FIND ▶▶▶
Diagnosis for all

District Coordinator

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-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

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 National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (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 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 Community health centres (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: 4 positions
• Ludhiana, Punjab
• Mayurbhanj, Odisha
• Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
• Bagalkot, Karnataka

Key Responsibilities:

• Lead implementation of the project activities at the district level
• Work in close coordination with the district NTEP officials to ensure seamless implementation of the project
• Engage with key stakeholders which include public/private sector providers, officials at Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT) sites/IRLs etc.
• Develop strategy for program implementation and operational support
• Coordinate with tertiary centres (hospitals/Centre of excellence) for online mechanism of mentoring – including but not limited to ensuring resources availability and setting up tele-consult/training software
• Represent project in key external engagements at the district level
• Provide strategy to field level staff and ensure achievement of set targets
• Report on field level activities and achievement on a periodic basis to the project management team
• Conduct monitoring visits and assist field staff in solving day-to-day operational challenges
• Conduct/Coordinate periodic project reviews
• Facilitate CMEs, trainings and supervisory visits of the project management team

Skills and Experience:

• Postgraduate with MSW/MPH/MBA with 2 years of experience in health-related project at district/state level

Desirable:
• Proficient in MS Office skills
• Knowledge of development principles, development sector landscape and technical sector updates
• Building successful collaborative relationships with internal and external stakeholders
• Experience of working with National TB/ HIV program in a managerial capacity will be preferred
• Having two-wheeler with valid driving license

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 **22 June 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.