverables, outputs and outcomes
- Lead coordination with tertiary institutes, states, sites, training partners and the NTEP, oversee and provide necessary technical support to the states
- Lead training content development/finalization (in consultation with technical experts) for training medical professionals on paediatric sample collection and transport techniques
- Lead meetings, trainings, mentorship network creation and operationalization in project districts
- Supervise and support the Project team and follow up on progress of the project and provide regular updates to key stakeholders including the donor agency
- Plan and allocate project resources appropriately to maximize output
- Ensure process adherence and timely data reporting by project team
- Track progress including financial and programmatic in line with the committed timelines and targets.
- Overall monitoring, technical support and coordination with sites, experts, and other stakeholders as and when required
- Any other tasks assigned time to time

Skills and experience required:

- MBBS/BDS with postgraduate degree in Public Health/Epidemiology/Health Services Management with minimum of 5 years of supervisory experience in 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 with projects engaging public sector institutes/state health authorities
 - State / National level experience of working with government/ health department
 - Experience in managing project budget
- Experience of working with the NTEP at the State or National level will be preferred.
- Proven ability to work in a 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 extensively (30%), based on the needs 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 Agreement for one year.

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 **26 May 2022**

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