Chercheur

Clinical coordinator

Category A – Post doctorate/junior researcher, Epidemiology, clinical research

Short-term contract: 18 months

Type of employment: BPA/ Biology and health

The occupational structure that you will join

Within the research unit TRANSVIHMI (Translational research on HIV and infectious diseases), you will participate to the EDCTP-3 research project Decide-TB for "Validation of treatment decision algorithms for childhood tuberculosis at low levels of healthcare in high burden countries - effectiveness, implementation, and integration into policy and practices ». You will be based at the IRD regional delegation of Occitanie in Montpellier with regular project visits to Zambia and Mozambique where the project takes place.

The project

Tuberculosis is one of the leading causes of death in resource-limited countries. Approximately, 10 million of people are sick with tuberculosis every year including 1 million of children. Only 40% of children suffering from the disease are diagnosed and can access treatment. The main reason is the difficulty to diagnose tuberculosis in children who are often unable to produce sputum for the microbiological diagnosis of tuberculosis and often present paucibacillary form of the disease resulting in lower sensitivity of existing tests. Therefore, the majority of children started on treatment are started empirically based on clinical presentation. This results in delays of diagnosis the disease with a risk of missing cases, which can be fatal in children < 2 years, children living with HIV (CLHIV) or children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM). To help clinicians, especially at peripheral level of health care of high tuberculosis incidence countries, the World Health Organization (WHO) is recommended the use of treatment decisional algorithm (TDA). In March 2022, WHO suggested two specific TDAs for use in settings with and without access to chest X-ray, with a single diagnostic approach in both the general paediatric population and high-risk groups (age <2, CLHIV, and SAM). WHO has stated that external validation of these algorithms is an urgent priority in view of the conditional recommendation. **In this context, the general objective of the Decide-TB project is to generate evidence for the implementation of a comprehensive TDA-based approach for TB in children living in high TB-burden and resource-limited countries, at district hospital and primary health care level levels, and to facilitate integration of this evidence within practices and policies.**

You will part of the team of the workpackage (WP) 4 of the project that aims to ensure high quality clinical management including screening, diagnosis, and treatment decisions for children using the TDA-based approach at different levels of care and to contribute to uptake in clinical practices at country and global level. You will be the clinical coordinator of the WP4 under the supervision of Maryline Bonnet from IRD and Chishala Chabala from University of Zambia who are co-leading the WP4.

Your mission

Under the responsibility of Maryline Bonnet, research director at the TransVIH MI research unit, your mission will be to ensure the good implementation of the WP4 in Zambia and Mozambique. You will contribute to the integration of the Treatment Decisional Algorithm for tuberculosis in children within the health system in Zambia and Mozambique that will be evaluated with a controlled cluster-randomized trial.

Your main missions are :

L'IRD s'inscrit dans une démarche d'égalité professionnelle entre les femmes et les hommes et favorise l'insertion et le maintien dans l'emploi de ses agents en situation de handicap.

- Organisation of two country workshops in Zambia and Mozambique for the adaptation of the TDA to local context and prepare its evaluation in several project intervention districts
- Develop job aids, training material and procedures for the implementation of the TDA in each country
- Participate in the selection, training and coordination of clinical mentors in each country who will support site clinicians for the use of the TDA.
- Support national tuberculosis program in the implementation of the TDA in each country
- Develop a medical chart for childhood TB management and data collection on the district health information system tool.

Profile we are looking for

You have the following skills:

- Clinical skills in infectious diseases, preferably in tuberculosis and paediatrics.
- Project management: writing procedures, job aids, training, planning of activities.
- Fluent in English (oral and written). Knowledge of Portuguese is an advantage.

You have the following human qualities:

- Autonomy, good organisation.
- Ability to work in a team and with international partners.
- Interest in field work

You have a **medical doctor diploma with at least 1 year of clinical or operational research experience and 2 years' experience of working in resource-limited countries**.

Short missions of 2-3 weeks in Zambia and Mozambique are expected 2-3 times a year.

IRD

IRD in 30 seconds : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGjf-eaXNVc

Application deadline: April 16 2023

Expected start: June 1st 2023

CV and motivation letter to be sent to recrutement.dr-occitanie@ird.fr

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