Research Assistant - LifeNet International

Job title: Research Assistant (RA)
Organization: LifeNet international
Duty station: Masaka, Rakai, Sembabule, Bukomansimbi, and Kalungu Districts, Uganda.
Reports to: Research Supervisor
Number of positions: 10 positions
Employment date: May to Mid July 2018

About Us:

LN is a nonprofit organization that creates innovative solutions for the everyday health challenges facing East Africans. In 2012, LN launched a conversion franchise network in Burundi, East Africa to build to capacity of 10 local faith-based clinics and hospitals through nurse training, management training, growth financing and medicine supply. We have rapidly expanded upon this foundation and have increased our partner network to 125 partner facilities in Burundi, Uganda, Malawi, and the D.R. Congo, together serving more than a million patients annually. Our goal is to improve clinical performance 50% within 24 months of partnership, but we regularly see performance double in that time. In addition, LN aims to help clinics achieve financial sustainability through our medicine supply and equipment financing. By 2025, we plan to double the quality of care received in 20,000,000 patient visits to 1,000 franchised clinics operating in 10 East African countries.

In 2016, LN partnered with the Duke Global Health Institute at Duke University to launch an impact evaluation of LN training at health facilities in Uganda. The resulting research study examines quality of care and maternal and neonatal health outcomes at six partner health facilities in Masaka, Rakai, Sembabule, Bukomansimbi, and Kalungu Districts in the western central region in Uganda. The primary role of the Research Assistant will be to carry out data collection, including through direct observation of maternal deliveries (i.e., births), and patient follow up to support the study.

Job Summary:

The Research Assistant will be committed to our partner health facilities and responsible for both qualitative and quantitative data collection. The position holder shall be based in the field for the entirety of their tenure. Much of the job will require direct observation of healthcare providers during maternal deliveries, thus, would require one comfortable collecting data in an intense medical setting. The employment contract will last approximately 2.5 months, requiring approximately five 12-hour shifts each week. It is important to note, the employee will often be required to be on-call during overnight shifts; candidates must be willing to be on-call during overnight shifts to be considered for the position.

This job requires strong interpersonal skills, with the ability to build rapport and make others feel at ease and interested in talking to you. These attributes will be necessary for the day to day work environment and responsibilities, as the position holder will be working in a health centre setting with a continuous patient flow. The employee shall be responsible for conducting medical observations, key informant’s interviews, capturing and recording data from medical charts and maternal registers, and patient follow-ups via telephone.

Key Duties and Responsibilities:

- Engage eligible participants for study enrollment, including obtaining informed consent and collecting contact information from the participant
- Be present for, and collect data during, maternal deliveries
- Extract data from medical charts (partographs & maternal registers) in the health facilities using electronic data collection devices
- Conduct key informant’s interviews with select health facility staff
Perform and record data from facility checks to assess availability of relevant medicine and functionality of equipment

Conduct follow-up phone calls with mothers who delivered at the health facility at the end of the neonatal period (approximately 28 days), including mothers referred to higher level care for complications

Prepare and submit weekly reports updating research progress in the health facility using provided templates

Consolidate all data collected from each health facility periodically

Perform any other research related tasks as assigned by Research Supervisor

Qualifications and Experience:

- The applicant should have a bachelor's degree in nursing, statistics, sociology, anthropology, demography, quantitative economics, economics, population studies, public health or any other related field. **Candidates with a nursing background and/or experience are highly recommended to apply.**
- A minimum of 3 years experience in conducting research. **Candidates with experience in public and maternal health research are highly recommended to apply.**
- Working experience in hospital or health centre setting is preferred
- Extensive experience using electronic devices, such as tablets, for data collection
- Proficient use of information technology is a plus
- Ability to read and interpret medical charts, particularly partographs
- Excellent writing and verbal communication skills
- Good planning and organizational skills
- Self reliant with ability to work under minimal supervision
- Ability to work and live in the field for the duration of the contract
- Attention to detail
- Excellent proficiency in speaking and reading **Luganda**

How to apply:

All interested candidates should submit their applications, including detailed curriculum vitae, cover letter, copies of academic transcripts and certificates, and daytime telephone contacts for at least three references sent to **mande@lninternational.org** with “Research Assistant Uganda” in the subject line.

Candidates are also required to complete the online recruitment form by clicking the link **here** or copying and pasting the following address in your browser: http://bit.ly/2E6CL3k. Please submit the form only once.