

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/SB2/2021/03

Salary: Research Assistant: SB2 package

Hours: Full-time

Duration: Fixed-term (36 months) July 2022- June 2025

Location: Misungwi District, Tanzania

Responsible to: Dr Rose M Laisser (Tanzania lead) and Tracey Mills (UK lead)

Number of Posts: 1 (One)

Enquiries about the vacancy, shortlisting or interviews:

The Administrator CUHAS -SB2 study

P O Box 1464

Mwanza, Tanzania

E-mail: vc@bugando.ac.tz copy to nkuba@bugando.ac.tz

Tel No. + 255 757 23 12 04

BACKGROUND

The NIHR 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. As an international centre of research excellence, our goal is to end preventable stillbirths and newborn deaths, ensure adequate support for parents and families whose baby dies and reduce associated stigma.

JOB DESCRIPTION

The **Research Assistant** will work on a project related to stillbirth and neonatal death. Globally, 2 million babies die just before or during birth each year. Preterm birth, intrapartum complications, infection, and congenital abnormalities are the most important causes of death and morbidity, therefore improving care for small and sick neonates is critical to reducing poor outcomes. Models, such as the family integrated care (FIC) model supports and develops parents' skills so that they are included as an integral part of the neonatal team, challenging traditional assumptions of professional 'expertise'

and limited parental ‘side roles’. In addition to parents’ experiences, the FIC model is associated with improved weight gain, breastfeeding and longer-term neuro-developmental benefits for neonates. Increased parental partnerships have potential to improve neonatal wellbeing, respectful care, and integration of vulnerable neonates into healthy family units in LMICs, but few studies have explored this approach. Understanding the context and experiences of parents, families and health providers is fundamental to successful development or adaptation of interventions to improve care.

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. Opportunities for training will be available throughout the programme.

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 organisational skills.
- Able to manage own work on a day-to-day basis.
- Able to prioritise 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.
- 1st or upper second-class honors degree in relevant subject.
- Experience/knowledge of participatory research approaches.
- 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 15th 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 copy to nkuba@bugando.ac.tz
