CONSULTANCY OPPORTUNITY: ECONOMIST FOR THE MATERNAL NUTRITION AND INFANT GROWTH (MING) PROJECT

Position: Economist
Organisation: Harare Institute of Public Health (HIPH)
Location: Zimbabwe (with potential for remote work and site visits)
Contract Type: Consultancy
Duration: Approximately 10 months

Background:
 The Maternal Nutrition and Infant Growth (MiNG) Project, spearheaded by HIPH with support from SickKids, is a comprehensive research initiative focused on understanding and enhancing maternal and infant nutritional outcomes in Zimbabwe. This project seeks to identify effective drivers and interventions that mitigate issues such as undernutrition, low birthweight, and early growth challenges. The findings aim to enrich the global evidence base while tailoring insights for impactful, localized action within Zimbabwe. HIPH is dedicated to advancing research excellence that translates into practical policy and programmatic solutions.

To achieve these objectives, HIPH is seeking to enlist an experienced Economist with a specialization in public health economics or social policy. The selected consultant will play a critical role in supporting robust policy analysis, thorough data interpretation, and the economic evaluation of both nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions. This role provides an opportunity to contribute to transformative research that informs health and nutrition strategies at national and international levels.

Key Responsibilities:
- Lead and conduct detailed economic analyses relating to public health policies and their implications on maternal and infant nutrition, focusing on Zimbabwe's context.
- Systematically review and synthesize extensive data on financial structures, program expenditures, and the broader economic impacts of policies aimed at improving maternal and child health outcomes.
- Collaborate closely with the SickKids research team to support secondary quantitative data analysis and validate key findings, ensuring that economic insights are thoroughly integrated into the broader research objectives.
- Develop and document a comprehensive timeline of financial policies, legislative measures, and investments that have significantly influenced MiNG outcomes since the year 2000, clearly identifying shifts and trends.
- Engage with senior stakeholders from relevant government ministries, academic institutions, and civil society organizations to collect valuable data and provide context-specific recommendations.
- Prepare and contribute to the drafting of high-quality reports, policy briefs, and academic publications that effectively communicate economic findings and their implications for maternal and child health policy.
- Work in synergy with other multidisciplinary team members to integrate economic perspectives seamlessly into the overall research framework.

Qualifications and Experience Required:
- A Master's degree or higher in Economics, Public Health Economics, Social Policy, or a related discipline is essential. A PhD in a relevant field will be considered an advantage.
- ·At least 6 years of demonstrable experience in conducting rigorous economic research, public health economic evaluations, or policy analysis, with a preference for those who have engaged in projects related to maternal and child health.
- A proven track record of contributing to mixed-methods research studies and producing substantive technical analyses that have influenced policy and program development.
- Prior experience working collaboratively with policy-makers, research bodies, or international development organizations is highly desirable.
- Proficiency in performing complex quantitative data analysis and statistical interpretation.
- Extensive knowledge and experience with economic modeling tools and statistical software such as Stata, R, or equivalent.
- Strong capacity to draft comprehensive and high-quality technical reports, ensuring clarity, depth, and relevance.

Desired Competencies:
- Deep understanding of the Zimbabwean health system, social policy environment, and the economic context in which these operate.
- Outstanding communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to engage effectively with diverse stakeholders, including government officials and research partners.
- Proven ability to work collaboratively within multidisciplinary and multicultural teams, fostering a spirit of cooperation and shared success.
- A strong commitment to upholding ethical research practices and maintaining the highest levels of integrity in data handling and reporting.

This consultancy provides an exceptional opportunity to contribute to high-impact research that shapes evidence-based strategies for maternal and child nutrition. By joining HIPH, you will be part of a dedicated team that values innovation, collaboration, and the pursuit of research excellence for meaningful societal benefits. Your expertise will help bridge critical gaps in understanding the economic dimensions of nutrition and health policies, contributing to sustainable and scalable solutions.

Application Process:
Qualified and interested candidates are invited to submit their application package, which should include:
- A comprehensive cover letter detailing their suitability for the consultancy, highlighting specific experiences and contributions that align with the requirements.
- A detailed and up-to-date CV that underscores relevant expertise and career accomplishments.
- At least two samples of prior economic analysis or related work that demonstrate analytical rigor and policy relevance.
- Contact details for two professional references who can vouch for the candidate's qualifications and past performance.

Submission Deadline:
All applications should be submitted electronically in PDF format to **The Principal** on principal@hiph.ac.zw by 12pm (CAT), Saturday 30th November 2024. Ensure the subject line reads "Economist – MiNG Project."

HIPH is committed to diversity and inclusion. Female candidates are encouraged to apply.