

## **PROJECT COORDINATOR – Countrywide Mortality Surveillance for Action Sierra Leone – BO district, Sierra Leone**

The Centre for Global Health Research (CGHR [www.cghr.org](http://www.cghr.org)) is a well-regarded research organization associated with the University of Toronto and St Michael's Hospital. CGHR's mission is to lead high-quality public health research that advances global health for all, with particular attention to the world's poorest populations. Its flagship project, the Million Death Study (MDS), is run in collaboration with the Government of India and documents causes of death across the country. The MDS lessons are now expanding to priority countries in sub-Saharan Africa under a partnership called the Statistical Alliance for Vital Events (SAVE).

A cornerstone program for SAVE is the Countrywide Mortality Surveillance for Action (COMSA) Sierra Leone implementation. COMSA is a 3 year investment that will enable Sierra Leone to establish a low-cost, sustainable, nationwide Sample Registration System (SL-SRS) that tracks from 2018-28 the rates of fertility, mortality and causes of death throughout the country. Some under-five deaths will be linked to clinical-pathological confirmation to improve understanding of cause of death. The SL-SRS will enable Sierra Leone to reach the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals faster and with more evidence to identify gaps and correct strategies. This investment is designed specifically to address the key "proof of concept" questions about linking large scale mortality surveillance to change in government priorities and linking community - based representative COD information to clinical-pathological data through the novel Minimally Invasive Tissue Sampling (MITS).

Via St. Michael's Hospital ([www.stmichaelshospital.com](http://www.stmichaelshospital.com)) the successful candidate for this position will enjoy an excellent benefits package, and collegial, supportive work environment. The successful candidate will be based in Bo district, Sierra Leone and travel frequently for discussions with program partners. This position will work very closely with key stakeholders from the Government of Sierra Leone (GOSL) including US Centres for Disease Control (CDC; who are running a MITS site in Makeni district, and who will implement the Bo District MITS), Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS), Njala University, World Bank and World Health Organization. The position will report to the Country Manager based in Freetown and to GOSL partners.

### **JOB RESPONSIBILITIES**

Accountable for coordination, planning and leading the successful implementation of COMSA & COMSA MITS in Bo district of Sierra Leone. Identifying critical issues in the implementation of COMSA & COMSA MITS and providing intellectual leadership to ensure the smooth running of the program involving various partners. Acting as a link between COMSA and CHAMPS to ensure accomplishment of program goals and objectives in a timely manner and help in the nation wide scale up of COMSA. This will include expanding facility-based mortality surveillance, strengthening community and behavioural support and sensitization, and working with CDC on the actual MITS collection.



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## Qualifications:

- A Master's degree preferably in science or public health
- 7 plus years of work experience in managing field studies, in low- and middle-income particularly in West Africa with earlier experience working with GOSL or other African countries is a must
- 5 plus years of experience of managing research studies involving biological sample collection, transportation and storage
- 7 plus years of experience in working with a wide range of stakeholders from international donor agencies to national governments.
- Strong background in surveillance activities and exposure to mortality data collection or mortality statistics will be an added advantage
- Well versed with quantitative methods as they apply to health information.
- Good understanding of health systems in Sierra Leone
- Good documentation and organizational skills, an eye for detail, and an understanding of the importance of accuracy/quality in scientific work.
- A proven record of excellent management, leadership, decision-making, liaising and interpersonal skills
- Adept in multi-tasking and managing and handling diverse staff
- A team player with the ability to forge strong working relationships with various partners.
- Ability to work independently and with minimum supervision.
- Highly motivated and result driven
- Evidence of good written and oral communication skills in English

## TERM AND COMPENSATION

Details of the term and compensation will be negotiated

- The SAVE investments are currently funded for 3 years. Hence this position will be for 2 years initially, with extension up to 3 years possible.
- Compensation will be commensurate with experience.

Please submit a cover letter, CV and the contact details for three referees by **August 25, 2019** to:

Centre for Global Health Research  
St. Michael's Hospital  
30 Bond Street  
Toronto, Ontario M5B 1W8  
newcombeL@smh.ca

Please quote "PROJECT COORDINATOR/ COMSA – BO DISTRICT" in the subject line.



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