

**Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) Epidemiology and Intervention Adviser**

Short-term Consultant Position: January - March 2020

Lusaka, Zambia

Akros is a cutting-edge organization that establishes data-driven systems that improve the health and wellbeing of disadvantaged communities. We pride ourselves in our ground-level knowledge of the health systems where we work, and our ability to provide novel, lasting solutions implemented in developing regions.

**Background**

The DFID-funded Crown Agents Accelerating Sustainable Control and elimination of NTDs (ASCEND) project seeks to advance the impact and sustainability of national programs tackling neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). Under ASCEND, the anticipated Mass Drug Administration (MDA) and Morbidity Mapping for the treatment of Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) will support the Zambia Ministry of Health (MoH) NTD department carry out MDA for LF and Morbidity Mapping in sixty-nine districts in Zambia.

Akros is seeking an LF Epidemiology and Intervention Advisor to act as the key clinical advisor in the design and development of comprehensive, effective, and feasible diagnostic, case management and referral methodologies and protocols implemented during the anticipated MDA campaign. The Advisor will be responsible for:

- 1) Providing primary guidance on the development of comprehensive and effective training materials for community health volunteers on mass drug administration (MDA) protocols, and LF morbidity mapping (MM) best practices;
- 2) Contributing to the design of effective and feasible referral mechanisms and protocols for patients requiring further care during MDA campaigns and;
- 3) Developing robust data collection tools to screen and capture critical health and morbidity data on identified LF cases.

**General Responsibilities & Expected Outcomes:**

- Development of clear and feasible referral protocols to ensure continued care for identified LF cases
- Work with Akros senior management during proposal, work planning and implementation stages, providing clinical and technical guidance, as necessary, regarding design of MDA and MM campaign protocols and procedures
- Participate in pre-campaign planning processes with national and sub-national government stakeholders and Akros senior staff to assess current health worker knowledge and skill gaps, and data needs surrounding LF cases and ensure feasibility of cascaded training design
- Design LF MDA and MM training curricula and relevant materials for health personnel and supervisory teams at various levels of Zambian health system. Training will cover 1)



identification of lymphoedema and hydrocele cases, 2) classification of lymphoedema into stages, and 3) recording of patient data, among other topics.

- Conduct high-level training at centralized levels and monitor progress of trainings at decentralized levels
- Provide guidance and oversight on the design of patient screening and data collection tools
- Work closely with field managers and district health officers to monitor training progress and MDA and MM implementation, and prescribe corrective action when necessary

**Minimum Qualifications:**

- MD or functional equivalent
- At least 10 years demonstrated technical experience advising, managing or implementing NTD campaigns in Africa
- Extensive experience leading the development of LF and Hydrocele diagnostic, case management, and referral methodologies and best practice processes
- At least 5 years demonstrated experience managing operational, project management and administrative duties for internationally funded programs
- Demonstrable qualifications in LF and Hydrocele program management
- Ability to successfully teach others about LF and Hydrocele intervention processes in simple, creative ways
- Outstanding oral presentation skills
- Excellent technical writing and analytic skills and ability to produce high quality reports on program activities
- Excellent skills in stakeholder and partner relationship management, including liaising between government, NGOs, and other entities
- Strong skills in assessing data quality and developing effective strategies to improve the implementation of service delivery, diagnostic and referral processes
- Excellent understanding of the challenges and needs of frontline healthcare providers in providing primary healthcare services
- Demonstrated ability to meet deadlines with quality products
- Strong organizational and interpersonal skills
- Excellent quantitative and critical thinking skills
- Candidate should be highly productive and internally motivated
- Candidate should work well against challenging and changing delivery schedules

**Location and Term**

This position is based in Lusaka, Zambia, and is open to local candidates. It will require roughly 75% travel within Zambia. The LF Adviser position is contingent upon successful award of the ASCEND MDA and MM for the treatment of LF program to Akros. This position will be for three to four months.

**Application Instructions**

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled. Candidates are encouraged to apply early. To apply, please submit a cover letter and CV with references to [careers@akros.com](mailto:careers@akros.com) with "Application: LF Epidemiology and Intervention Adviser" as the email's subject line.

