



JOB OPPORTUNITY

Amref Health Africa is the largest international health development organization based in Africa. With headquarters in Kenya, Amref Health Africa has offices in Ethiopia, Uganda, South Sudan, Kenya, Tanzania, Southern Africa and Western Africa providing services to over 30 countries.

Working with and through African communities, health systems and governments, Amref Health Africa aims to close the gap that prevents people from accessing their basic right to health. Amref Health Africa is committed to improving the health of people in Africa by increasing sustainable health access to communities in Africa through solutions in human resources for health, health service delivery, and investments in health. Our Vision is **Lasting Health Change in Africa**. For more on Amref Health Africa please visit www.amref.org

Background

South Sudan signed the COVID-19 Response Mechanism award with the Global Fund for an amount of 35 million USD to support the COVID-19 response and mitigate the risk posed on the health programmes. The project runs until 31 December 2023 with key areas of support including country coordination and planning for COVID-19 response, risk communication and community engagement, infection prevention and control, COVID-19 diagnostics and lab systems strengthening, health products management and waste management, surveillance and surveillance systems strengthening, and last mile delivery. COVID-19 response in the country is led nationally by the National Taskforce and advised by the National Steering Committee which is comprised of several Technical Working Groups along WHO's pillars for COVID-19 response. The country has also revised its national strategic preparedness and response plan the implementation of which is being supported through this award and other partners. UNDP is the principal recipient of the award and is partnering with sub-recipients to implement the various pillars of the national response.

One of the focus areas of this award are laboratory systems strengthening that focus on the integration of diagnostic services and the strengthening of the national public health laboratory (NPHL). The capacity of the NPHL for COVID-19 and TB advanced diagnosis and quality assurance is severely compromised as a result of lack of adequate hands-on technical support. The Ministry of Health is, therefore, seeking a one-year expertise that will be provided to the NPHL in order that the NPHL is in full capacity to run the National TB Reference Laboratory (NTRL) and COVID-19 laboratory.

Laboratory (1 Position) - Ref. No. JLA/001/2022

(LABORATORY ADVISOR)

Objectives of the ToR

The Ministry of Health intends to contract a laboratory expert with solid TB reference laboratory work background to ensure that capacity is built at the NTRL and that COVID-19 laboratory is fully functional to provide both advanced diagnostic testing and execute quality assurance.

Purpose of the Assignment

The main objective of this technical assistance is to provide hands-on training, mentoring and support to the day-to-day operation of the NTRL and oversee the operation of COVID-19 laboratory.

Scope of work

The laboratory Advisor will focus on strengthening the TB reference laboratory at the NPHL and the COVID-19 laboratory and its diagnostics network and build on previous Global Fund investments and activities for improved TB and COVID-19 diagnostics including multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB, and COVID-19 diagnostic activities. With the focus on those activities, the technical assistance is intended to achieve three key results:

- (i) Strengthen the capacity of the NTRL and network of TB laboratories to improve quality and efficiencies of the TB diagnostics cascade.



- (ii) Improve the COVID-19 laboratory diagnostic network
- (iii) Develop necessary tools required for the NPHL related to TB and COVID-19 reference laboratories

Duties and Responsibilities:

The Laboratory Advisor has the following duties and responsibilities:

- Provide hands-on training for the NTRL staff on TB reference laboratory work process including culture and DST
- Provide leadership in the external quality assurance (EQA) for TB and COVID-19 laboratory tests in the country
- Build human resource capacity in the NTRL and regional reference laboratories to scale-up TB and COVID-19 diagnostics in Ethiopia
- Provide technical assistance and mentorship to TB and COVID-19 diagnostic facilities and the overall diagnostic network as part of overall capacity building and continuous improvement of laboratory programs.
- Support strategies to ensure functional TB and COVID-19 diagnostic equipment including systems to maintain laboratory equipment, securing maintenance contracts, and establishing a cadre of trained biomedical engineers.
- Assist TB laboratories in improving overall Quality Management System through locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally accepted accreditation agencies
- Support development of national diagnostic network strategic plans, supervision, monitoring and evaluation framework, SOPs and policies.
- Implement TB- and COVID-19-focused technical assistance, diagnostic network and facilities strengthening, and quality improvement interventions in line with NPHL priorities.
- Review adherence to diagnostic algorithms, best practices, national and international standards in NTRLs
- Conduct assessments of COVID-19 and TB diagnostic in facilities and the follow-up of corrective and preventive actions and initiatives.
- Provides technical oversight for data management and reporting of MDR TB and COVID-19 and monitor and report progress with diagnostic network enhancement activities

Required:

- University degree in medical laboratory technology, Microbiology, infectious diseases, or related
- At least 3 years of experience working in a national TB reference laboratory
- At least 3+ years of progressive professional experience in TB-focused diagnostic strengthening and capacity
- Demonstrated experience in setting up, managing and strengthening microbiology laboratory services
- Technical competency in the diagnosis of infectious diseases (TB and DR-TB) including specific hands-on diagnostics experience.
- Competent in current diagnostic methods for tuberculosis including point-of-care tests.
- Understanding of emerging technologies and molecular methods in TB diagnostics
- Fluency in written and spoken English
- Willingness and ability to travel

Reporting

The Laboratory Advisor will report administratively to the project Manager and technically to the Director General for NPHL

Location: Juba.

- Excellent organizational skills
- Good communication skills, and a collaborative and multidisciplinary interest
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Office, PowerBI, Google Calendar, and other virtual meeting platforms



- Skilled in writing official communication, and writing of technical materials.

Languages

- For the position advertised, fluency in English (both oral and written) is required. Knowledge of Arabic is desirable.
- Qualified and experienced female candidates are highly encouraged to apply.

How to Apply

Please visit our website <https://amref.org/vacancies/> to submit your application. You will be directed to our online portal where you will need to create an account in order for you to be able to submit your application. Your application should include an updated CV including three work related referees and a cover letter addressed to the Human Resource Business Partner, Amref Health Africa.

The closing date for submitting applications is **September 9, 2022**

The position will be hired on a rolling basis.

Amref Health Africa is committed to the principles of safeguarding at the workplace and does not tolerate any form of abuse, discrimination or harassment.

Duly note that Amref Health Africa does not require applicants to pay any money at whatever stage of the recruitment and selection process and has not retained any agent in connection with recruitment. Amref Health Africa is an equal opportunity and has a non-smoking environment policy

