EPIDEMIOLOGIST (Based in Dakar)

The successful applicant will provide requested support for scanning and documenting the epidemiological contexts of the countries of the region to identify situations of concern. Sh/e will as well support the documentation of identified MSF OCBA medical activities, as a priority in West and Francophone Africa. Her/is support could also be requested to support other regions if feasible and need be. S/he will be based in Dakar and give support in this domain to the polyvalent medical staff in the cells and the teams in the field.

Detailed Description: The MSF Medical Department of the Operational Centre Barcelona-Athens (MSF-OCBA) is composed of: the Director of the Department, a Deputy Director in charge of the medical –operations unit; the medical referents advisors of different areas and specialties, the Assistant of the department and few Mobile positions devoted to support the field program implementation. The Dakar Operational Support Unit is a decentralised structure within MSF OCBA which role is to support operations within the region (West and Francophone Africa). This is done through providing technical (paediatrics and epidemiology), operational (emergencies scanning, exploratory /missions opening), representation and advocacy support to field missions and the Cells in HQ whore are managing them. The Dakar office structure is currently made of one Head of Office, one Emergency Coordinator (70% in the field), one administrator and one driver. By early 2014, to develop the capacity of support mentioned above the office will host three additional positions: one pediatrician, one epidemiologist, both in the category of referent advisors of the medical department and one humanitarian affairs advisor. MANAGEMENT LINE S/he will work under the hierarchy of the Head of Dakar office while s/he will work under the technical supervision of the Medical Director , functionally linked and supporting Medical polyvalent (TESACO/ Desk HQ) and Medical Coordinators (missions), as the rest of the referent advisors of the Medical department. While in the field, he/she works under the regular hierarchical and functional structures of the missions, while keeping communication with the Dakar and Medical Department. JOB PROFILE The successful applicant will be in charge to support and enhance better documentation of MSF OCBA medical activities, as a priority in the region (Francophone and West Africa) as to scan the epidemiological context to identify situations that could evolve in emergencies through a well-designed and established surveillance monitoring system. Based in Dakar, one of her/is core activities will be to contribute to develop a strong network in the region with individuals and institutions linked to and performing medical activities and research, in particular related to epidemiological matters, in order to profit of the local capacities, having fruitful exchange of knowledge and experience, beneficial for the missions. Her/is main responsibility is to provide timely and effective support to the polyvalent medical staff in the cells and the teams in the field of epidemiology. Principal Activities S/he undergoes regular scanning of the epidemiological context in the region: • Provide technical support/expertise to the fields missions / cells on epidemiological matters; • Supports the field missions and
cells in improving the surveillance and monitoring system in order to enhance the capacity of the missions to timely identify possible emergencies and respond to them effectively. • Conducts weekly scanning of the epidemiological context of the region and fill the alert system form for the Emergency Unit accordingly; • Support exploratory missions / assessment concerning epidemics outbreaks. S/he provides the requested support to the field missions / cells to enhance better documentation of MSF OCBA medical activities: • Support or directly provide methodology and / or help in the adequate use of the data collection system to monitor / document programs, including operational research; when required, setting up adapted data collection procedures. • Assess data base and documentation systems used in the field and report on findings /, providing concrete recommendations; • Support or conduct surveys / studies when requested by the field missions / cells (KAP, nutrition, mortality surveys, etc.); • Support or directly undergo capitalization of medical activities in the field missions in order to report their outcomes / lessons learned in agreed format and share those, including through presentations, with Cells / Missions / Medical department /other OC’s; • Support or directly undergo the writing and edition of deliverables format adapted to internal / external diffusion of medical programs outcomes adapted to the audience targeted (Power point, report, articles); • Formalized and provide proposals and budget estimations to the Cells / missions / Head of Dakar office for epidemiological activities requesting such exercise. S/he is member of the medical department and work in tight relation with the other epidemiologists of MSF OCBA in Barcelona as with Epicentre: • As referent advisor of the Medical department, h/she participates in all activities organized by the Medical department, including weekly and monthly meetings, as another ad hoc relevant reunions. • S/he is participating and contributing to MSF OCBA medical department activities through providing proposals concerning the enhancement of improved health information system (data collection, surveillance, monitoring, analysis, evidence based decision making, etc.) including documentation of medical activities, together with the other epidemiologist of the team. • Participates in the development of the plan of action of the department and contributes to review and update protocols, guidelines and policies in her/is field of expertise. • Keep a regular communication and exchange with the other technical advisors/cells in order to contribute to enhanced transversal work and better support to the field. • Together with the other epidemiologists informs and updates colleagues of the medical department on the evolution of the current epidemiological issues on a regular basis. • S/he participates in training initiatives and technical international meetings when needed / required, including Dakar and out of the region. S/he represents MSF OCBA Medical Department at Dakar level on matters related to epidemics and epidemiology: • Develop a professional network with relevant actors involved in the field of epidemiology / epidemics and medical research in Dakar and in the region; • Participate in relevant fora / events related to epidemiology / epidemics in Dakar and the region and use those, when relevant, to disseminate medical activities outcomes; • Regularly reports on networking / representation activities to the Head of Office, polyvalent medical from the Cells, fields mission in the regions and the Medical department; • Follow up
and keep updated on the scientific literature in the domains that interest MSF OCBA (Cells med/ Field missions/ Med Dept. / Head of Dakar). SELECTION CRITERIA – Education and experience • Degree in Epidemiology or in Public health with extensive experience in epidemiology • Medical doctor is an asset. • Knowledge of and interest in Public Health and infectious disease control. • Experience in field epidemiology contexts of acute epidemics (meningitis, cholera, measles...) desirable. • Experience and / or interest in research • One-year MSF / Epicentre experience or in a similar organisation. • Basic knowledge of standards in terms of health in MSF projects, including emergencies and epidemics. • Good knowledge and experience with regards to IT software for processing texts, graphics and statistics (Microsoft Word, Excel). Knowledge of Epi-info series is a must. • Fluent English and French is a must. Portuguese and Spanish an asset. • Tracked records on publication (presentation, reports, and articles) and in leading study / survey is an asset. Competences • Teamwork. • Analysis capacity, initiative and autonomy. • Quality and result-driven. • Capacity for interrelating with people and communication skills. • Flexibility and adaptability. • Good communication and pedagogic skills to work as an advisor. CONDITIONS • Position based in Dakar (Senegal) with regular field visits (estimated to up to 50% of time) • 6 months of temporary contract with possible extension at the end of the period according to internal analysis • Salary conditions are referred to country of residence of candidates and experience level according to MSF reward policy + secondary benefits. • Position on level 13 of a 15 level function grid (highest level is 15) • Commitment one year • Starting date: Immediately Applicants please send cv and motivation covering letter under the reference “Epi.Dakar.” to: Médicos Sin Fronteras / Dpto. RRHH C/ Nou de la Rambla, 26 08001 Barcelona recruitment-bcn@barcelona.msf.org Closing date: 2nd June 2014. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted

Detailed Description:

The MSF Medical Department of the Operational Centre Barcelona-Athens (MSF-OCBA) is composed of: the Director of the Department, a Deputy Director in charge of the medical –operations unit; the medical referents advisors of different areas and specialties, the Assistant of the department and few Mobile positions devoted to support the field program implementation.

The Dakar Operational Support Unit is a decentralised structure within MSF OCBA which role is to support operations within the region (West and Francophone Africa). This is done through providing technical (paediatrics and epidemiology), operational (emergencies scanning, exploratory /missions opening), representation and advocacy support to field missions and the Cells in HQ whose are managing them.

The Dakar office structure is currently made of one Head of Office, one Emergency Coordinator (70% in the field), one administrator and one driver. By early 2014, to develop the capacity of support mentioned above the office will host three additional
positions: one pediatrician, one epidemiologist, both in the category of referent advisors of the medical department and one humanitarian affairs advisor.

MANAGEMENT LINE

S/he will work under the hierarchy of the Head of Dakar office while s/he will work under the technical supervision of the Medical Director, functionally linked and supporting Medical polyvalent (TESACO/Desk HQ) and Medical Coordinators (missions), as the rest of the referent advisors of the Medical department.

While in the field, he/she works under the regular hierarchical and functional structures of the missions, while keeping communication with the Dakar and Medical Department.

JOB PROFILE

The successful applicant will be in charge to support and enhance better documentation of MSF OCBA medical activities, as a priority in the region (Francophone and West Africa) as to scan the epidemiological context to identify situations that could evolve in emergencies through a well-designed and established surveillance monitoring system. Based in Dakar, one of her/is core activities will be to contribute to develop a strong network in the region with individuals and institutions linked to and performing medical activities and research, in particular related to epidemiological matters, in order to profit of the local capacities, having fruitful exchange of knowledge and experience, beneficial for the missions. Her/is main responsibility is to provide timely and effective support to the polyvalent medical staff in the cells and the teams in the field of epidemiology.

Principal Activities

S/he undergoes regular scanning of the epidemiological context in the region:

- Provide technical support/expertise to the fields missions / cells on epidemiological matters;

- Supports the field missions and cells in improving the surveillance and monitoring system in order to enhance the capacity of the missions to timely identify possible emergencies and respond to them effectively.

- Conducts weekly scanning of the epidemiological context of the region and fill the alert system form for the Emergency Unit accordingly;

- Support exploratory missions / assessment concerning epidemics outbreaks.
S/he provides the requested support to the field missions / cells to enhance better documentation of MSF OCBA medical activities:

- Support or directly provide methodology and / or help in the adequate use of the data collection system to monitor / document programs, including operational research; when required, setting up adapted data collection procedures.

- Assess data base and documentation systems used in the field and report on findings /, providing concrete recommendations;

- Support or conduct surveys / studies when requested by the field missions / cells (KAP, nutrition, mortality surveys, etc.);

- Support or directly undergo capitalization of medical activities in the field missions in order to report their outcomes / lessons learned in agreed format and share those, including through presentations, with Cells / Missions / Medical department /other OC’s;

- Support or directly undergo the writing and edition of deliverables format adapted to internal / external diffusion of medical programs outcomes adapted to the audience targeted (Power point, report, articles);

- Formalized and provide proposals and budget estimations to the Cells / missions / Head of Dakar office for epidemiological activities requesting such exercise.

S/he is member of the medical department and work in tight relation with the other epidemiologists of MSF OCBA in Barcelona as with Epicentre:

- As referent advisor of the Medical department, h/she participates in all activities organized by the Medical department, including weekly and monthly meetings, as another ad hoc relevant reunions.

- S/he is participating and contributing to MSF OCBA medical department activities through providing proposals concerning the enhancement of improved health information system (data collection, surveillance, monitoring, analysis, evidence based decision making, etc.) including documentation of medical activities, together with the other epidemiologist of the team.

- Participates in the development of the plan of action of the department and contributes to review and update protocols, guidelines and policies in her/is field of expertise.

- Keep a regular communication and exchange with the other technical advisors/cells in order to contribute to enhanced transversal work and better support to the field.
Together with the other epidemiologists informs and updates colleagues of the medical department on the evolution of the current epidemiological issues on a regular basis.

S/he participates in training initiatives and technical international meetings when needed / required, including Dakar and out of the region.

S/he represents MSF OCBA Medical Department at Dakar level on matters related to epidemics and epidemiology:

- Develop a professional network with relevant actors involved in the field of epidemiology / epidemics and medical research in Dakar and in the region;

- Participate in relevant fora / events related to epidemiology / epidemics in Dakar and the region and use those, when relevant, to disseminate medical activities outcomes;

- Regularly reports on networking / representation activities to the Head of Office, polyvalent medical from the Cells, fields mission in the regions and the Medical department;

- Follow up and keep updated on the scientific literature in the domains that interest MSF OCBA (Cells med/ Field missions/ Med Dept. / Head of Dakar).

SELECTION CRITERIA

→ Education and experience

- Degree in Epidemiology or in Public health with extensive experience in epidemiology

- Medical doctor is an asset.

- Knowledge of and interest in Public Health and infectious disease control.

- Experience in field epidemiology contexts of acute epidemics (meningitis, cholera, measles...) desirable.

- Experience and / or interest in research

- One-year MSF / Epicentre experience or in a similar organisation.

- Basic knowledge of standards in terms of health in MSF projects, including emergencies and epidemics.
• Good knowledge and experience with regards to IT software for processing texts, graphics and statistics (Microsoft Word, Excel). Knowledge of Epi-info series is a must.

• Fluent English and French is a must. Portuguese and Spanish an asset.

• Tracked records on publication (presentation, reports, and articles) and in leading study / survey is an asset.

→ Competences

• Teamwork.

• Analysis capacity, initiative and autonomy.

• Quality and result-driven.

• Capacity for interrelating with people and communication skills.

• Flexibility and adaptability.

• Good communication and pedagogic skills to work as an advisor.

CONDITIONS

• Position based in Dakar (Senegal) with regular field visits (estimated to up to 50% of time)

• 6 months of temporary contract with possible extension at the end of the period according to internal analysis

• Salary conditions are referred to country of residence of candidates and experience level according to MSF reward policy + secondary benefits.

• Position on level 13 of a 15 level function grid (highest level is 15)

• Commitment one year

• Starting date: Immediately
Applicants please send cv and motivation covering letter under the reference “Epi.Dakar.” to:

Médicos Sin Fronteras / Dpto. RRHH

C/ Nou de la Rambla, 26 08001 Barcelona

recruitment-bcn@barcelona.msf.org

Closing date: 2nd June 2014. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted