

## Job description

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| <b>Job title</b>  | <b>Evidence Advisor</b>   |
| <b>Department</b>   | Evidence for Action-MamaYe (E4A)  |
| <b>Location</b>   | Nairobi, Kenya  |
| <b>Post holder</b>  | Vacant  |
| <b>Reporting to</b>   | Evidence for Action–MamaYe Country Lead   |
| <b>Responsible for</b>  | Will supervise short term technical assistants/consultants as applicable  |
| <b>Liaison with</b>   | <b>Internal:</b> Evidence for Action- MamaYe team in Kenya and Nigeria, Technical Support Unit in London;<br><b>External:</b> National and Local Government Stakeholders and other RMNCAH actors in Kenya |
| <b>Hours</b>  | Full time, 40 hours per week  |
| <b>Type of contract</b>   | Fixed term contract until April 2022  |
| <b>Organisation</b>   |   |
| Options Consultancy Services Limited was established in 1992 and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Marie Stopes International. We are a consultancy organisation providing technical and management expertise in the health and social sectors to governments and international development partners to transform the health of women and children. We provide information, expertise and influence to governments, health workers, NGOs and businesses to catalyse change so that health services can be accessed by the people who need them most.  |   |
| <b>About the E4A Programme</b>  |   |
| Evidence for Action–MamaYe (E4A–MamaYe) is a programme managed by Options Consultancy Services and funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (the foundation) to improve reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (RMNCAH) outcomes. We do this by bringing together sub-national stakeholders to use evidence to drive action so that more women have safe births.   |   |
| <p>Started in 2012, E4A-MamaYe has used a combination of evidence and advocacy to drive accountability for maternal and newborn outcomes in several African countries. E4A-MamaYe acts as a catalyst for action, using evidence strategically to generate political commitment, strengthen accountability and improve planning and decision making at sub-national and national levels. The MamaYe brand is used to augment the visibility and profile of our work and channel the collective energy and investments of other stakeholders committed to improving RMNCAH outcomes. With funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (“the foundation”), E4A-MamaYe has project teams in Nigeria and Kenya, and also provides technical assistance for health financing in other countries which received investment through the Global Financing Facility. The current investment will run from July 2019 to April 2022.</p> <p>In Kenya, we work in Nairobi and Bungoma counties to improve RMNCAH health outcomes, through the following results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Gaps and obstacles in the health system that prevent people from enjoying good health are identified so that different audiences can take action (e.g. through Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response Systems)</li> <li>o Decision-makers prioritise MNH and work together with civil society to use evidence to inform how they make plans and allocate resources for better health care.</li> <li>o Health budgets and the budgeting process are demystified, empowering citizens to influence how resources are allocated and spent.</li> <li>o Those in power are held to account for commitments to increase resources and improve the quality of health services</li> </ul> |   |

The focus of the current investment from the foundation is to build sustainability of our approaches so that coalitions are empowered with the knowledge and tools to operate independently and are supported to identify priorities and develop strategies to achieve progress in those priorities. Please visit [www.MamaYe.org](http://www.MamaYe.org) for further information about the programme.

## Main Purpose of Role

This is a mid-level role in the Options Kenya team, based in Nairobi with regular national travel to programme locations. As Evidence Advisor, you are responsible for overseeing project monitoring, evaluation and learning, and supporting the effective design and implementation of interventions that aim to achieve use of quality evidence for informed action to improve MNH services.

The primary purposes of the role are to:

- Lead the technical support to county level civil society coalitions and Technical Working Groups (TWGs) to generate and use evidence for decision making and advocacy.
- Support Maternal Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR) committees at (sub-) county level to produce quality MPDSR data, use the data to identify root causes of maternal and perinatal death, agree on effective action in response to identified root causes, and hold each other accountable for action.
- Lead monitoring and evaluation including gathering, analysis and packaging of data and producing reports against the project's results framework.
- Build the capacity of county level coalitions on evidence-based advocacy, enhancing use of data for decision-making by health practitioners and government, and linking quality of care data to the national and county planning and budgeting processes.
- Quality-assure the evidence-related work across E4A MamaYe including providing guidance and support to the teams on evidence related capacity strengthening activities.

## Scope of Work

Reporting to the E4A-Kenya Country Lead and liaising with colleagues in Kenya, Nigeria and London the Evidence Advisor will be responsible for the following:

### Technical Leadership on mainstreaming Evidence for accountability

- Contribute content to develop high quality training materials on data and evidence in the programme's capacity development packages for advocacy coalitions and other stakeholders.
- Forge strategic relations and collaborate with other actors and advocacy networks for the generation and use of data
- When required, represent Options and/or E4A MamaYe at key forums such as relevant TWGs, and accountability mechanisms.
- Liaise with the team on identification and documentation of best practices on use of evidence for accountability.

### Strengthen MPDSR systems at sub-county and county level

- Build relationships with county and sub-county MPDSR committees in Bungoma and Nairobi county and support them to update and implement their strategies, in liaison with the County Advisors
- Lead the development of training materials for MPDSR committees
- Identify opportunities to strengthen the action tracker, for improved use by MPDSR committees
- Lead the introduction of the MPDSR data dashboard with Nairobi County. In both counties, support committees to produce quality MPDSR data, identify root causes of maternal and perinatal deaths, agree on effective SMART actions, and hold each other to account for implementation
- Lead coordination and collaboration on behalf of the E4A team with other programmes supporting MPDSR in Kenya.
- Liaise closely with the County Advisors and the Health Budget Transparency Advisor to ensure that MPDSR findings feed into advocacy efforts

### Enhance Data Use for Decision-making (planning and budgeting) & advocacy

- Lead support to coalitions in the identification, analysis and packaging of RMNCAH evidence from reliable sources to inform coalitions' budget and policy advocacy, capacity development and reporting
- Support coalitions to implement and review their 'steps to change' exercises, supporting them to ensure that data informs problem identification, tracking progress, and adaption of activities
- Working with the E4A County Advisors, build the capacity of county governments, relevant coalitions and civil society organisations to generate and analyse data to use in priority setting, and advocacy purposes;

- Liaise with E4A Kenya team to support local government stakeholders and coalitions to access quality data and institutionalise the demand and use of health data for decision making and linking quality of care data to government planning and budgeting processes.
- Lead the introduction and adoption of tools in support of evidence generation, analysis and tracking in Bungoma and Nairobi counties including action trackers and scorecards.
- Support demand driven strengthening of existing county and national accountability mechanisms and CSOs to track implementation of RMNCAH commitments, so they can hold decision makers to account and increasing meaningful citizen participation and voices.
- Support coalitions to be sustainable and self-identify capacity strengthening needs e.g. through organisational capacity assessments.

#### Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning

- Lead the execution of the programme's Results Framework and monitor delivery against respective programme targets including regular reviews and updates of the framework as necessary
- Routinely track evidence and accountability key performance indicators and summarise progress in monthly monitoring reports
- Develop tools for the collection of data to monitor and evaluate the programme's performance
- Develop and follow through a learning strategy to guide the identification and dissemination of information, and sharing of lessons learned (incl. case studies, blogs etc.). Working with the Kenya and London teams, ensure regular reflections of what works and how and what doesn't work and why and make recommendations on changes/improvements in the programme
- Contribute to documenting lessons and learnings into succinct briefings that can be shared with other internal and external stakeholders.
- Liaise closely with the London and Nigeria teams and selected consultants to support the implementation of operational research and the E4A Impact Study

Note: this job description reflects the present requirements of the post. As duties and responsibilities change and develop the job description will be reviewed and be subject to amendment in consultation with the job holder.

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| <b>Signed by:</b> | <b>Date:</b> |
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## Person specification

| Criteria  | Essential | Desirable |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Qualifications</b>   |           |           |
| ▪ Master's degree in public health, M&E, demography, epidemiology, health management or related field   | ✓         |           |
| ▪ Clinical/medical experience or training   |           | ✓         |
| <b>Experience</b>   |           |           |
| ▪ At least eight years' work experience, with significant experience in the provision of technical assistance including remote support;   | ✓         |           |
| ▪ Experience of working within the health system in Kenya, specifically in the area of RMNCAH   | ✓         |           |
| ▪ Experience analysing quality of care data and supporting its use in advocacy and accountability efforts;  | ✓         |           |
| ▪ Experience working with data from DHIS2, including MPDSR data (ability to navigate the system; understand the challenges; and downloading data required for further analysis) | ✓         |           |
| ▪ Strong understanding of using evidence for accountability to facilitate change;   |           | ✓         |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong experience in facilitating evidence-based planning processes to track progress on health indicators and commitments;</li> <li>Ability to interpret and translate evidence into different formats;</li> <li>Solid understanding of the health sector in Kenya, including the relationship between national and sub-national levels and engagement with civil society, parliamentarians and regional health groups</li> <li>Experience training and/or mentoring with excellent ability to explain complex subjects to audiences with varying levels of capacity,</li> </ul>  | ✓<br><br><br>✓                 | ✓ |
| <b>Skills and attributes</b>  |                                |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excellent interpersonal and influencing skills, with an ability to identify and act on opportunities to build buy-in and support among decision-makers; experience interacting with government officials, development partners, civil society and other health sector stakeholders;</li> <li>Strong analytic skills for health systems data;</li> <li>Skills in health budget analysis and budget tracking;</li> <li>Strong written and verbal communication skills with a demonstrable ability to present complex concepts in easy to understand language for a range of audiences;</li> <li>Sound monitoring evaluation skills, including the collection and analysis of programme data</li> <li>Highly proactive with strong initiative. Able to drive work forward independently and in strong collaboration with a team</li> <li>Advanced skills in Excel and PowerPoint</li> </ul> | ✓<br><br>✓<br>✓<br>✓<br>✓<br>✓ |   |
| <b>Other requirements</b>   |                                |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pro-choice stand</li> <li>Commitment to equal opportunities</li> <li>Commitment to the principles of Safeguarding</li> <li>Fluency in written and spoken English</li> <li>Right to live and work in Kenya</li> </ul>   | ✓<br>✓<br>✓<br>✓<br>✓          |   |