

## **POSITION DESCRIPTION**

**TITLE:** Health Economist/Health Finance Mentor

**NUMBER OF OPENINGS:** 3 (1 per county)

**BAND:** I

**LOCATION:** Gran Bassa County, Margibi County, Montserrado County, Liberia

**REPORTS TO:** Chief of Party

### **BACKGROUND**

The USAID is funding the Health System Strengthening (CSHSS) contract to support the Ministry of Public Health in Liberia and seeks to expand their coverage area into three new counties: Gran Bassa County, Margibi County, Montserrado County. The activities are expected to replicate those that have been implemented thus far to “Improve the Health Status of Liberians”, as laid out in USAID/Liberia’s Health Strategy, and Country Development Cooperation Strategy. This shall be achieved through: 1) Strengthened leadership and governance capacity of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MOHSW) 2) Strengthened Ministry of Public Works (MPW) capacity to manage water supply infrastructure improvements, 3) Institutionalized Quality Assurance (QA) and Quality Improvement (QI) initiatives to improve health care service delivery, 4) Strengthened Human Resources for Health (HRH) Management, 5) Improved Supply Chain Management, 6) Increased financial sustainability of services, and 7) Strengthened Health Management Information System (HMIS).

### **OVERALL RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Working under the direction of the COP, the Health Economist/Health Finance Advisor will support systems strengthening by leading development and implementation of the project’s health finance interventions, including: support of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MOHSW); development of health finance options for Liberia in particular within each county; support of Performance-based Financing (PBF); assessment and analysis of health finance issues and testing of alternative models for financial risk protection; support for the expanded implementation of the Essential Package of Health Services; capacity building for health finance; coordination and monitoring of health finance interventions; and ensuring institutionalization and sustainability of the project’s health finance achievements.

### **SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Support the MOHSW to improve resource mobilization and resource allocation for health service delivery and to develop/improve supportive health policies and management practices.
- Work with MOHSW counterparts at county levels to explore short- and long-term health financing options to reduce out-of-pocket payments and expand access to quality health services.
- Support the nationwide scale-up of PBF, including assistance to transition from performance-based contracting of NGOs to public sector PBF, institutionalizing incentives for productivity and quality.

- Develop and pilot options for expanding health insurance coverage/financial risk protection for lower income quintiles, such as community-based health insurance.
- Support the expanded implementation of the Essential Package of Health Services through any modifications of the “Free Care” model and any needed additions or re-costing as the health finance system is developed.
- Coordinate with Oversight Committees, Technical Working Groups, County Health and Social Work Teams and other stakeholders to ensure that necessary health finance interventions are reflected in project objectives and indicators.
- Review technical performance of the project and counterparts in meeting target indicators for health finance; conduct and/or support health finance impact evaluation and other related health financing studies as needed.
- Analyze feasibility and implement plans to scale up, institutionalize and sustain health finance interventions beyond the life of the project.
- Provide training and other capacity building to staff and counterparts as required; identify needs for health finance STTA.
- Work with the COP and other technical leaders on the project to ensure coordination and achievement of all technical requirements.

#### **QUALIFICATIONS:**

- The proposed Health Economist/Health Finance Advisor must have a minimum of 4 years of experience in designing and implementing health finance interventions in developing or middle income countries.
- S/he must have at a minimum a Master’s Degree in economics or social science, or a related advanced degree relevant to the field of public health or business or public administration.
- S/he should have demonstrated experience with Health Finance Policy, Financial Management, Public Expenditure Reviews, National Health Accounts, Health Service Contracting and Performance-based Financing, Costing of Benefit Packages, Benefit Analysis, Financial Risk Protection and Health Insurance Models.
- Prior experience in capacity building of health finance counterparts is strongly preferred.
- Professional proficiency in spoken and written English is required.

**Candidates must meet all the criteria of minimum qualifications.**

**Send your application to [hrliberia@msh.org](mailto:hrliberia@msh.org) stating the position in the subject line of your email.**

**Interested persons must send comprehensive resume with a brief cover letter not later than closing date of the application, **November 18, 2016.****