

POSITION DESCRIPTION – USAID PEPFAR COTE D’IVOIRE

1. POSITION TITLE: Health Economist
2. ORGANIZATIONAL LOCATION POSITION: The Health Economist functions as a key advisor to the PEPFAR Cote d’Ivoire (CI) Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) Branch Chief and to the PEPFAR Executive Team
3. POSITION TITLE/GRADE OF DIRECT SUPERVISOR: Health Economist (FSN 11)
4. SUPERVISORY CONTROLS:
The incumbent contributes to the establishment of overall PEPFAR CI program priorities and work assignments through discussions with the HSS Branch Chief and the USAID Health Director. Work is performed under the general guidance of the HSS Branch Chief who assigns work based on program priorities and reviews the final “products”. The Health Economist has wide latitude for the exercise of independent judgment; the work entails outstanding difficulty, sensitivities and responsibility. S/he has formal decision-making authority in program areas consistent with USAID policies regarding locally employed staff (LES), and PEPFAR program goals, and strategies.
5. INTRODUCTION:

A. Background – PEPFAR CI Program

Under PEPFAR phase two (2010-2014), the focus is on transitioning from an emergency response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic to promoting sustainable country programs to address HIV/AIDS. PEPFAR will spend approximately \$50 billion worldwide to treat 3 million individuals, prevent 12 million new infections and provide care for 12 million individuals, including 5 million orphans and vulnerable children (OVC). Each PEPFAR recipient country will contribute to the attainment of these targets and the achievement of the following goals:

PEPFAR's 2010 – 2014 Goals:

- i. Transition from an emergency response to promotion of sustainable country programs.
- ii. Strengthen partner government capacity to lead the response to this epidemic and other health demands.
- iii. Expand prevention, care, and treatment in both concentrated and generalized epidemics.
- iv. Integrate and coordinate HIV/AIDS programs with broader global health and development programs to maximize impact on health systems.
- v. Invest in innovation and operations research to evaluate impact, improve service delivery and maximize outcomes.

The Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC) oversees all USG international HIV/AIDS activities. The main USG agencies currently working under PEPFAR in Côte d’Ivoire (CI) are the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In addition, small-scale activities are undertaken by the Departments of Defense (DOD) and State (DOS).

The USAID/PEPFAR Côte d'Ivoire (CI) portfolio currently includes 16 USAID/Washington Global Health Bureau field support activities as well as 3 activities under awards made by USAID/West Africa. They complement the more than 20 PEPFAR partners that are financed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Each agency is responsible for its own agreements which contribute to commonly defined PEPFAR goals. The programs are designed and executed in line with the national program objectives. In the past few years, total PEPFAR funding for CI has exceeded \$140 million annually.

B. Responsibilities

USAID PEPFAR Cote d'Ivoire is seeking an economist with experience in economic analysis and costing for the health sector. The Health Economist will provide technical and administrative support to PEPFAR CI in the areas of healthcare costing/financing, economic analysis, as well as broader health systems strengthening activities related to health sector planning and policy development. The health economist will have primary responsibility in tracking annual resource mobilizations by the GOCI and its other donors as well as USG (PEPFAR) in support of implementation of the national strategic plans to address HIV and AIDS through preventing the maximum number of new infections, reducing HIV/AIDS related morbidity and mortality, reducing the impact of the disease on individuals, families, society, businesses, and ensuring good governance and systems strengthening for program implementation. The health economist will track GOCI budgeting and financial cycles respectively in the Ministries of Plan and Finance to ensure that projections of recurrent cost implications of the national HIV/AIDS program are duly considered well ahead of time to ensure adequate preparations for shifting PEPFAR-supported costs into the national budget.

The health economist will keep abreast of donor and regional financing initiatives to improve efficiencies in the utilization of available limited resources and advocate for increased resources, and advise both PEPFAR and the MSLS in the application of these cost reducing efforts.

S/he will take the lead for PEPFAR and collaborate with host country counterparts in the design and oversight of health financing initiatives for the Cote d'Ivoire.

The successful candidate will have experience in health cost financing research and evaluation design, data collection and analysis. S/he will have the knowledge and experience to translate research findings into policies and practices on which to construct fiscally sound and culturally appropriate healthcare programs in CI. Illustrative studies and research might include evaluation of the national service delivery system (inclusive of performance based financing approaches), specific health programs (such as preventive vs. curative care), leveraging private sector resources, costing of health services and programs, identification and assessment of health insurance schemes, voucher and conditional cash transfer program, etc.

C. Specific Tasks

- i. Perform technical assignments related to national and per capita costs of the healthcare system, including research/study conceptualization and design, data collection, analysis, report writing (for a variety of audiences), and oral presentation of results.

- ii. Provide direct technical assistance to host country counterparts regarding economic evaluation, healthcare system costing and analysis, cost projection tools, resource allocation, resource generation.
- iii. Serve as activity manager for USAID/PEPFAR implementing partners engaged in health care finance and related support activities, as needed
- iv. Advise on economic strategies and actions to ensure optimal nation-wide healthcare coverage (e.g., optimal roles of public and private sectors).
- v. On a regular basis, review and track host country health sector expenditures; identify and propose concrete actions (e.g., policies, task shifting, reorganization, training, etc.) to address sector needs/gaps.
- vi. Organize meetings related to health economics/health cost financing; collaborate with PEPFAR colleagues, host country counterparts and implementing partners on the development of health cost financing strategies, initiatives and work plans.
- vii. Manage/coordinate in-country data collection related to health cost financing, expenditure analysis, conduct field visits, assure data quality and quality of program implementation.
- viii. Develop budgets and scopes of work for ad hoc studies in healthcare financing area if/as necessary; assist with recruitment of consultants, prepare their terms of reference.
- ix. Take a leading role in the development of PEPFAR CI's investment strategy in the areas of health systems strengthening and health finance.
- x. Liaise and collaborate with the GoCI, other donors, multi-lateral partners, and PEPFAR implementing partners on healthcare financing initiatives.
- xi. Must be able to travel nationally up to 25% of the time.

D. Job Qualifications and Weighting

Education – 25%

- i. Masters' degree (or French equivalency) in economics (or similar majors, e.g.: international development with finance/economics focus, health cost financing, econometrics, etc.). Medical Doctor or MPH degree is an added advantage.

Work Experience and Knowledge – 45%

- ii. 8-10 years of experience with health sector programs in CI or a similar developing country. This should include experience at national level on development of public health policies and technical guidelines.
- iii. Demonstrated expertise in econometrics, and in the conduct of health sector costing, performance based financing, cost-effectiveness and other economic studies;
- iv. Previous experience with USG, with other international donor organizations, or within a large public or private sector health care entity with nation-wide reach.

Skills and Abilities – 30%

- v. Ability to work well independently, with minimal management oversight, within a large multi-agency team whose purpose is to assist the host country government, numerous implementing partners and a wide range of beneficiaries.
- vi. Superior writing, research, analytical and communication/presentation skills and ability to produce reports/analyses within tight deadlines.
- vii. Fluency in English and French, reading and speaking, level III.