

Position Announcement

Title	Laboratory EQA/PT Specialist
Location	Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire
Supervisor	I-TECH Cote d'Ivoire Program Manager
Application Deadline	Open until filled

Background

The International Training and Education Center for Health (I-TECH) at the University of Washington seeks a **Laboratory EQA/PT Specialist** to assist in the implementation of activities to **improve and sustain capacity and quality of laboratory services in Cote d'Ivoire**.

Project Overview:

There are 147,947 Ivorian adults and children currently receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) and 195,755 receiving clinical care in 2015. Health care workers rely on the services provided by laboratories at all levels of Cote d'Ivoire's laboratory system to monitor the health of those in their care. Cote d'Ivoire continues to experience challenges with access to quality HIV related testing despite past efforts and continued support is required to coordinate, synergize and scale up approaches that strengthen the national laboratory system. I-TECH has been awarded a 5 year grant from the US CDC with the **goal to**: build a functional laboratory network to reach 80% saturation for HIV care and treatment in selected districts by offering quality laboratory services and targeting blood banks to ensure quality of blood and blood products, working towards accreditation of all of these laboratories.

Employer overview:

I-TECH is a Seattle-based center within the University of Washington's Department of Global Health and has country offices throughout Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean. I-TECH is establishing a country office in Abidjan which will join I-TECH's network of 500 worldwide staff work in partnership with local ministries of health, universities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), medical facilities, and other organizations to support the development of a skilled health work force and well-organized national health delivery systems. I-TECH's organizational activities occur primarily in the technical areas of health system strengthening; health workforce development; operations research and evaluation; and prevention, care, and treatment of infectious diseases.

Project locations: Country office in Abidjan, project work is national. The position involves frequent travel to project sites nationwide.

Position Overview

I-TECH has an outstanding **opportunity for a Laboratory EQA/PT Specialist** to contribute in the implementation of this program in national, regional and district health laboratories. Main project activities will be to provide direct technical assistance (TA) to National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL), district health teams, and PEPFAR implementing partners (IPs) to implement 6 key activities in PEPFAR-supported laboratories including:

1. Strengthen national laboratory policies and increase adherence to national guidelines;
2. Develop local capacity in biosafety and biosecurity (B&B);
3. Develop skills in laboratory management and strengthen laboratory professions competencies;
4. Implement QMS in the entire laboratory network;
5. Improve and implement LIS for improved data management and utilization;

6. Support laboratory-related blood safety interventions and accreditation of 3 laboratories in National Blood Transfusion Services (NBTS).
7. The scope of this work is nationwide, with focus on the 79 districts identified for scale-up and sustain efforts.

The Laboratory EQA/PT specialist will provide technical assistance at laboratories and health facilities by implementing activities to strengthen external quality assurance and proficiency testing in diagnostic laboratories nationwide.

This position is under the supervision of I-TECH Cote 'Ivoire Project Director and will entail working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health.

Responsibilities

Project development and implementation

S/He will:

- Provide MOH support to strengthen the coordination of the national external quality assurance/proficiency testing program (EQA/PT) in all aspects of medical laboratory diagnostics to ensure the following:
 - Distribution of EQA/PT samples in various laboratory disciplines to participating laboratories at regular intervals.
 - Provision of objective reports and analysis in a timely fashion.
 - Monitoring to see that targets related to EQA/PT are met.
- Liaise with Project Director for reports on performance of lab EQA, PT, audits and key milestones.
- Liaise with the Project Director and other colleagues to develop work plans
- Participate in laboratory assessments, management reviews and accreditation program
- Provide expert consultation on the interpretation of unusual or unexpected EQA results.
- Undertake visits to participating medical laboratories to evaluate performance and make recommendations for remedial action.
- Develop and monitor work plans and implementation tracking tools to ensure the completion of high quality work, on time and at or under budget
- Write reports and prepare presentations describing progress and achievements
- Consult and network with other public health laboratories and agencies; communicate findings to appropriate individuals and authorities as required by law and agency policy
- Represent I-TECH at meetings with MOH, CDC and other partners.
- Liaise closely, communicate and coordinate as necessary with partners and stakeholders relevant to the project implementation
- Provide support and supervision to consultants supporting the project.
- Perform other reasonable duties as assigned by the Project Director.

Qualifications, Skills and Knowledge

- A Bachelor's degree in Medical Laboratory Sciences or equivalent.
- Eligible for registration as a medical laboratory scientist in Cote D'Ivoire.
- A minimum of 5 years' experience at a senior level supporting clinical laboratory services.
- Must have worked in a medical diagnostic laboratory at a senior level and should have a sound knowledge of clinical laboratory quality assurance.
- Must demonstrate a sound knowledge of quality management systems in a diagnostic laboratory.
- Must have a strong understanding of the medical laboratory quality system regulation ISO 15189
- Experience working with Health laboratory implementing partners.
- Knowledge and working experience of the SLIPTA program as a SLMTA trainer or Auditor is an added advantage.

- Working experience in Cote D'Ivoire with knowledge and comprehensive understanding of the country's laboratory network.
- Demonstrated computer skills in Microsoft Office applications such as Word, PowerPoint and Excel.
- Good team work, communication and management skills.
- Strong capacity building and in-service training experience.
- Must be familiar with concepts of Good Clinical Laboratory Practice.
- Fluency in French (written and spoken) with the ability to make presentations and effectively write/edit technical reports and documents; Fluency in written and spoken English is a plus.

How to Apply

Please send your CV and cover letter by email to jobs@go2itech.org. Please indicate the following job reference code in the subject line of your email:

CI 08/ITECH/EQAPT

Only candidates who are selected will be contacted for an interview.