



Scope of Work



Country:	South Africa – Bloemfontein
Host site:	University of the Free State, Centre for Health Systems Research and Development
Partner organization:	State University of New York (SUNY), Downstate Medical Center
Assignment title:	Health Research Advisor
Length of assignment:	3-6 months

OVERVIEW OF VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENT

Tuberculosis is the most common and serious opportunistic infection in individuals living with HIV in Sub-Saharan Africa. In South Africa's Free State Province, more than 70 percent of all patients with active TB are also infected with HIV. Despite high rates of co-morbidity, however, only 65 percent of tuberculosis patients are tested for HIV.

The American International Health Alliance (AIHA) manages the HIV/AIDS Twinning Center, a program funded by the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and designed to strengthen human and organizational capacity to provide quality HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment services through volunteer-driven activities. In September 2007, the Twinning Center established a partnership linking University of the Free State's Centre for Health Systems Research and Development (CHSRD) and the State University of New York (SUNY), Downstate Medical Center to study the evolving HIV-TB epidemic and develop appropriate, effective responses to the public health challenges co-infection presents.

With the goal of building the institutional capacity needed to translate HIV and TB research into scientific data that can effectively inform related health policies and practices, partners are collaborating to strengthen CHSRD's data management capabilities, as well as its ability to efficiently disseminate research findings in Free State and throughout South Africa.

In-country placement site:

The Centre for Health Systems Research and Development, University of the Free State is committed to efficiency, equity and equality in health and health care. It strives to contribute constructively towards optimising health services and the health of the people of the Free State Province and South. Three main goals of the Centre are to (1) meet the need for social scientific research and development work skills in the field of health and healthcare; (2) generate and disseminate research findings and information in respect of health and healthcare; and (3) assist in developing and restructuring health systems with a view to enhancing equity, equality, effectiveness and efficiency. Within the framework of these broad goals, a particular focal CHSRD project supported by the Twinning Center is titled: *Non-uptake of HIV counselling and*

testing by TB patients in the Free State: research to inform intervention. The preliminary of fact-finding report of this project is available at www.ufs.ac.za/tbhctreport.

Although the CHSRD has a small and relatively young research staff complement, it has 17-year record of successful research and development work in the Free State and farther afield. The Centre has a long-standing collaborative relationship with the Free State Department of Health. In recent years the Centre has been increasingly undertaking longer-term and more in-depth research.

Length of the assignment: 3-6 months, full time
(8 hours per day; 5 days per week)

Name and title of supervisor: Christo Heunis, Prof, CHSR&D

Name and title of counterparts: Katinka De Wet, Dr, CHSR&D
Michelle Engelbrecht, Dr, CHSR&D

Volunteer qualifications:

Required:

- Appropriate advanced degree in research-oriented area (epidemiology, public health, sociology, psychology)
- At least three years public health research experience
- Familiarity with quantitative data collection and analysis
- Ability to develop data cleaning and storage systems and create databases
- Experience writing reports and research articles
- Ability to provide training to staff on research and data analysis techniques
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to work with staff at all levels
- Strong written and oral communication skills in fluent English

Preferred:

- Previous experience working with multi-disciplinary research teams in a developing country
- Previous research experience in the fields of TB, HIV/AIDS or TB-HIV/AIDS

OBJECTIVE OF THE VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENT

Objective: To strengthen the research, data analysis and publishing capacities of CHSR&D staff.

ACTIVITIES OF THE VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENT

Volunteer activities:

- Provide ongoing training/mentorship on research design
- Provide ongoing training/mentorship on instrument development

- Provide ongoing training/mentorship on fieldwork management and delivery of quality data
- Provide ongoing training/mentorship on data computerization
- Provide ongoing training/mentorship on data analysis
- Provide ongoing training/mentorship on presentation and publication
- Mentor/contribute to professional development of CHSR&D researchers

EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENT

Deliverables:

- Organizational assessment of the placement site
- Monthly reports to host site and AIHA's HIV/AIDS Twinning Center tracking experiences, successes, and challenges
- Complete a CHSR&D researcher development plan with recommendations for continued/follow-up training
- CHSR&D-co-authored research publications and scientific journal articles (1-3)
- Final report

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTICIPATING STAKEHOLDERS

Volunteer:

- Complete the scope of work in the timeframe outlined
- Complete organizational assessment within the first two weeks of assignment
- Complete monthly monitoring and evaluation reports
- Submit a post-assignment final report and participate in an exit interview
- Interact with clients, community members and local staff in a manner that is consistent with social, cultural, and traditional norms and values
- Adhere to the AIHA Volunteer Code of Conduct

Partner organization/host site:

- Provide resources necessary for the volunteer to carry out assignment successfully
- Submit performance assessment reports on the volunteer to the Twinning Center

AIHA Twinning Center:

- Conduct pre-assignment orientation and training for volunteer and placement site staff
- Provide volunteer with safe housing, monthly allowances, medical evacuation coverage, and travel-related costs to and from placement site
- Provide ongoing support of volunteer as needed