

## **Regional Technical Specialist - (GF-C19RM) AIC Intervention**

### **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**

Airborne diseases including TB, in health care settings represent a major public health challenge. In 2010, National Airborne Infection Control (AIC) guidelines were adopted in India. These guidelines included specific policies for TB prevention and control in health care settings. However, the present uptake and implementation of these guidelines remains sub-optimal under the NTEP and NACP. The AIC guidelines assume greater importance with the recent Covid-19 pandemic. With the objective to improve outbreak preparedness, and control TB and other airborne infections at healthcare settings, the proposed activities are designed to ensure adoption of AIC practices at all nodal DR-TB facilities.

Further, with the adoption of “Test and Treat” policy by NACP the life expectancy of PLHIV has improved, which makes management and prevention of co-infections critical for the success of HIV program. With ART centres being overburdened and overcrowded in India, AIC becomes a core area of public health intervention to prevent transmission of TB and other airborne infections at these facilities.

### **Objective and Primary Outcome:**

The main objective of the program is improving outbreak preparedness of the healthcare facilities and controlling air-borne infections such as TB and COVID at healthcare settings, the proposed activities under the project will ensure adoption of AIC practices at identified nodal DR-TB facilities and associated ART centers. The project intends to lead to following outcomes:

- Reduced events of airborne disease outbreaks at healthcare facilities
- Safe healthcare facilities that protect healthcare workers and patients against airborne infections.
- Reduced rates of HAI (Healthcare associated infections) especially TB and COVID.
- Improving access to TB services supporting mitigation of COVID-19 under NTEP.
- Improved reporting of IC indicators leading to early identification of outbreaks at healthcare facilities.

**Location:** Delhi/ East Region

### **Job description**

The Regional Technical Specialist will work closely with the Project Team Lead, Project team as well as the states, sites, other stakeholders to lead implementation of all activities under the project:

The specific activities will include but not be limited to:

- Assist the Project Team Lead to implement & plan project activities, coordinate with various stakeholders and monitor the progress of implementation of project activities at sites.
- Coordinate with Nodal DRTB centers and ART centers and other stakeholders for implementation of activities as mentioned under the project
- Support and provide technical expertise for development of training materials, job aids and guidelines, using existing reference AIC guidelines
- Implement and support various site assessments under the project and development of reports and action plans
- Impart training to sites/facilities on AIC and related topics
- Provide onsite mentoring to sites to implement project activities
- Assist in preparation of the project work plan in the region, associated budget forecast and management of budget allocation as per the project activities and guidelines
- Develop regional field level strategies and processes in alignment with overall project objectives and activities with an initiative geared towards operational excellence.
- Establish linkages coordinate and facilitate all activities listed in the project in the respective State, in defined areas of the project.
- Strengthen networking and liaise with state level TB and HIV administrative units for adoption, and smooth implementation of project activities in states.
- Provide technical inputs, support the project lead in identifying training needs and planning capacity building programs for sites
- Support data collection under various activities
- Facilitate state-level monitoring and periodic review of activities and partnerships with different stakeholders
- Manage project deliverables within stipulated deadlines and monitor engagement activities
- 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
- Support scientific writing for the project. Identify opportunities for operational research towards improvement of the program and support developing concepts for the same.
- Any other tasks assigned time to time.

**Skills and experience required:**

- MBBS with MD in Microbiology/Public & Social Medicine/ Pathology/ Chest Medicine/ or equivalent qualification.

OR

MBBS with PhD in Public Health/ Epidemiology/ Health Services Management from reputed Institutes or

MBBS Person with relevant masters' degree / MSW/ MPH/MBA/MHA.

- Experience: 3 years or more of public health programs in India including field implementation and managing or coordinating teams (preferably TB, HIV/AIDS, Integrated Disease Surveillance Programs, COVID-19).
- Comprehensive knowledge and experience in AIC and infectious disease prevention/ government healthcare system and structures including familiarity with Ministry of Health policies, program priorities and regulations is required.
- Preference will be given to:
  - Candidates with experience of working with projects engaging public sector institutions/ state health authorities.
  - State / National level experience of working with government/ health department.
  - Candidates with experience of working with ICMR at the national/ state level.
- 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 in the districts of the respective State (up to 50%), 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 fixed term staff contract up to **31 December 2023**. The position will be prolonged subject to satisfactory performance, project extension and fund availability.

#### **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 **26 September 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.*