



Position Title: Tanzania HIV Impact Survey (THIS) Laboratory Advisor (1 position)

Reports to: THIS Project Director
Supervises: THIS Field Laboratory Supervisors; Designated Laboratory Technologists; Return of Results /Active Linkage to Care (ALTC) Officer
Employment Type: Full-time
Job Location: Dar es Salaam
Travel: Up to 70% in intervention districts outside of job location

Overall Job Function:

The Tanzania HIV Impact Survey (THIS) is a national population-level HIV impact assessment (PHIA) conducted with support from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and technical assistance through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and ICAP at Columbia University. THIS is being led by the Government of Tanzania (GoT) through Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS) and Zanzibar AIDS Commission (ZAC), and the Ministries of Health (MoH) of Mainland and Zanzibar, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the Office of Chief Government Statistician (OCGS), and the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG). The survey will be implemented by NBS, OCGS, and ICAP in collaboration with local partners, including the National Institute of Medical Research (NIMR), the Zanzibar Institute of Health Research (ZAHRI), Public Health Laboratories, the National AIDS Control Program (NACP), and the Zanzibar Integrated HIV, Hepatitis, Tuberculosis and Leprosy Program (ZIHHTLP).

Reporting to the THIS Project Director, the THIS Laboratory Advisor will be responsible for overseeing the laboratory component of THIS, a national population-level HIV impact assessment (PHIA) in Tanzania. The Laboratory Advisor will also work closely with National Public Health Laboratories, laboratory partners, CDC, Ministries of Health, PORALG, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and the Office of Chief Government Statistician (OCGS), and survey teams to strengthen the laboratory systems for the survey and ensure that laboratory samples are correctly collected, processed, and transported in a quality-assured manner and that results are returned timely.

Specific Responsibilities and Duties:

- Support implementation of all laboratory-related aspects of the THIS project
- Take lead in hiring, capacitating, and managing a team of laboratory staff and Return of Results and Active Linkage to Care officers.
- Collaborate with the THIS Survey Coordinator to develop a plan for the opening and closing of satellite laboratories according to the field deployment plan.
- Participate actively in field monitoring of laboratory activities by conducting regular visits of the field teams and satellite labs during data collection
- Prepare weekly performance reports of laboratory survey activities during the data collection period.
- Provide ongoing quality oversight to laboratory testing in accordance with the approved laboratory processes guidelines, training materials and standard operating procedures (SOPs)
- In coordination with the THIS Senior Surveys Advisor and lab partners, coordinate and manage all laboratory-related operations and logistics for the training
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- Ensure laboratory incidents are documented and reported timely and discrepant results are being resolved as per SOP.
- Review weekly laboratory reports provided by the national laboratory partner, and assist the THIS Project Director with preparing regular progress reports

- Review the development and implementation of QA/QC procedures for point of care testing including HIV rapid tests and any other tests as defined in the protocol and conducted by the laboratory subcontractor in the survey
- Review the development and implementation of QA/QC procedures for the collection, processing, and storage of other survey-related laboratory specimens by the laboratory partner as specified in the protocol
- Ensure laboratory specimen data are correctly captured in the survey database and assist with routine data analysis and interpretation of laboratory results to improve/streamline laboratory procedures and systems
- Develop and manage strategies to ensure timely return of results to survey participants
- Represent ICAP in discussions with the host government and national stakeholders and assess ways in which national capacity to process samples can be developed and strengthened
- Liaise with laboratory technical teams in-country, regionally, ICAP NY headquarters and CDC
- Perform any other tasks assigned by the supervisor

Qualifications, Knowledge, and Skills:

- **Required**
 - ✓ **Education:** Master's degree or doctoral level qualification in laboratory sciences
 - ✓ **Technical Experience:** Minimum 5 years' work experience providing laboratory technical expertise in HIV surveys, research, evaluations, or programs
 - ✓ **Managerial Experience:** Minimum 3 years' supervising laboratory teams in field. Experience in supervising survey-related activities and teams highly preferred.
- Extensive knowledge and experience in design, implementation, and management of laboratory services in HIV programs
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills with fluency in English required and Kiswahili preferred.
- Strong computer skills (MS Excel, Word, and PowerPoint at minimum) with proficiency with laboratory related data management systems
- Experience with laboratory quality management systems (quality assurance, control, and improvement)
- Extensive knowledge in Tanzania laboratory system, and related stakeholders
- Ability to provide high quality technical assistance and lead and work with a diverse team
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision and strong problem-solving skills
- Ability to work under pressure, demonstrate creativity and adaptability in developing new ideas to solve problems
- Flexibility to work after normal working hours and on weekends with significant travel outside of duty station