

 Pan American Health Organization  World Health Organization REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE Americas		World Health Organization/Organización Mundial de la Salud Pan American Sanitary Bureau/Oficina Sanitaria Panamericana <i>JOB DESCRIPTION</i>		
Job Identification: CCOG 1.1.03.s Job Profile: J2063		Duration of Post: ☒ Limited ☐ Indefinite		
<i>Title</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Position Number</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Duty Station</i>
Advisor, Communicable Diseases Control and Elimination	PRFP	P15372	P.4	Paramaribo, Suriname

OBJECTIVE OF THE OFFICE/DEPARTMENT

The Communicable Diseases, Prevention, Control and Elimination Department (CDE) promotes, coordinates, and implements technical cooperation activities directed toward the surveillance, prevention, control, elimination and/or reduction of communicable diseases, zoonosis and environmental threats to health that are technically sound and appropriate for the political and sociocultural context in which they are implemented. It strives to achieve a sustainable impact on health by providing normative guidance, furthering the implementation of evidence-based interventions, fostering alliances that strengthen country capacity, improving the effectiveness of inter-country collaboration, and facilitating policy and decision-making processes.

ORGANIZATIONAL CONTEXT

The Advisor provides strategic and technical leadership on the prevention, control, and elimination of communicable diseases, with emphasis on endemic, epidemic-prone, and emerging infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, viral hepatitis, dengue and other arboviral diseases, antimicrobial resistance, and neglected, foodborne, and zoonotic diseases. The role also provides technical guidance on food safety, environmental determinants of health, health information systems, epidemiological surveillance, program development, and health service evaluation. As a member of the multidisciplinary country office team, the incumbent collaborates with regional and subregional programs, national authorities, UN agencies, NGOs, and civil society to strengthen national capacities. In coordination with other Advisors, the position supports implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR), including surveillance, preparedness, and response to outbreaks, health crises, and public health emergencies. The incumbent plans, coordinates, monitors, and evaluates technical cooperation in line with WHO's General Program of Work, the Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS), PAHO's Biennial Work Plan (BWP), and Governing Body mandates, exercising sound judgment to translate policies and resolutions into effective country-level action.

Given Suriname's geographic, demographic and sociocultural context, the incumbent adapts technical cooperation to the needs of urban and coastal populations as well as remote interior communities, including Indigenous and Maroon communities and mobile or migrant populations. The incumbent supports coordination among national and decentralized health services and promotes culturally and linguistically appropriate interventions to ensure equitable access to surveillance, diagnosis, treatment and public health response. The work also requires collaboration with neighboring countries to address communicable disease risks associated with borders and population mobility.

SUMMARY OF RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the technical guidance of the Director, Communicable Diseases Prevention, Control and Elimination (CDE) and the direct supervision of the PAHO/WHO Representative (PWR), the incumbent is responsible for, but not necessarily limited to, the following assigned duties:

- a) Provide technical cooperation to national health authorities in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of programs and initiatives for the prevention, control, elimination, and surveillance of communicable diseases, including, but not limited to, malaria (including maintenance of malaria-free status, prevention of re-establishment, surveillance of imported cases, and rapid response to identified risks), HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted infections, antimicrobial resistance, vector control, and emerging, re-emerging, zoonotic, and neglected diseases. Support the strengthening of national and local health services, within the primary health care approach, to effectively implement these programs;
- b) Provide technical cooperation to the Ministry of Health and other institutions of the health sector on treatment schemes, diagnosis, patient management, identification of risk factors, methods and technologies for the control and elimination of communicable diseases; undertake activities related particularly to communicable diseases prevalent in the assigned country as well as diseases that pose a risk of importation or re-establishment;
- c) Provide technical cooperation to the Ministry of Health and other institutions on strategies to implement environmental public health programs to address local environmental factors that influence human health, including physical, chemical, and biological factors external to a person including air quality, water, and sanitation, chemicals safety, and climate change; pay particular attention should be given to climate-sensitive infectious diseases, changes in vector distribution, flooding- and drought-related health risks, water safety, sanitation and environmental conditions affecting remote and interior communities;
- d) Collaborate with and promote the surveillance, prevention and control of communicable diseases, with emphasis on the strengthening of local health services in the context of primary health care to carry out program activities;
- e) Promote culturally and linguistically appropriate risk communication and community engagement, working with local authorities, community leaders, civil society organizations and community-based service providers to reach remote, mobile and underserved populations;
- f) Analyze and evaluate a diverse range of data and information related to communicable diseases and outbreaks; identify disease sources and provide recommendations and reports on the appropriate response to identified risks, and the implementation of preventative and control measures;
- g) Monitor the national burden of communicable diseases, especially through health information systems and health research activities. Oversee the development or enhancement of existing information systems on communicable diseases and the monitoring of progress towards universal health coverage;
- h) Promote collaboration between the Ministry of Health and the academic sector and other pertinent sectors, to strengthen the capacity to monitor programmatic progress and impact of public health interventions;
- i) Develop standards, guidelines, and procedures for the organization, operation, and evaluation of program activities; optimize the use of the country's health systems and related socioeconomic infrastructure;
- j) Collaborate in the application of epidemiological concepts, principles, and methods for the planning, programming, administration, and evaluation of disease surveillance, prevention, and control programs;
- k) Provide technical advice for the management of information systems to ensure availability of core data country files and other information on health services; collaborate in the development of national information systems for monitoring and reporting epidemiological surveillance of communicable diseases;
- l) Support the strengthening and interoperability of surveillance, laboratory and health information systems, with particular attention to data completeness, timeliness and quality from remote and hard-to-reach areas; promote the appropriate use of digital tools, event-based surveillance and early-warning information for public health decision-making;
- m) Analyze, systematize, and disseminate scientific and evidence-based technical information and knowledge to support the development of public policies and regulations for disease prevention, control and elimination;
- n) Promote and coordinate research on communicable diseases at all levels of the health system and in academic institutions, supporting the development and revision of a national health research agenda;
- o) Support technical cooperation with the Ministry of Health, working in collaboration with other technical Advisors and working with other sectors in the implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR), including the activities of alert, preparedness and response to epidemics and crises and public health emergencies;
- p) Support cross-border surveillance, information exchange, preparedness and coordinated response with neighboring countries, particularly Guyana, Brazil and French Guiana, including actions at points of entry and among mobile and migrant populations, in accordance with the International Health Regulations and relevant One Health approaches;
- q) Participate in obtaining extra budgetary funds by assisting national authorities in the preparation of communicable diseases prevention, control and elimination project proposals for the appropriate national, bilateral and international financial agencies for research and for health services capacity building; collaborate in the implementation, monitoring and reporting of those projects;

- r) Collaborate in the preparation of the Representation's Biennial Work Plan (BWP) and the execution of international cooperation, including the analysis of political, technical and socioeconomic realities;
- s) When called upon to directly supervise staff, establish clear work objectives, conduct timely and effective performance appraisals, provide coaching and feedback, and support staff development opportunities;
- t) Perform other related duties, as assigned.

KEY BEHAVIORAL COMPETENCIES

Overall attitude at work: Maintains integrity and takes a clear ethical approach and stance; demonstrates commitment to the Organization's mandate and promotes the values of the Organization in daily work and behavior; is accountable for work carried out in line with own role and responsibilities; is respectful towards, and trusted by, colleagues and counterparts

Respecting and valuing individual differences: - Treats everyone with dignity and respect, fostering positive relationships with everyone. Reflects on personal behavior to avoid stereotypes and considers situations from the perspective of others.

Teamwork: Collaborate and cooperate with others - Works collaboratively with team members and counterparts to achieve and build rapport; helps others when asked; accepts joint responsibility for the team's successes and shortcomings.

Communication: Write effectively/Share knowledge - Writes down ideas in a clear, structured, logical and credible way; drafts and supports the development of guidelines, policies and procedures. Shares relevant information openly and ensures that the shared information is understood; considers knowledge sharing as a constructive working method and demonstrates awareness of the Organization.

Producing Results: Work efficiently and independently/Deliver quality results - Monitors own and others' work in a systematic and effective way, ensuring required resources and outputs. Aligns projects with Organization's mission and objectives. Consistently solves own and team's problems effectively as needed. Proactively engages in projects and initiatives, accepting demanding goals, in line with Organizational Strategies and Program of Work. Demonstrates accountability for work of team and sets an example, while explicitly articulating lessons learnt for own and team's benefit.

Ensuring effective use of resources: Strategize and set clear objectives/Monitor progress and use resources well - Sets specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely objectives for own team and/or the Organization; systematically analyses and anticipates priority projects for own team and allocates necessary resources to achieve them; identifies the cross-Organizational resources needed for large- scale projects in line with key Organizational objectives. Anticipates foreseeable changes and adapts own and team's projects in the face of unforeseen circumstances and/ or challenges; creates measures and criteria to monitor progress of overall projects against key Organizational objectives; creates cost-effective solutions for the Organization.

Building and promoting partnerships across the Organization and beyond: Develop networks and partnerships and encourage collaboration - Builds and negotiate strategic partnerships and alliances with a wide range of key stakeholders to ensure Organizational results and success. Creates innovative opportunities for promoting synergies inside and outside the Organization to improve Organizational success.

TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

- Theoretical and practical expertise at the highest level in all aspects related to surveillance of communicable diseases as well as a thorough knowledge of epidemiology, prevention and control methods.
- In-depth knowledge of disease transmission, natural history, specialized methods of diagnosis, prevention and treatment of communicable diseases, including HIV infection and other communicable diseases.
- Professional expertise in preventive public health, epidemiological research, disease control and health services.
- Ability to analyze current surveillance systems and capability to develop and plan innovative and appropriate solutions for their improvement.
- Knowledge and skills in the formulation of technical cooperation interventions and in the development of criteria and instruments for monitoring and evaluating program interventions.
- Managerial skills for the development, implementation and analysis of technical cooperation programs and activities, including budget programming and control.
- Strong professional oral and writing skills, including the development of reports, oral presentations, and technical/persuasive documents for consideration at the highest levels of the Organization.

- Knowledge and practical expertise in International Health Regulations (IHR), outbreak control and public health emergencies.
- Skills in developing and promoting collaborative multisectoral partnerships and mobilizing resources.
- Knowledge of surveillance strategies required to maintain disease-elimination achievements and prevent re-establishment;
- Knowledge of communicable disease surveillance and response in remote, cross-border and mobile-population settings;
- Knowledge of One Health approaches and the relationship between climate, environmental conditions, vector-borne diseases and zoonotic risks in Caribbean and Amazonian settings.

EDUCATION

Essential: A bachelor's degree in a health-related profession and a master's degree in epidemiology, public health or any other field related to the functions of the position, from a recognized university.

EXPERIENCE

Essential: Nine years of combined national and international experience working in epidemiology and control programs or in the administration of health services related to control of diseases, health analysis and statistics. Practical managerial experience in the operational aspects of prevention and control programs.

LANGUAGES

Fluency in English. A working knowledge of Spanish, French and/or Portuguese would be an asset.

IT SKILLS

Demonstrated ability to effectively use current technology and software, spreadsheets and presentations, as well as Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and management information systems. Other IT skills and knowledge of software programs such as Microsoft Excel, Outlook, OneDrive, PowerPoint, Teams, SharePoint, and Word are considered essential.