

## Field Worker

**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](http://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:** 4 positions

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

### **Roles and Responsibilities:**

- Mapping the universe of public and private sector doctors/providers diagnosing and treating pediatric TB patients. Understanding their prescription potential and building the TB patient referral network for these doctors to strengthen sample collection processes
- Sensitisation of sites: develop visit plan and coordinate with sites for organising onsite visits
- Engage and ensure high potential doctors/providers and their referral networks become part of the program
- Promote the program through regular in clinic communication as per call plan
- Ensure quality execution in terms of detailing and conducting scientific activities (sensitization meetings/CMEs) to engage doctors
- Data collection and reporting, as required
- Maintain confidentiality of the tests and patient related information
- Any other task assigned by the immediate supervisor.

### **Qualification and Experience:**

- Graduate/Postgraduate or B. Pharma
- 2 years of experience in health-related project at district/state level

### **Desirable:**

- Building successful collaborative relationships with internal and external stakeholders
- Experience of working under TB Program or Public and Private Partnerships Program or in sales at Pharma/diagnostics/hospital- Is this going to be major selection criteria
- Having two-wheeler with valid driving license/Public Transport??

Posted: 7 June 2022

**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](mailto: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.*