



## JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

### BACKGROUND

The University of Rwanda is a public institution of Higher learning committed to support the development of the country through the generation and advancement of knowledge and innovation among other core activities. In that regard, the University of Rwanda through Single Project Implementation Unit is implementing a project entitled “use point of care viral load (PoC VL) monitoring intervention to improve virological suppression among children and adolescents (age 0-24 years)”. To fulfil optimal functioning, UR-Single Project Implementation Unit (SPIU) calls for qualified and motivated candidates on three positions: **one Senior Clinical Researcher, one Senior Researcher and one Research Assistant** for a one-year renewable contract.

### Project summary

The UNAIDS developed the 95-95-95 strategy to end the HIV/AIDS pandemic by 2030. The third 95 focus on those on treatment having a viral suppression. To achieve the third 95, the WHO recommends six-month viral load monitoring for suppression. Monitoring of viral suppression enables appropriate use of ART and encourage adherence and prevent development of drug resistance. Rational use and adherence to ART preserves the more affordable first and second line of treatment options in resource-poor settings. One of the barriers to effective VL monitoring is the standardized care approach of centralized VL testing done at specialized laboratories. The turnaround time, for HIV VL test and result, related logistical challenges, can hinder early initiation or continuum of HIV healthcare. PoC/ VL monitoring is novel approach that has been validated and eliminates most of the challenges associated with centralized VL monitoring including potential delays and logistical challenges. The project aims to examine the feasibility, acceptability, and effectiveness of using point of care viral load (PoC/ VL) monitoring among children and adolescents living with HIV in East Africa. Additionally, perception and attitude of study participants to use of PoC for HIV VL monitoring will be explored.

Reporting to the local Principal Investigator, the Researchers will serve as part of a larger team implementing day-to-day activities and shall participate in scientific research assessing effectiveness, feasibility, acceptability of PoC VL in addition to evaluate the perception and the psychosocial aspects of using this approach to monitor viral load. The researchers will be required to travel frequently in study sites.

## **1. Senior Clinical Researcher**

### **Major Duties and Responsibilities**

- Manage all aspects of clinical trials at assigned sites, ensuring patient safety, adherence to safety regulations, and data integrity.
- Perform source data verification, follow up on data queries, and review Risk-Based Monitoring information influencing data quality and site visit frequency.
- Support coordination activities in with the consortia partners.
- Ensure accurate and timely reporting and follow-up of Adverse Events (AE), Serious Adverse Events (SAE), and protocol deviations.
- Assist in preparing for and conducting interim and close-out monitoring visits at study sites.
- Review and reconcile essential documents at site and country levels.
- Ensure follow-up data collection with appropriate participants at specified intervals.
- Prepare internal and external communication reports.
- Support data analysis and interpretation, particularly on clinical aspects.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

### **Required Skills and Qualifications:**

- Medical degree or MSc in Public Health with at least three years of experience.
- At least three peer-reviewed publications demonstrating experience in quantitative and qualitative research will be an advantage.
- Proven experience in similar duties.
- Proficiency in SPSS, Stata, and R for quantitative and qualitative analysis.
- Proven experience in result interpretation and report writing.
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite (Excel, Word, PowerPoint).
- Ability to work independently and in a team.
- Excellent organizational skills and ability to meet deadlines.
- Fluency in English and Kinyarwanda.
- Additional certificates related to research design are an added value.

### **Desired Skills and Qualifications:**

- Ability to plan, multitask, and work in a dynamic team environment.
- Excellent communication, collaboration, and problem-solving skills.
- Strong organizational skills demonstrated by the ability to meet deadlines.
- Excellent critical thinking skills.

## **2. Senior researcher**

### **Major Duties and Responsibilities**

- Manage all aspects of clinical trials at assigned sites, ensuring patient safety, adherence to safety regulations, and data integrity.
- Perform source data verification, follow up on data queries, and review Risk-Based Monitoring information influencing data quality and site visit frequency.
- Support coordination activities in with the consortia partners.
- Ensure accurate and timely reporting and follow-up of Adverse Events (AE), Serious Adverse Events (SAE), and protocol deviations.
- Assist in preparing for and conducting interim and close-out monitoring visits at study sites.
- Review and reconcile essential documents at site and country levels.
- Ensure follow-up data collection with appropriate participants at specified intervals.
- Prepare internal and external communication reports.
- Support data analysis and interpretation, particularly on clinical aspects.
- Perform other duties as assigned

### **Required Skills and Qualifications:**

- MSc in Public Health or any related field with at least three years of experience
- Proven experience in similar duties.
- Skills in SPSS, Stata, and R for quantitative data analysis, and NVivo for qualitative analysis.
- Proven experience in result interpretation and report writing.
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite (Excel, Word, PowerPoint).
- Ability to work independently and in a team.
- Excellent organizational skills and ability to meet deadlines.
- Fluency in English and Kinyarwanda.
- Additional certificates related to research design is an added value.

### **Desired Skills and Qualifications:**

- Ability to plan, multitask, and work in a dynamic team environment.
- Excellent communication, collaboration, and problem-solving skills.
- Strong organizational skills demonstrated by the ability to meet deadlines.
- Excellent critical thinking skills.

## **3. Research Assistant**

### **Major Duties and Responsibilities**

- Participate in formative research using qualitative methods to understand cultural and contextual dynamics.
- Conduct and administer surveys with study participants and healthcare workers face-to-face or by phone.

- Support assessment activities at site-level and ensure accurate data recording, uploading, and sharing.
- Ensure follow-up data collection with appropriate participants at specified intervals.
- Train the assessment team and share best practices to improve data collection processes.
- Identify and resolve gaps in data collection and evaluation through routine data review.
- Support the development and pilot testing of micro-interventions at intervention sites.
- Provide logistical support to the EAPoC VL study team.
- Prepare internal and external communication reports.
- Support data analysis.
- Assist in transcription and translation of interviews.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

### **Required Skills and Qualifications:**

- Bachelor's degree in a health-related field with at least two years of experience.
- Proven experience in quantitative and qualitative research and NVivo for qualitative analysis.
- Experience in data collection monitoring.
- Skills in using SPSS, Stata, and R for data cleaning and analysis.
- Experience in result interpretation and report writing.
- Ability to work independently and in a team.
- Excellent organizational skills and ability to meet deadlines.
- Fluency in English and Kinyarwanda.
- Additional certificates related to research design are an added value.

### **Desired Skills and Qualifications:**

- Strong organizational skills demonstrated by the ability to meet deadlines.
- Excellent critical thinking skills.
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite (Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Outlook).

### **APPLICATION PROCEDURE:**

Interested and qualified candidates should submit their applications online to the link: <https://forms.gle/533rq4GWmtqh3f7BA> and attach all required documents.

**Documents required are:**

1. An application letter addressed to UR/SPIU Coordinator. The letter should briefly indicate your motivation and how you meet all the requirements described in the position for which you have applied (max 2 pages);
2. A detailed Curriculum Vitae (max 4 pages);
3. Copy of academic degree(s), and Certificates of any relevant professional training;
4. Copy of National Identity and/or passport;
5. Recommendation letter from one of your former / current employers

Done at Kigali on 11/09/2024



**Dr. Michael MUGISHA, MPH, PhD**

**Acting Coordinator**

**Single Projects Implementation Unit (SPIU)**

**University of Rwanda.**