

Job description

Job title	Niger State Advisor
Department	Evidence for Action-MamaYe
Location	Niger, Nigeria
Post holder	Chinasa Imo
Reporting to	Country Lead
Responsible for	N/A
Liaison with	Evidence for Action MamaYe Team in Nigeria and the UK; advocacy coalitions; State Ministry of Health and other local government bodies; Relevant partners from the health sector
Hours	Full time, 40 hours per week
Type of contract	Fixed term contract to April 2022

Organisation

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.

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 through a combined focus on evidence, advocacy and accountability in several sub-Saharan African countries.

Started in 2012, E4A-MamaYe has used a combination of evidence and advocacy to drive accountability for maternal and newborn outcomes. 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, E4A-MamaYe currently has programme offices in Nigeria, and Kenya, and also provides technical assistance for health financing in other countries which received funding through the Global Financing Facility. The current investment will run from July 2019 to May 2022.

In Nigeria, we support coalitions to have the capacity to advocate for progress on for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) nationally and through focused work in Niger, Bauchi and Lagos States. 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 for further information about the programme.

Main purpose of job

As the State Advisor, you are responsible for the overall progress of E4A-MamaYe programme objectives in Niger. You will be based in Niger State, Nigeria at an organisation selected by Options, which will act as the host agency, and will be available to travel within Nigeria and possibly internationally.

You will:

- Identify (or if necessary establish) advocacy coalitions, build their capacity and that of other strategic partners within the state
- Provide technical support on maternal and perinatal death surveillance and response (MPDSR) systems, digital technologies for the health sector, linking health systems data to health budget processes
- Do state level project management
- Communicate programme progress, monitoring and evaluation

Main duties

Technical support on RMNCAH and evidence to advocacy coalitions for Niger State

Technical support in Niger State centres on building capacity of advocacy coalitions, such as State Level Accountability Mechanisms (SLAMs). The objective is to support the coalitions so that they can undertake advocacy on RMNCAH, influence political agendas relating to RMNCAH, mobilise financial resources to tackle gaps in quality of health care, and increase accountability for commitments in the health sector.

You will:

- Conduct ongoing organisational capacity assessments with partners, under the guidance of the Senior Evidence Advisor
- Contribute to the establishment (where needed) and functionality of advocacy coalitions such as a State Level Accountability Mechanism and MPDSR Committees
- Pilot and validate training and capacity development approaches as required and contribute to adaptations that reflect the priorities of the state and the specific needs of participants
- Support the state government and relevant partners in strengthening analysis of MPDSR data;
- Identify evidence that is available in Niger State and the information needs of target audiences, working with your line manager and the Technical Support Unit so that these can be incorporated into state-specific trainings
- Work in conjunction with relevant partners to build the capacity of Nigerian advocacy coalitions, opinion-formers and decision-makers to improve accountability in the state. This will involve delivering trainings in the capacity development package to State partners, including relevant SLAMs and the Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response Committees. Topics include:
 - Sensitisation workshops (supported by senior members of the Nigeria and TSU team) on key financial mechanisms, such as the Basic Health Care Provision Fund and the GFF
 - MNH priorities and policies, political and budget processes and legislation at national and County level.
 - Using and translating data and 'packaging' it as evidence in RMNCAH planning, budgeting and decision making;
 - Linking data on quality of health care (e.g. MPDSR) to the budget cycle and tracking budgets implementation
 - Designing advocacy campaigns and targeting relevant audiences to hold government and others to account; promoting the effective use of evidence into action (policy, programme, advocacy, accountability) among different stakeholders;
 - Using and integrating new technologies
- Support the introduction and use of new technologies. Use of technology is an important part of the sustainability approach in this programme, it may include the digitisation or maternal and perinatal death surveillance and response (MPDSR) system, and the use of software to develop and design scorecards to measure progress at State level. You will manage the capacity building of our partners to make sure that they can use these technologies to maximum effect and work with state partners so that they are embedded within government systems.

Monitoring, evaluation and learning from activities; communication and dissemination.

You will be responsible for ensuring activities are monitored and evaluated in line with the expectation of the Senior Evidence Advisor and that success and learnings are communicated effectively. This includes:

- Feedback on efficacy of training approaches to Senior Evidence Advisor. E.g. What works, what are the capacity gaps and what needs to be adapted?

- Providing feedback on state priorities to Senior Evidence Advisor
- MPDSR reporting
- Identifying opportunities for sharing lessons learned and tools, and dissemination of the programme results
- Monitoring functionality of SLAMs and MPDSR committees and other coalitions where relevant
- Liaising with stakeholders committed to strengthening evidence, advocacy and accountability in Nigeria and working closely with partners in the state to institutionalize E4A-MamaYe supported activities in official structures and where relevant, represent E4A-MamaYe at state level meetings.
- Track progress in the state against programme indicators.
- Monitor progress of work plan to ensure activities in the State are on track and regularly report on progress to the Senior Evidence Advisor
- Communications
 - Interact with relevant local government departments and health professionals to strengthen maternal and perinatal death review processes;
 - Communicate and share lessons using social media

Delivery of E4A-MamaYe work plan

You will be required to act independently to undertake overall project management at State level, identifying partners, interacting with them and when needed, manage supplier contracts in close liaison with team members in Abuja and London, and monitoring and evaluation. You will:

- Develop a work plan and budget in Niger State, coordinating activities of the programme team and consultants (and engaging in trouble-shooting where necessary) to support the smooth implementation of the programme;
- Lead implementation of the Niger State E4A-MamaYe workplan, coordinating activities with advocacy coalitions, and consultants (and engaging in trouble-shooting where necessary) to support the smooth implementation of the programme. Take responsibility for ensuring the workplan is delivered on time and to budget and track progress against indicators, in collaboration with the Senior Evidence Advisor;
- Provide technical input to overall E4A-MamaYe workplans and strategies, suggesting what works to achieve programme objectives;
- Liaise with staff from the host agency.
- State level filing and knowledge management of Dropbox.

You will report to the Country Lead whilst maintaining regular technical communication with other E4A-MamaYe colleagues. Your line manager will support you through the appraisal system and setting of annual objectives (professional and personal). Team reporting arrangements will be reviewed if any change in team staffing occurs.

Technical support will be provided to you by your line manager: the Country Lead, Senior Advisors in Abuja as well as the Technical Support Unit in London, who will help ensure you have the support necessary to deliver your objectives. You will be expected to work closely with these colleagues on technical and work planning issues, contribute to the country workplan and strategies, and ensure that State-level programme indicators are met.

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.

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications		
Bachelor's in sociology, anthropology, social statistics or a related subject	✓	
Postgraduate degree in public health or other relevant subject		✓
Experience		
Considerable experience in RNMCH program implementation at facility and community levels	✓	
Significant experience of engagement with government at State level and/ or a background working within government	✓	
Ability to deliver training modules that link quality of care data to policy, prioritisation and budget processes	✓	
Experience in advocacy and in analysing and presenting data for use in decision-making, action, accountability and/ or advocacy	✓	
Experience of packaging and communicating information for different audiences, and on different platforms (e.g. print/web/mobile/broadcast)	✓	
Experience leading a team and achieving results in tight deadlines		✓
Technical understanding and experience working with the MPDSR system		✓
Experience supporting or working with advocacy coalitions, SLAMs or other accountability mechanisms	✓	
Technical knowledge of political and budgeting processes and legislation at national and State level (relevant to health)	✓	
Experience undertaking organizational capacity assessments		✓
Skills and attributes		
Strong skills to deliver training modules to different target audiences (local government, CHMT, CSOs)	✓	
Proven ability to engage and build relationships with technical and non-technical partners at multiple levels, to ensure high quality deliverables	✓	
Strong understanding of government planning and budgeting cycles	✓	
Knowledge of Reproductive Maternal Newborn Child Adolescent Health	✓	
Ability to plan and manage work in a highly organised way and with minimal external supervision (project management)	✓	
Strong written/ verbal communication skills, and effective interpersonal style	✓	
Proficiency with social media, reporting and blogging		✓
M&E expertise	✓	✓

Commitment to reducing maternal and newborn mortality in Nigeria		
Other requirements		
Commitment to equal opportunities	✓	
Excellent command of oral and written English	✓	
Willingness to work full-time in Niger State	✓	