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## Team Lead – LSS - Bihar

### 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. FIND India is the key implementing partner of Central Tuberculosis (TB) Division, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, for strengthening and expanding TB laboratory diagnostic capacity within the Revised National TB Control Program (RNTCP) supported by the Global Fund. FIND India is a subsidiary of FIND, an international non-profit organization based in Geneva, Switzerland. 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 in low- and middle-income countries.

For more information, please visit [www.finddx.org](http://www.finddx.org)

### Project Background

A responsive, accessible, and pandemic resilient public health system is critical towards early detection, accurate treatment, and continued care management. 1. This is especially true for Bihar, India with its high proportion of rural population (88.7%) and persons below the multi-dimensional poverty line (51.9%- highest in the country). Bihar faces many challenges towards building an adequate public health laboratory diagnostic capacity to meet its demand. Public health laboratories are cornerstones of a public health system with availability of high-quality diagnostics, the first step towards accurate disease detection and containment. Recognizing the need to establish a uniform code for equitable access to quality diagnostics, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) under the aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has developed India's National Essential Diagnostic List (NEDL) recommending tests for both communicable and non-communicable diseases at each health facility (HF) level based on utility, demand, infrastructure & personnel availability. In the absence of suitable capacity, it recommends following a "hub and spoke model" to drive cost-effective test availability. 7. The recently launched Pradhan Mantri – Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM ABHIM) along with Guidelines on Integrated Public Health Laboratories (IPHL) by the MoHFW, Government of India, focuses on establishing integrated public health laboratories. 8. At district and sub-district levels, providing quality assured diagnostic services aiding clinical management, public health surveillance and supporting outbreak investigations.

The state of Bihar is committed to strengthening and upgrading testing facilities along a "hub and spoke model" - a tiered system designed to provide patient-centric care and minimize patient drop-off. This project is focused on supporting the Government of Bihar in its endeavor to improve the diagnostic services.

### Objective and Primary Outcome:

The main objective of the program is improving outbreak preparedness of the healthcare facilities, the proposed activities under the project will ensure adoption of IPHL guideline and follow IPHS-NHM norms at each level of health facilities. The project intends to lead to following outcomes:

- Building diagnostic capacity at all levels of the public health system including strengthening in-house lab services as per Government of Bihar (GoB) strategy and in line with India's NEDL and IPHL norms supporting development and implementation of a public-private partnership (PPP) for diagnostic services (in support of GoB's plan and subject to award of tender by Government of Bihar)
- Strengthening quality diagnosis across tiers by building and implementing a quality management system (QMS) with continued mentoring mechanism

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- Building sustainable laboratory capacity towards disease surveillance (focusing on febrile illnesses) through capacity building.

**Location:** Patna, Bihar

### **Job description**

The Project Lead will work closely with the senior management and project team at FIND, as well as the State officials and other stakeholders to lead implementation of all activities under the project. The specific activities & responsibilities will include but not be limited to:

#### *Program Management and Administrative Responsibilities:*

- Develop field level strategies and processes in alignment with overall project objectives with an initiative geared towards operational excellence.
- Lead coordination with all health centers of allocated districts of Bihar and other stakeholders for all activities as mentioned under the grant.
- Prepare the project work plan, budget forecast, management of budget allocation and monitoring expenditure as per the project activities and guidelines.
- Manage, supervise and support the project team and follow-on progress of the project and provide regular updates to key stakeholders including the donor agency.
- Manage project deliverables within stipulated deadlines and monitor engagement activities with State Health Society of Bihar.
- Submit reports and participate in national/state level reviews periodically as per project requirement.
- Ensure submission of periodical reports (programmatic and financial) as per organization requirements and donor specifications.
- Ensure confidentiality and security of the program data and information, as relevant
- Support the procurement if any under the project as per FIND policies.
- Any other tasks assigned time to time.

#### *Technical Responsibilities:*

- Liaison with Ministry of Health, Government of Bihar (including the State Health Society of Bihar) planning and implementation of project/LSS related activities
- Plan, implement and support various site assessments under the project and development of reports and action plans. The project will support lab system strengthening (LSS) at health facilities requiring effort towards planning and execution of this task.
- Provide technical guidance and expertise to develop the IPHL and QMS (quality management system) training curriculum, capacity building program and implementation of IPHL guidelines at all health centers.
- Support implementation of training of trainers & cascade trainings for IPHS norms and IPHL guidelines in the identified areas/regions.
- Conceptualize the documentation, report writing and monitoring & evaluation framework for the project.
- Support achievement of project milestones.

### **Skills and experience required:**

- MBBS/BDS with postgraduation in Microbiology/Pathology/Lab Medicine/Public Health/ Epidemiology/ Health Services Management from reputed Institutes.
- Experience: 05 years or more in public health in public health programs in India including field implementation and managing teams (preferably TB, HIV/AIDS, Integrated Disease Surveillance Programs, COVID-19, other public health programs)

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- Comprehensive knowledge and experience in NEDL and IPHL, Government health care system and structures including familiarity with Ministry of Health policies, program priorities and regulations.

**Preference will be given to:**

- Candidates with experience of working with projects engaging public sector institutes/state health authorities.
- Candidate with experience of working under/managing projects funded by national/international donor agencies.
- State/ National level experience of working with Government/ health department.
- Experience in managing project budget.
- 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 districts/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 (25%), 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 on a third-party agreement duly issued by consultancy firm. The initial offer will be until **31 March 2024**.

**Compensation offered:**

The selected candidate will be on third party payroll. The gross remuneration budgeted for the position shall be commensurate with the qualifications, experience and performance during interview process.

**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 **30 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.*

Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted