

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job title	Technical Advisor Malaria Diagnostics Specialist REACH project	Location:	Variable (this position can be based in one of the countries)
Department:	Technical	Length of contract:	Five years
Role type:	Global	Grade:	12
Travel involved:	Up to 40% internationally	Child safeguarding level:	TBC
Reporting to:	Senior Technical Advisor REACH project	Direct reports:	TBC
Dotted line manager:	None		

Organisational background

Established in 2003, Malaria Consortium is one of the world's leading non-profit organisations specialising in the comprehensive prevention, control and treatment of malaria and other communicable diseases among vulnerable and under privileged populations. Our mission is to Save lives and improve health in Africa and Asia through sustainable, evidence-based programs that combat targeted diseases and promote universal health coverage.

To fulfil this mission we work with partners, both national and international, including all levels of government and communities, to improve the lives of all, especially the poorest and marginalised, in Africa and Asia. We target key health burdens, including malaria, pneumonia, dengue, neglected tropical diseases and malnutrition, along with other factors that impact child and maternal health. Our areas of expertise include:

- disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment
- disease control, Elimination & Surveillance
- health system effectiveness and efficiency
- research, monitoring and evaluation leading to best practices
- public health communication
- national and international advocacy and policy development

Project Background

Reaching Every At-Risk Community and Household with Malaria Services (REACH Malaria) is a large global USAID PMI contract which aims to provide implementation support services and technical assistance to countries to accelerate progress in comprehensive delivery of facility and community-based malaria services, including malaria case management, prevention of malaria in pregnancy (MiP), seasonal malaria chemoprevention (SMC), health systems strengthening, data collection and use for service delivery, and other malaria prevention interventions.

Job purpose

To provide technical support under REACH Malaria with a focus in the area of improving malaria diagnosis. The Technical Advisor - Malaria Diagnostics Specialist will contribute to strategy and technical direction for interventions to improve malaria diagnosis and assure the quality of the work undertaken to promote malaria diagnosis in the public and private sector.

Key working relationships

The Technical Advisor - Malaria Diagnostics Specialist will work closely with the Technical Lead (Objective 1) and Senior Technical Advisor REACH Malaria project, Ministries of Health (MoHs)/National Malaria Control Programs, and other key stakeholders in the malaria control landscape including local partners, and the global malaria community as well as Malaria Consortium's team of global technical specialists.

Key accountabilities

1. Strategic contribution 20%

- Provide providing technical oversight in diagnostics and support NMCPs in the development of technical guidance documents
- Work closely with technical team to develop project standards and ensure implementation of quality malaria services in each supported country.
- Build partnerships with key national and global stakeholders

2. Technical Support 50%

- Be responsible for providing technical guidance and coordination of activities in relation to diagnostics
- Provide technical support to NMCPs to quantify and cost diagnostic products and services both in public and private sector.
- Pro-actively build capacity of key stakeholders
- Provide technical support NMCPs to implement malaria diagnostics activities with special focus on effective use of diagnostic tools to impact malaria epidemiology
- Work closely with NMCPs, to drive changes in approaches to and build capacity in malaria diagnosis and link this to well-managed quality assurance and control program for RDT and microscopy
- Support NMCPs in the implementation of quality assurance and quality control diagnostic schemes on a large scale
- Work with NMCP, and other government agencies as appropriate, to increase the quality and coverage of diagnosis of malaria at community level, using existing community case management programs.
- Develop training materials in relation to diagnostics and support capacity building of primary stakeholders and keeping them updated on technical developments in diagnostics
- Support the promotion of increased use of rapid diagnostic tests for malaria
- Provide inputs to population-based surveys with a focus on the diagnostic component
- Promote cross-country and cross-program information sharing, learning and collaboration

3. Technical performance management and Quality Assurance 20%

- Ensure the quality of all implementation diagnostic work and that clinical operational research projects follow good laboratory practices
- Participate in the project performance assessments
- Lead the development of technical guidance on best practices and lessons learnt
- Promote cross-country and cross-program information sharing, learning and collaboration in relation to areas of specialist expertise for internal and/or external audiences

4. Publications and representation (10%)

- Represent REACH Malaria at global and regional technical working groups and at relevant meetings and conferences
- Lead and contribute to the publication of relevant operations research findings in high-profile peer-reviewed journals, conference symposia or presentations
- Develop training material, policy briefs to contribute to communication and advocacy materials
- Spearhead the documentation of the learning in achieving universal malaria parasite-based diagnosis

Person specification

Qualifications and experience:

Essential

- Substantial experience in global health with a focus on malaria control and elimination
- A master's degree or higher in public health, or other related area in particular laboratory-related discipline, preferably with a strong malaria program component.
- Extensive experience in malaria/communicable disease diagnosis and quality assurance
- Experience at senior level in a technical role which involves working closely with national government counterparts
- Strong experience in mentoring senior, high-calibre technical staff
- Demonstrated experience building capacity of National Malaria Control Programs in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Ability to travel internationally – at least 40% of the time.
- Effective English oral and written communication skills is required.

Desirable

- USAID project experience preferred.
- Experience in project management of large-scale programs
- Experience of supporting multidisciplinary teams across different cultures and locations
- Experience of supporting technical capacity building, learning and information sharing

Work-based skills:

Essential

- Strong analytical thinking
- Excellent problem-solving skills
- Excellent planning and organising skills
- Excellent communication skills (including both written and spoken English)
- Excellent interpersonal skills and good team spirit
- Ability to follow deadlines, accuracy and attention to detail
- Computer literacy
- Willingness to travel
- Intercultural awareness, tact and diplomacy
- Ability to interact professionally in one or more of the following foreign languages (Spanish, Portuguese, or French).

Desirable

- Excellent report writing and presentation skills
- Is capable of working with minimum supervision
- Has a stakeholder orientation

- Is innovative and ideas driven

Core competencies:
Delivering results
LEVEL D - Inspires wider teams to achieve outstanding results and to manage risks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Proactively improved effectiveness and performance of other senior staff to increase ability to meet objectives, acquiring new skills when appropriate ✓ Encourages mitigating risks among the teams/groups they work with/manage ✓ Ensures the quality of all internal/external work of own and others
Analysis and use of information
LEVEL D - Analyses the external environment confidently <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Generates a range of policy options and appraises them based on the internal and external evidence ✓ Develops ways of applying new knowledge and ensures lesson-learning with self and wider team ✓ Analyses the significance of external events and situations for Malaria Consortium
Interpersonal and communications
LEVEL D - Communicates complex technical and/or sensitive/high risk information effectively <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Communicates complex operational, technical and strategic issues clearly and credibly with widely varied audiences ✓ Uses varied communication to promote dialogue, shared understanding and consensus across a variety of audiences ✓ Influences internal and external audiences on specific issues ✓ Scans the internal and external environment for key information and messages to support communications strategies
Collaboration and partnering
LEVEL D - Develops external networks to increase internal thinking/learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Actively develops partnerships with relevant organisations, think tanks and individuals ✓ Takes initiative to establish a network or partnership where one does not exist ✓ Ensures any external learning is effectively brought in-house
Leading and motivating people
LEVEL D - Champions ownership of corporate decisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Encourages their team to develop their individual potential continuously, creates a learning culture ✓ Demonstrates complete commitment to the achievement of the business goals, motivating others to deliver ✓ Spots, develops and promotes talent across teams whether or not in their own functional area
Flexibility/ adaptability
LEVEL D - Clarifies priorities and ensures learning from experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Clarifies priorities when leading change ✓ Sees and shows others the benefits of strategic change. ✓ Helps colleagues'/ team members to practise stress management through prioritisation of workloads and modelling of appropriate self-management and care ✓ Makes time to learn from experience and feedback, and apply the lessons to new situations
Living the values
LEVEL D - Acts as a role model in promoting Malaria Consortium's values <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Champions and takes ownership of corporate decisions, values and standards and ensures team members implement them in a positive manner ✓ Acts as role model internally and externally in promoting Malaria Consortium's values ✓ Is accountable for ensuring that cultural awareness is demonstrated across the area (s) they manage

Strategic planning and thinking and sector awareness

LEVEL D - Takes a helicopter view and anticipates the future

- ✓ Demonstrates an ability to step back from operational issues and see things holistically (helicopter vision)
- ✓ Anticipates how actions will impact other teams and negotiates to reach mutually acceptable solutions
- ✓ Demonstrates how complex strategic issues can be broken down into simple discrete steps