MRC/UVRI and LSHTM Uganda Research Unit

EMPLOYMENT/CAREER OPPORTUNITY

The Unit is an internationally recognized centre of excellence with dominant research themes in the areas of HIV and emerging infections, vaccines and immunity, and chronic diseases and cancer. Through a multidisciplinary approach, intersecting basic science, epidemiological research, social-behavioural research and the conduct of new intervention evaluation studies, the Unit contributes knowledge on changing epidemics and diseases, the evaluation of innovative health care options, treatment and prevention and the development of health policy and practice in Africa and worldwide. Following the signing of strategic transfer agreements between the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and the Medical Research Council (MRC UK), the Unit formally joined LSHTM on 1st February 2018. The exciting new partnership will boost research capacity into current and emerging health issues in Africa and throughout the world. The Unit is based at the UVRI Entebbe campus with established outposts in Kalungu, Masaka, Wakiso and Kampala Districts. The Unit is now seeking an enthusiastic and experienced individual to fill the following position:

Health Economist (1 position)
Position code: HE - 1021
Reports to: Head of Programme
Station: Entebbe

Job Purpose:

The post-holder will be working on an economic and policy analysis of a school-based menstrual health intervention aimed at improving girls' education, health and wellbeing. The intervention is being evaluated in a cluster-randomized trial in 60 secondary schools in Wakiso and Kalungu districts in Uganda.

The trial includes an economic evaluation to determine the cost-effectiveness of the intervention compared with enhanced standard practice. This will evaluate the costs of setting up and running the intervention package, the unit cost per female student reached, and the incremental cost-effectiveness of the intervention per unit increase in selected policy-relevant outcomes, relative to optimized usual care. The cost-effectiveness measures will be compared to similar school-based interventions in the region to inform scalability and financial sustainability.

The post-holder will collect and analysis data on resource use. These will be identified through discussions with the trial team, the implementing partner, and the schools. Resource use will be measured over the duration of the trial and will involve the following data collection: (1) resource use due to the setting up and delivery of the intervention including staff time, training, materials, drugs and supplies; (2) school resource use including staff time and materials. The post-holder will estimate the costs of setting up and running the intervention package and the incremental cost-effectiveness of the intervention per unit increase in selected policy-relevant outcomes, relative to optimized usual care.

The post-holder will also investigate and assess the policy environment around menstrual health in Uganda, focusing on how implementing the intervention contributes to, and aligns with, the attainment of the Government policy objectives on menstruation

management in schools. The post-holder will adopt the basic approach to policy analysis of assessing the inclusiveness, magnitude of the problem; feasibility and clarity of objectives and implementation, social and economic environment; monitoring and evaluation frameworks and sustainability.

The post-holder will organize and supervise data collection, will analysis data using Excel and STATA, and will contribute to paper writing.

The post-holder will be a key member of a multi-disciplinary team of researchers within Uganda, the UK and internationally, and will work closely with colleagues at Makerere University - School of Economics and at the Global Health Economics Centre at the LSHTM. The portfolio of duties outlined below will vary from time to time in accordance with the expectations of the role.

Roles & Responsibilities

1. Principal Responsibilities

- To plan and conduct the collection of economic and financial data for the MENISCUS trial;
- To provide training support and supervision to fieldworkers involved in data collection;
- To analyze the economic analysis, including cost-utility analysis from a provider perspective, cost-effectiveness analysis and cost-wellbeing analysis;
- To conduct a policy analysis including identifying the key objectives of relevant menstrual health policies in Uganda, and how the MENISCUS intervention contributes to, and aligns with, these objectives; to assess the extent to which the trial findings inform how these policies can be optimally delivered nationally;
- To represent the Unit on health economics (online or in presence) at national and international gatherings of project collaborators and represent the Programme Head at such meetings if required;
- To submit, attend and present (online or in presence) the results of the research at national and international conferences;
- To contribute to peer-reviewed publications, including as lead author; and,
- To collaborate with students working with MENISCUS, as agreed with the PI and Programme Head.

2. Financial Management

- Adherence to and effective utilization budgets in keeping with the Unit's/LSHTM's delegated authority scheme.

3. LSHTM Integration

The post holder may at some point dependent on the program requirements be responsible for managing assistants in health economics function ensuring that;

- Staff are enabled to perform their assigned duties as expected;

- Staff professional development is nurtured in line with the Unit's and LSHTM's capacity building goals;
- There is a positive and supportive work environment in the section;
- Staff feel included and valued and their professional feedback and proposals are heard and considered;
- Staff expectations are clearly communicated;
- Staff performance is regularly monitored;
- Potential conflicts are resolved promptly and decisively, involving HR support where needed;
- Formal appraisals are conducted within the departments in line with the Unit's schedule;
- Applicable LSHTM and Unit HR policies are being followed at all levels; and,
- Participate in the development of equal opportunities, diversity and inclusion.

Person Specification

- MSc degree in Health Economics, Development Economics, Quantitative Economics, Economic Policy and Planning, with a strong focus on health OR a first degree in economics with a MSc degree in public health/health sciences;
- At least 5 years working experience and preferably two of which will have been spent in research in conducting systematic literature reviews, data collation, analysis and write-up of economic data;
- Contributions to peer-reviewed outputs, as expected by the subject area/discipline in terms of types and volume of outputs.
- Proven ability to work independently, as well as collaboratively as part of a research team, and proven ability to meet research deadlines;
- Excellent computer skills in advanced Microsoft Excel especially in the use of Pivot tables; and STATA/R Statistic; and Microsoft Word;
- Should possess excellent interpersonal skills, including the ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing;
- Good organizational skills, including effective time management; and,
- Interest in pursuing a career in economic evaluation or priority setting related to the health sector, in academia or policy.

How to Apply

Follow the link below to fill a form and submit your application documentation:

https://redcap.link/MENISCUS_health_Economist

Filling the form more than once will lead to automatic disqualification. High level of integrity while filling the form is required and will be considered during shortlisting.

Combine all your application documentation i.e. cover letter, CV & academic documents into one PDF document. Deadline for application is **5th November 2021, 5:00pm**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interview. This position is open to Ugandan nationals only. Strictly follow the application procedure as failure to do so will lead to automatic disqualification. Only online applications through the link provided will be accepted. ***You will receive a notification in your email if your application and documentation have been successfully received. In the event you are selected as***

the best candidate for the job, it will be a requirement to present certified copies of academic documents prior to contracting.

The applications should be addressed to:

The Head of Human Resources,
MRC/ UVRI and LSHTM Uganda Research Unit,
P.O. Box, 49,
Entebbe, Uganda.

Consider your application unsuccessful if not contacted within eight (8) weeks after the closing date of the advert. Any form of lobbying at any stage will lead to automatic disqualification. By submitting your personal information, you consent to the MRC/ UVRI and LSHTM Uganda Research Unit holding and using it in accordance with its recruitment policy and procedure. The Unit reserves the right to verify documents attached with the relevant awarding institutions to authenticate their validity.

MRC/UVRI and LSHTM Uganda research Unit is an equal opportunity employer committed to having a diverse work force and does not ask for money at any stage of recruitment.