



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

Position: Statistician

Organization: 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 ensure that the analysis component of this project meets the highest standards of precision and comprehensiveness, HIPH is looking to engage a highly experienced Statistician. The selected consultant will play an essential role in overseeing statistical data analysis, interpreting complex findings, and collaborating on research efforts that produce credible and meaningful results. This position is key for generating insights that will inform critical deliverables, influence policy recommendations, and foster sustainable solutions to maternal and child health challenges.

Key Responsibilities:

- Identify and source additional data sets needed for the project, ensuring their relevance and quality for supporting comprehensive analyses.
- Oversee data validation processes, conduct quality checks, and uphold best practices in data integrity and accuracy to produce reliable results.
- Collaborate closely with the SickKids team and other project stakeholders to interpret statistical findings and provide comprehensive input that supports broader research objectives, ensuring that all data-driven insights are contextually relevant and well-understood.
- Engage with the Economist and other members of the multidisciplinary research team to integrate statistical outcomes with economic and qualitative data, creating a robust and holistic analysis.
- Support knowledge transfer and capacity-building within the team by mentoring staff on statistical methodologies and data analysis practices.
- Draft detailed statistical reports and contribute significantly to the development of high-quality research publications and policy briefs, ensuring that complex statistical findings are communicated clearly and effectively to diverse audiences, including policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders.

Qualifications and Experience Required:

- A Master's degree or higher in Statistics, Biostatistics, Public Health, Data Science, or a closely related quantitative field. A PhD would be considered advantageous and demonstrate a higher level of expertise.
- At least 6 years of substantive experience in conducting statistical analyses, particularly within public health or nutrition research domains, involving complex and multi-variable data.
- Proven track record of working with large datasets and applying advanced statistical methods, including but not limited to multivariate analysis, logistic regression, longitudinal data analysis, and survival analysis.
- Experience in collaborative research projects involving interdisciplinary teams, with demonstrated contributions to mixed-methods studies that combine quantitative and qualitative research.
- Proficiency in using statistical software tools such as R, Stata, SPSS, SAS, or equivalent, with an ability to adapt to new analytical technologies as needed.
- Strong skills in data visualization and interpretation, ensuring that findings are presented in a clear and impactful manner to facilitate data-driven decision-making.
- Exceptional problem-solving abilities, capable of translating complex statistical analyses into actionable insights that inform project outcomes and recommendations.

Desired Competencies:

- Familiarity with the Zimbabwean health landscape, including relevant national data sources such as ZimStat surveys and Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC) data repositories.
- Attention to detail coupled with a proactive approach to identifying potential challenges in data analysis and developing effective solutions.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, enabling constructive engagement with various stakeholders, including government bodies, research partners, and community representatives.
- Demonstrated capability to work efficiently within a multidisciplinary and multicultural environment, fostering a collaborative and supportive team dynamic.
- Strong commitment to maintaining ethical research standards, particularly in data handling and confidentiality practices.

This consultancy offers a unique opportunity to leverage your statistical expertise within a project that directly impacts maternal and child health policies and practices. By joining the HIPH research team, you will contribute to a project that not only supports evidence-based policy development in Zimbabwe but also adds to the global discourse on effective maternal and infant health interventions. This role provides the chance to work alongside a dedicated team of experts, engaging in high-impact research that has the potential to drive substantial change.

Application Process:

Qualified and interested candidates are invited to submit the following documents:

- A cover letter articulating your suitability for this consultancy, emphasizing relevant experiences and competencies.
- An updated CV that highlights your professional accomplishments and expertise in statistical analysis.
- Samples of previous work demonstrating your ability to conduct and present complex statistical analyses or related publications.
- Contact details for at least two professional references who can speak to your qualifications and experience.

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 “Statistician– MiNG Project.”

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