

## **ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POSITION OF SENIOR CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS (TEN No.) AND CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS (40 No.) FOR THE KENYA COVID-19 HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROJECT - SELECTION AND EMPLOYMENT OF INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS**

### **Background**

The Kenya COVID-19 Health Emergency Response project is the Phase 1 of the Multi-Phase Programmatic Approach for Strategic Preparedness and Response Program funded by the World Bank which aims to prevent, detect and respond to the threat posed by COVID-19 and strengthen national systems for public health preparedness. The proposed project aims to assist Kenya in its efforts to prevent, detect and respond to the threat posed by COVID-19 and strengthen national systems for public health preparedness.

### **Overview**

The Psychologists officers in health will be required to offer Psychological First Aid (PFA) in the Kenyan context, as well as other interventions targeted at serving the special groups of both health workers and those directly affected by the pandemic. The Psychologists will be expected to be able to work effectively with the broader team members, in delivering evidence-based interventions. The psychologists will be guided by Mental health & Psychosocial support (MHPSS) guidelines and other existing health policies, guidelines and standards.

**About the Response:** The current outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), which was declared by WHO to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, continues to spread and as of 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020, Kenya reported its first confirmed case. During a crisis, although individuals respond differently, most people will experience some degree of distress such as feelings of anxiety, hopelessness, sadness, difficulty sleeping, fatigue, irritability or anger and/or aches and pains. This is normal and for majority it will improve and go away over time without any need for medical intervention. However, some of those affected may suffer from serious mental or emotional distress, including worsening of existing mental illness or substance use problems or acute stress disorder. A public health approach is needed to address the psychosocial and mental health consequences of COVID 19. To respond to this, the Ministry of Health has deliberately set up a framework for delivering Mental Health Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), for different target groups. This call, is aimed at recruiting Psychologists who will be part of the MHPSS team, delivering these services, for as long as the services are required.

### **Scope of work**

The Psychologists will be responsible for: Provision of MHPSS to different target groups affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic; to the healthcare workers involved in the COVID-19 pandemic response; collect data and provide analysis on the provision of MHPSS in contribution to the collective response around COVID-19 in Kenya. The work will be based in Ministry of Health Headquarters, Kenyatta National Hospital, Kenyatta University

Teaching, Referral & Research Hospital and Mathari National Teaching & Referral Hospital.

## Key responsibilities

The Psychologists officers in health will:

1. Conduct psychological assessment and diagnosis of clients
2. Provision of pre and post-test counselling tailored to COVID 19
3. Provide Psychological first aid (PFA) and other appropriate psychological interventions to different target audiences: (People in quarantine, Persons with COVID 19 & their families, Health care workers & frontline workers including response teams, Persons in recovery, Survivors of Gender Based Violence, Persons in prisons, Families of the bereaved, General public)
4. Develop treatment plans and possible referrals
5. Follow up on client progress
6. Provide continuous psychoeducation to clients, families and caregivers
7. Clinical supervision for mental health service providers
8. Rehabilitation & reintegration of persons in recovery
9. Take part in mandatory training by the MOH on COVID-19 and the framework for response in Kenya. The Psychologists will also be expected to take part in contextualized PFA training (to the current epidemic), to refresh their understanding of any previous training that they may have had on PFA.
10. Be on call to deliver MHPSS interventions as requested and dictated by the duty rota.
11. Be part of a Quarantine Center team, headed by both a lead and Clinical supervisor.
12. Prepare daily reports of their activities, in a format that will be given to them by the MHPSS Committee.

## Qualifications and experience

The ideal candidate for the Psychologists officers in health will have:

- i. **For clinical psychologists;**
  - a) A Bachelor's degree in either medical psychology, health psychology or any other relevant and equivalent qualification in a health-related field from a recognized institution. **(40 positions)**
  - b) At least 3 years of professional experience as a psychologist
- ii. **For senior clinical psychologists**
  - a) A Master's degree in Clinical Psychology or equivalent qualification from a recognized institution. **(10 positions)**
  - b) At least 5 years of experience practicing as a psychologist
- iii. Registration with the relevant professional body
- iv. Previous training in Psychological First Aid for the Kenyan context;
- v. Experience in being part of MHPSS team responses during previous disasters or emergencies. in the Kenyan context;
- vi. Willingness to gain knowledge and understanding of PFA for the MHPSS response in the

- vii. Kenyan context, as well as other referral networks;
- vii. Demonstrated experience in strengthening collaboration and coordination among public and private stakeholders;
- viii. Professional fluency in both Kiswahili and English required, both written and verbal;
- ix. Strong presentation, reporting, and communication skills;
- x. Proficiency in computer application skills
- xi. Ability and willingness to work remotely with reliable internet connection and in rare situations, travel to see clients.
- xii. Strong organizational and interpersonal skills, including work and partnering abilities;
- xiii. High levels of Professional Ethical awareness.

Applications should include the following; Cover letter and current CV with names and telephone contacts, Copies of academic and professional certificates, Photocopy of ID and Testimonials/ Recommendation.

Interested applicants who meet the minimum criteria are invited to email their applications to [project2020lead@gmail.com](mailto:project2020lead@gmail.com) on or before Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

**Terms of service:**

3 months' contract with possible extension based on performance and duration of COVID-19 pandemic

**Reporting arrangements**

The Psychologists officers in health will report to the head of mental health in the respective places who will assign all activities under the contract.