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## **Position Announcement**

**POSITION: Research Fellow – Maternity Homes in Zambia Project**

**REPORTS TO:** Dr. Nancy Scott, Principal Investigator

**Appointment term:** Anticipated June 1, 2015 start date, one-year appointment with annual renewal for up to three years, conditional upon continued grant funding and good performance.

**Salary:** Commensurate with experience.

### **SUMMARY OF PROJECT**

The Maternity Homes Alliance (MHA) - a partnership between Government of the Republic of Zambia, MSD for Mothers, implementing partners working in collaboration with academic institutions, an evaluation advisor, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and ELMA Foundation- seeks to help women overcome the “distance problem” by implementing MHs, with the hypothesis that offering women access to quality maternity homes will bring women closer to quality, facility-based delivery and postpartum care, ultimately improving health outcomes. Through implementing and evaluating maternity homes in Zambia, the MHA will generate rigorous evidence to help decision makers understand if maternity homes are an effective solution in overcoming the “distance problem.”

### **SUMMARY OF RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Research Fellow for the *Maternity Homes in Zambia Project* will work closely with the Principal Investigator to plan, coordinate, and assist with the implementation and evaluation of the impact of renovated maternity homes on usage for safe delivery in the Southern Province of Zambia. The project objectives are as follows:

**Table 1: Goals and Objectives**

<b>Goal 1: To implement high quality MHs in Southern and Eastern Provinces to increase access to quality intrapartum care among the most vulnerable women in Zambia</b>	
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. To renovate 12 existing MHs (6 in Southern Province and 6 in Eastern Province)</li><li>b. To ensure MHs are responsive to community standards of acceptability including the safety, comfort, and services offered in accordance with community input</li><li>c. To build the capacity of local communities to govern and manage the MHs</li><li>d. To remove community-identified barriers to accessing facility-based delivery</li></ul>
<b>Goal 2: To evaluate the effectiveness of MHs</b>	
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. To document the degree to which MHs have increased access to care among the most vulnerable</li><li>b. To understand the impact of MHs on maternal health outcomes</li></ul>
<b>Goal 3: To assess the potential long-term operational and financial sustainability of MH models</b>	
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. To estimate the impact of community savings strategies on the sustainability of MHs</li><li>b. To estimate the impact of a community tuck shop on the sustainability of MHs</li><li>c. To identify factors contributing to the sustainability of MHs</li><li>d. To generate practical guidance on how to design, implement and evaluate strategies for expanding access to quality intrapartum care through sustainable MHs</li></ul>

## **SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **PROJECT COORDINATION:**

- Track and monitor progress of all project activities to ensure staying on schedule and that all objectives are being met.
- Function as the communication hub between the PI, technical team, and field-based team in order to facilitate smooth implementation of program activities and minimize conflicts between activities
- Collect information and compile draft routine reports from the technical and field team for preparation for submission to donors.
- Draft presentations of research progress and results for use in dissemination of findings and interim reporting.
- Ensure continual monitoring and evaluation of the project, identifying and correcting gaps as necessary.
- Prepare IRB submissions for the project, including annual reports
- Assist the PI in managing relationships with the multiple donors funding the project other Maternity Home Alliance implementers
- Collaborate with the project administrator and the PI to manage all actions related to Notice of Grant Awards from co-funders including; clarifying notices, disseminating relevant information to appropriate stakeholders; analyzing implications for project activities, finances, timeline or BU policies; and managing implementation.

### **Data management and analysis:**

- Assist in developing the project monitoring and improvement plan and associated instruments and standard operating procedures
- Work with investigators and in-country project staff to develop monitoring instruments and training tools for project
- Perform qualitative and quantitative statistical analyses in collaboration with project investigators, using SAS, SPSS, Excel, NVivo and other software, as appropriate.
- Create data entry programs to be used for entering research data
- Manage the cleaning of research data sets and prepare them for analysis
- Create databases from research instruments, and maintain them throughout the project
- Liaise with field team regularly on project implementation, data collection and transfer of data
- Contribute to generating scientific output from the work including manuscripts, abstracts, presentations, briefs, etc.

### **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES**

- At least three years' experience in global health implementation projects, analysis, and/or
- MPH or equivalent, doctoral (PhD, ScD, or DrPH) students preferred
- Excellent organizational, interpersonal, leadership, writing and oral presentation skills
- Ability to work in a complex environment with multiple tasks
- A highly-motivated self-starter who is able to meet and exceed project goals with minimal supervision
- Ability to travel up to 25%

**To Apply: Please submit a cover letter and CV to Dr. Nancy Scott [nscott@bu.edu](mailto:nscott@bu.edu) and include the job title in the subject line of the email message.**

*We are an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.*