

## RESEARCH ASSISTANT PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT

**NIHR Global Health Research Unit on the Prevention and Management of Stillbirths and Neonatal Deaths in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.**

**Vacancy Ref: CUHAS/SB2/2021/01**

**Salary:** Research Assistant: SB2 package

**Hours:** Full-time

**Duration:** Fixed-term (48 months) January 2022- December 2025

**Location:** Manyara, Tanzania

**Responsible to:** Dr Rose Laisser (Tanzania lead) and Professor Dame Tina Lavender (UK lead). **Reports to:** Dr Paschal Mdoe

**Number of Posts:** 4 (Four)

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Enquiries about the vacancy, shortlisting or interviews:

**The Administrator CUHAS -SB2 study**

P O Box 1464

Mwanza, Tanzania

E-mail: [vc@bugando.ac.tz](mailto:vc@bugando.ac.tz) copy to [nkuba@bugando.ac.tz](mailto:nkuba@bugando.ac.tz)

Tel No. + 255 757 23 12 04

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### **BACKGROUND**

The (NIHR) national Institute for Health and Research ; Global Health Unit on the Prevention and Management of Stillbirths and Neonatal Deaths in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, led from the Centre for Childbirth, Women's and Newborn Health at Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine UK, is an established equitable multidisciplinary partnership between Africa, Asia and UK-based researchers. The centre collaborates with CUHAS- Bugando Tanzania. Our ultimate goal is to end preventable stillbirths and new- born deaths, ensure adequate support for parents and families whose baby dies and reduce associated stigma in Tanzania.

### **JOB DESCRIPTION**

The **Research Assistant** will work on a project related to stillbirth and neonatal death. Antenatal care (ANC) provides health promotion, screening and diagnosis, prevention of complications and promotes positive childbirth experiences through the support of women, partners, families, and communities. The Every Newborn collaboration, launched new 2025 measurable targets, marking the next step in the global effort to end preventable stillbirths and newborn deaths. One of these targets is that every woman should have four or more antenatal contacts. In Tanzania, most women attend one ANC visit (98%); only half (51%) attend four or more. Urban

women are more likely than rural women to have four or more ANC visits and to seek care early in pregnancy, contributing to high intrapartum transfer rates (11%) and an unacceptable stillbirth rate (22.4 per 1000 births). The majority of stillbirths occur in younger first-time mothers (30%), to women living in rural areas (78%) and to women in the lowest wealth quintile (40%). Tanzanian women experience significant challenges attending ANC including lack of partner support, unwelcoming clinic environments, disrespectful care, perceived poor quality of care, socio-cultural beliefs, fear of HIV testing, poverty and distance from health clinics. Women's uptake of ANC services is influenced by good quality and respectful care, building trusting relationships with healthcare workers, continuity of care and flexible clinic appointments.

The focus of the Research Assistant's work will be on ensuring that the project objectives are met. This will include a range of activities including gaining ethical approvals, recruitment and data collection, contributing to data analysis, data management, providing progress reports and liaising with stakeholders, Community Engagement and Involvement (CEI) groups and the wider team. Additional research activities may also be required, according to the needs of the project.

### **OVERALL PURPOSE OF THE JOB**

- To ensure timely delivery of project objectives
- To fulfil the aims of the research work stream
- To contribute to project reporting, dissemination and publications

### **KEY RESPONSIBILITIES, ACCOUNTABILITIES OR DUTIES**

#### **Research**

- To support the development of research protocols.
- To secure local ethical and international ethical approvals.
- To carry out recruitment of participants.
- To collect and manage data.
- Contribute to analysis of data.
- To liaise with key stakeholders.
- Meet regularly with CEI groups.
- Contribute to monitoring and evaluation activities.
- To work within research governance, ethical and safeguarding principles.

#### **Team work**

- Assist in the co-ordination of local meetings.
- Attend and contribute to relevant meetings.
- Contribute to activities outlined in the Communication Plan.

#### **Planning**

- Coordinate and ensure the implementation of the project activities and according to the action plan.

- Manage own research and administrative activities.

### **Communication**

- Communicate research information, orally, in writing and electronically.
- Report regularly to the Work Stream lead [and research co-ordinator] on project activities.
- Provide regular written progress reports.
- Disseminate research findings, locally, nationally and internationally, through oral presentations.
- Contribute to research publications.
- Build internal contacts and join external networks for the exchange of information and to form relationships for future collaboration.

### **PERSON SPECIFICATIONS**

#### **ESSENTIAL**

#### **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

- Experience of recent working in maternity care.
- Experience of multi-disciplinary working.
- Research experience in an academic and/or relevant health care setting.
- Methodological expertise relevant to the programme.
- Good overall understanding of research methods and evaluation research.
- Ability to read, critique and synthesise research literature.

#### **INTERPERSONAL SKILLS**

- Self-motivated and able to work flexibly independently and as part of a multidisciplinary team.
- Able to liaise and work professionally, collaboratively and effectively with local and international partners.
- Experience in interactions with key stakeholders.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Ability to coordinate and facilitate of meetings.

#### **PROJECT SKILLS**

- Information technology literate including high proficiency in using MS Word and PowerPoint.
- Attention to detail and highly developed organizational skills.
- Able to manage own work on a day-to-day basis.
- Able to prioritize workload and manage time.
- Able to work to tight deadlines.
- Excellent report writing skills.

#### **OTHER**

- Excellent written and oral communication skills with a high level of attention to detail and ability to communicate to scientific, lay and stakeholder audiences.
- Commitment, motivation and flexibility.

- Knowledge of developments in policy and practice.
- Willingness to perform a wide range of tasks as directed and as required.

**DESIRABLE**  
**KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

- Registered Midwife, Nurse or allied health professional.
- Experience of working with LAMRN (Including membership).
- 1<sup>st</sup> or upper second-class honours degree in relevant subject.
- Experience of clinical trials.
- Experience of qualitative methods and analysis.
- Familiarity with data collection software; such as RedCap.
- Experience of engagement with CEI groups.
- Experience in data management and analysis.
- Familiar with regional approaches to healthcare.
- A record of publications and other dissemination activities.

**APPLICATIONS**

- All applicants have to be Citizens of Tanzania.
- Application must be handwritten or typed in English.
- All application letters must be accompanied with detailed and current Curriculum Vitae, all relevant certificates and full transcripts.
- Names and valid addresses (and phone numbers or emails) of 3 credible referees must be provided.
- The deadline is **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 at 03:30.**
- Applications must be addressed and sent to:

**VICE CHANCELLOR,  
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH AND ALLIED SCIENCES (CUHAS)  
P.O. BOX 1464,  
MWANZA,  
TANZANIA.**

**E-mail:** [vc@bugando.ac.tz](mailto:vc@bugando.ac.tz) *copy to* [nkuba@bugando.ac.tz](mailto:nkuba@bugando.ac.tz)

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