



Senior Technical Advisor – Verbal Autopsy

Vital Strategies

Vital Strategies, based in New York City, is an international public health organization. We develop and oversee programs to strengthen public health systems and address leading causes of morbidity and mortality, providing expertise in project implementation and management, strategic communications, epidemiology and surveillance, and other core public health capacities. Our specific programs include road safety, obesity prevention, tobacco control, and activities to strengthen public health data systems and the use of public health data to guide policy and decision-making. Activities are based in low and middle-income countries and cities in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Pacific. Please visit our website at www.vitalstrategies.org to find out more about our work.

The Position

This position supports the Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative which aims to enhance public health data collection and use in low- and middle-income countries. The goal of the initiative is to ensure that a billion more people live in countries where data are used to steer public policy and program decisions. Under the Initiative, Vital Strategies, in partnership with other global public health organizations, is implementing a multi-year program to improve civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) in numerous countries and municipalities in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the Pacific. Vital Strategies has full responsibility for provision of technical assistance to several of these.

The CRVS Improvement Program involve interventions designed to improve the registration of births and deaths, improve the availability and quality of cause of death information for both facility- and home-based events, and improve the timeliness of available vital statistics information and reports.

The **Senior Technical Advisor – Verbal Autopsy** will serve as Vital Strategies in-house expert on all verbal autopsy-related activities we support under this Initiative. This includes having up-to-date knowledge of and staying current with developments in verbal autopsy technical resources, field and analytic methods, and technology solutions for all aspects of data collection and analysis. In addition, the STA - VA will provide expert guidance and in-person technical assistance at the country level.

Specific Duties

- Provide advice and thought partnership to Senior Program Officers in the development of country work plans that include VA interventions.
- Provide remote and in-country verbal autopsy related technical assistance in support of country work plan implementation
- Work with Senior Program Officers to develop SOWs for and manage the provision of verbal autopsy related technical assistance by external consultants

- Maintain up-to-date knowledge of all aspects of verbal autopsy implementation in the D4H countries supported by Vital Strategies
- Lead the development and actively contribute to internal and external best-practice guidance for the implementation of VA in a CRVS system; including but not limited to guidance on verbal autopsy data quality review and analysis and interpretation of verbal autopsy data
- Contribute to further development of verbal autopsy related tools, including the algorithms and other IT tools needed for automated verbal autopsy using electronic data collection, through collaboration with internal and external experts
- Represent Vital Strategies and the Initiative on the WHO Verbal Autopsy Reference Group
- Support implementation research as resources permit
- Travel in-country as needed (up to 20% to Latin America, Africa, and Asia and the Pacific)
- Perform other duties for the Director or Deputy Director – Technical Implementation as required

Qualities and Qualifications

- PhD or MPH Degree required
- At least 5 years of experience in the technical management of verbal autopsy implementation
- Experience in training verbal autopsy interviewers a plus
- Experienced in working collaboratively and remotely with internal and external team members to meet expectations and deliver the necessary technical assistance in a timely manner
- Ability to work independently and self-directed as well as across cultures and in a team of a broad range of government, academic and other stakeholders
- Proven ability to manage multiple ongoing tasks
- Patient and adaptable to rapidly changing environments
- Excellent interpersonal communication skills (both written and verbal)
- Capable of quickly understanding and analyzing complex problems and situations and identifying solutions to achieve objectives
- Detail-orientated, self-starter with a positive attitude, and willingness to learn
- Experienced in ODK and R or python
- Knowledge of DHIS2 a plus
- Proficient user of Microsoft Office suite (MS Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint)
- Possess a genuine interest in the mission and vision of Vital Strategies
- Spanish, French, and / or other language proficiency a plus
- Work experience on multiple continents a plus
- Willingness to be based in New York City or Singapore



How to Apply

Please send CV and a cover letter, including salary expectations, to hr@vitalstrategies.org indicating the position applied for in the subject line. Closing date for applications is **July 14 , 2019**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Vital Strategies offers competitive compensation for full-time employees and pro-rata for part-time employees based on prior experience and qualifications as well as comprehensive benefits in order to best support our people. Benefits we offer include: health, dental and vision insurance where Vital Strategies pays generously towards the cost of these benefits for employees and their families/domestic partners; 15 paid vacation days (rising to 20 paid vacation days from fourth year of service and 25 from seventh year onwards), 13 paid federal holidays and paid days off between the Christmas and New Year's holidays; paid sick days; retirement savings plan; commuter benefits; and basic life and personal accident insurance.