

Job Description

Title	Laboratory Quality Mentor
Location	Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire
Supervisor	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 Quality Mentor** 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 Quality Mentor** 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.

Activities and deliverables: Assist the Country Director (based in Abidjan), Fellow Lab Quality Mentors (Abidjan), and the Laboratory Specialists and PI (all based in Seattle, WA, USA at I-TECH) in planning, coordinating and implementing all project activities including the following tasks, responsibilities and deliverables:

- Offer onsite (face-to-face) mentorship and training to laboratory managers and staff on laboratory QMS including: documentation and SOPs, all laboratory testing, sample management and collection techniques, sample packaging, sample referral systems, quality management practices, quality assurance, results handling, service delivery improvement, universal biosafety and biosecurity principles; and waste management;
- Visit target laboratories regularly to conduct QMS gap analysis and formulate corrective measures to facilitate compliance and provide TA on-site;
- Monitor, evaluate, and report on quality management system implementation at target laboratories and ensure that target laboratories are meeting project goals;
- Support adherence to laboratory policies, guidelines, usage of monitoring tools to improve services as may be required by I-TECH objectives;
- Provide training and coaching to laboratory personnel to enhance Good Clinical Laboratory Practices (GCLP);
- Coordinate all lab-related trainings with target laboratories and other local partners involved in improving laboratory practice in Cote D'Ivoire;
- Maintain and regularly update a database of national trainers and facility personnel trained;
- Provide recommendations to fellow Laboratory QI Mentors, the Project Director and the Laboratory Specialists in dealing with challenges as they arise and facilitate interventions to achieve project goals;
- Coordinate mentorship of trained personnel for Strengthening Laboratories towards Accreditation for WHO stepwise accreditation and LQMS;
- Offer technical advice on laboratory commodities forecasting, ordering, re-stocking and stores management to eliminate stock outs;
- Provide technical assistance for equipment including validation, calibration, certification and routine servicing to ensure efficient operation and minimal test interruptions;
- Advocate for implementation of Infection Prevention and Control guidelines;
- Provide efficient linkage between the facilities and the program, and communicate facilities overall needs to ensure requisite quality improvements;

- Support and participate in all laboratory assessments as required by I-TECH work plans;
- Present programmatic updates and generate reports as required during the project period.

Qualifications, Skills and Knowledge

- Minimum- Bachelor's degree in clinical, public health laboratory practice or biomedical laboratory science;
- Minimum 5 years' experience supporting laboratory systems;
- Knowledge of the public health and laboratory systems in Cote D'Ivoire is required;
- Training and working experience of SLMTA, SLIPTA audits or LQSI and ISO 15189 standards;
- Demonstrate operational knowledge of laboratory quality management principles and practices, including international standards for biosafety and biosecurity;
- Interpersonal skills, ability to communicate clearly, give constructive feedback and good organization skills;
- Must be familiar with concepts of Good Clinical Laboratory Practice;
- Demonstrated computer skills in Microsoft Office applications such as Word, PowerPoint and Excel are required;
- Good team work, communication and management skills.
- Strong capacity building and in-service training experience.
- 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 01/ITECH/QMS Mentor

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