



VACANCY

The International Training and Education Center for Health (I-TECH), based in Seattle at the University of Washington, was established in 2002. I-TECH is funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention under the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). I-TECH activities primarily focus on providing technical assistance to extend existing capacity for Human Resource for Health (HRH) in conjunction with the Government of Malawi, Ministry of Health (MoH). I-TECH also works with Christian Health Association of Malawi (CHAM) and Nurses and Midwives Council of Malawi (NMCM) among other stakeholders.

I-TECH Malawi wishes to recruit a highly qualified and experienced person to fill the following position, to be based in Lilongwe, Malawi, at the Public Health Institute of Malawi (PHIM):

Field Epidemiology Training Program Resident Advisor

Position Overview:

The Ministry of Health (MOH) endorsed the establishment of the Public Health Institute of Malawi (PHIM) in November 2012. The aim of PHIM is to provide leadership in surveillance, research, prevention, and control of diseases of public health importance. PHIM realizes that to effectively achieve its goals, the institute needs to have a robust and strong disease surveillance and response system that is able to timely detect and respond to public health threats and emergencies. This is in line with the efforts of the MOH to strengthen the Integrated Diseases Surveillance and Response (IDSR) as per World Health Organizations (WHO) recommendations. The IDSR system aims to improve the ability of districts to detect and respond to diseases and conditions that cause high levels of morbidity and mortality. The IDSR is also the main strategy for implementing activities included in the International Health Regulations (IHR).

The Public Health Institute of Malawi (PHIM), with technical assistance from CDC, will initiate the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) course to improve the surveillance, epidemiologic investigation, response and scientific communication skills of public health workers at each level of the health system based on a 3 tier program design: Basic, Intermediate and Advanced. FETPs produce actionable information so that public health workers can use science and data to detect and monitor disease outbreaks and determine public health policy and programming. The Advanced Tier training program will be equivalent to a Masters level degree and will be delivered in collaboration with the University of Malawi's College of Medicine. The program's goal is the production of an adequate number of highly qualified Malawian epidemiologists with applied field epidemiology practical skills.

The primary purpose of the Resident Advisor (RA) position is to ensure successful implementation and development of the FETP within the Ministry of Health through the Public Health Institute of Malawi. The RA will administratively report to the Country Director of I-TECH Malawi and on technical matters will report to the Head of Public Health Institute of Malawi. The RA will serve as a member of the FETP Team to strengthen the technical mentoring of the field epidemiology component of the FETP. The RA will be responsible for coordinating the course and mentoring the students with the help of other mentors who will be identified within country. The RA will prepare and submit to PHIM and CDC, quarterly technical and periodic reports on training activities as well as regularly update PHIM, CDC, the Ministry of Health and other local stakeholders in country as necessary for decision making, information sharing and communication.

The RA must be available and willing to travel within Malawi up to 10%, with occasional international travel. This position is overtime exempt.

Duties and Responsibilities

Strategic and Technical Leadership (40%)

- Support PHIM in the organization of a Technical Committee to guide FETP implementation.
- Advise PHIM and MOH in the identification and acquisition of training opportunities for trainee projects, and sources of funding that help secure annual budgets for the adequate development of an institutionalized FETP
- Facilitate the coordination of stakeholder and dissemination meetings on FETP in the country
- Assist Ministry of Health to develop adequate and timely field investigations in response to acute public health problems such as epidemic outbreaks, clusters of disease cases, and case investigations
- Participate in disease surveillance and outbreak investigation and response activities of the MOH together with the trained public health officers
- Provide technical support and assistance to public health activities, which are coordinated by Global Health Security (GHS) and FETP-Branch in coordination with other CDC Teams and the PHIM and MOH
- Serve as liaison between PHIM, CDC, the MOH, and agency partners, to coordinate GHS activities in the country

Training and Instructional Design (45%)

- Work with technical staff at PHIM, CDC, the MOH and other partners in country to develop and implement a training plan for a field epidemiology for public health professional at the basic and intermediate levels.
- Provide guidance in the review and adaptation of the existing basic and intermediate field epidemiology curricula as may be required in consultation with PHIM, CDC, the MOH, WHO and other partners in country.
- Participate in the process of identifying participants for the basic and intermediate field epidemiology training.
- Assist with the selection and training of FETP graduates of First Tier Basic and Intermediate level as national mentors for FETP Fellows

- In collaboration with PHIM, MOH, CDC and other identified partners, ensure availability of all the required logistics for the didactic and field training of selected participants.
- Conduct the planned basic and intermediate field epidemiology training which will include both theory and practical components.
- Provide guidance to the national mentors and FETP fellows at intermediate level, in the design and implementation of applied epidemiological research projects to fulfil the requirements of the training.
- Coordinate with PHIM, MOH and other training institutions to integrate content of basic and intermediate field epidemiology training into in-service curriculum for appropriate MOH staff.
- Maintaining the scientific excellence of the program through coaching, providing scientific and technical guidance to students and evaluation of the trainees.

Mentorship and Supportive Supervision (15%)

- Provide mentorship and supervision for the candidates during the period of practical field attachments.
- Provide supportive training for MOH supervisors and mentors for basic FETP trainees
- Assist national mentors and FETP fellows of intermediate level in the design and implementation of applied epidemiological research projects
- Provide technical guidance to trainees in preparing their presentations for national dissemination of their findings and recommendations of course projects from field practical attachments.

Qualifications and Experience

- Graduate from a Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) or have at least two years' experience in Field Epidemiology Training Program, or similar field epidemiology service.
- M.P.H. or equivalent degree with extensive experience in field epidemiology and running international public health training; or Masters' degree in academic fields related to health or allied sciences, preferably in human and veterinary medicine, or zoonotic biology. Doctoral level degree desired.
- At least 3 years of experience working in the field as a practicing Epidemiologist in disease surveillance and outbreak response

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Sound knowledge of WHO standards and policies such as the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response strategy (IDSR) and International Health Regulations.
- Extensive knowledge and experience in use of statistical packages such as Epi INFO, STATA, SPSS
- Extensive knowledge and understanding of the functionality of surveillance systems at national, sub national, local and community levels of the health systems in Africa.
- Experience in preparing and facilitating trainings for in-service public health workforce development initiatives in sub-Saharan Africa
- Extensive experience in mentoring and coaching public health workforce
- Proven experience in coordinating multi-agency public health programs at regional, national, sub national, local levels.

- Experience with adult education strategies would be useful. These include:
 - Problem based education techniques,
 - Instructional design,
 - Teaching epidemiology and basic public health statistics,
 - Public health management and program design, and
 - Communication and advocacy in public health.

Application Process

Applications with Curriculum Vitae (CV), three traceable referees and relevant copy certificates should be sent or emailed to the following address:

**Director of Operations and Compliance
International Training and Education Centre for Health-(I-TECH-Malawi)
ARWA House, City Centre
P.O. Box 30369
Lilongwe 3**

Email : hr@itech-malawi.org

Deadline for applications is **5:00 p.m. Monday July 13, 2015**. Only shortlisted applicants will be acknowledged.

For more information about I-TECH, visit our website: <http://www.go2itech.org/>