



Technical Officer, Health Security and Event-based Surveillance
Resolve to Save Lives
Abuja, Nigeria

Vital Strategies is a US-based international public health organization working in more than 70 countries to strengthen public health systems and address leading causes of morbidity and mortality.

Resolve to Save Lives is a global health initiative of Vital Strategies that since 2017 has been working closely with governments, international organizations, community organizations, academic and other partners in more than 40 low and middle-income countries to reduce preventable deaths from cardiovascular disease and strengthen national capacity to prevent, detect and respond to epidemic threats. For more information about our Prevent Epidemics and Cardiovascular Health initiatives, visit: <https://www.resolvetosavelives.org/>, <https://preventepidemics.org/>, and <https://linkscommunity.org/>

In Nigeria, Resolve to Save Lives (RTSL) Prevent Epidemics (PE) activities are aimed at advancement of Federal-level efforts and initiation of state-level initiatives to improve capacities as measured by the JEE/SPAR tools and timeliness of detection and response to outbreaks. Interventions are aimed at providing enabling support through technical assistance for implementation of the National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) /REDISSE strategic planning and implementation support; mobilization of global resources (e.g., Gavi, GFATM, World Bank REDISSE project) for emergency preparedness; provision of technical assistance on financing at Federal level and state level. RTSL also provides funding for programs in laboratory quality assurance, specimen transportation, event-based surveillance, state-level data use and emergency operations strengthening.

RTSL is also collaborating with the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to strengthen national health security and a Subnational Emergency Preparedness and Response Capacity Building (SERCB) Project focused on Kebbi, Kano and Enugu states. The goal of SERCB is to strengthen emergency preparedness and response at the state level. A key deliverable of the SERCB project is improving the use of data for decision making and action at the state level to be able to actively manage outbreaks. This is critical towards strengthening States' capacity to prevent, detect and respond to disease outbreaks and using an effective Information Management System (IMS). The services of eHealth Africa (eHA) have been retained to provide technical support to the state public health team and the state public health EOC. At the end of the project, the state public health team should be able to deliver prototypes of data products, integrate the various data sources into the EOC data workflow, support automation of public health reports, and make the state Emergency Operations Centre the data hub where both epidemic and contextual data (e.g. IDSR/SORMAS, Immunization, GIS, logistics data) will be used for public health decisions.

Overall Role:

The Technical Officer, Health Security and Event-based Surveillance will contribute to the development of country level strategies aimed at strengthening International Health Regulations (IHR) related activities within the Prevent Epidemics Team at Resolve to Save Lives and the Rapid Mortality Surveillance (RMS) team at Vital Strategies through working with national and subnational stakeholders. Additionally, the incumbent will provide technical support for the implementation of the event-based surveillance (EBS) system at the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and support capacity building of EBS at the sub-national levels in selected states. This position will be based in Abuja with some limited travel to the field. The Technical Officer will report to the Country Representative in the Nigeria Office. They will receive technical supervision from the Senior Technical Advisor (Prevent Epidemics) at the RTSL HQ.

Specific Duties:

International Health Regulations (IHR)

- Support the review and implementation of health security assessment tool deployed to assess health security capacities at the sub-national level
- Facilitate the conduct of sub-national level assessment using the adapted health security assessment tool and identify priority areas for improvement across states
- Provide technical assistance to the responsible persons within the IHR National Focal Point to ensure national compliance with the provisions of the International Health Regulations (2005)
- Build capacity of technical teams at the national and state levels to ensure consistent implementation of the health security assessments at sub-national level
- Liaise with relevant government officials and partners on a continuous basis to ensure coordination, identification, and development of strategies to resolve capacity gaps for the successful planning, implementation and strengthening of health security capacities in Nigeria especially at the sub-national level
- Provide technical leadership to support the use of the health assessment tool and other IHR Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks at sub-national level
- Support the execution of strategies and initiatives to fully implement the National Action Plan on Health Security (NAPHS) and the recommendations from the mid-term Joint External Evaluation (JEE) conducted in 2019

Event-based Surveillance (EBS)

- Support the coordination and implementation of NCDC's event-based surveillance activities, including media scanning, event verification, risk assessment, report writing, and report dissemination
- Strengthen the capacities of event based surveillance teams at the state and LGA Level in the RTSL supported states for the effective and sustained surveillance of epidemic prone diseases through capacity building on field investigation, detection, data management, and

rapid response to epidemics and health outbreaks in line with the integrated disease surveillance and response system (IDSR)

- Facilitate the development of guidelines, tools, and indicators for effective disease surveillance at the national, subnational and community levels based on established national guidelines
- Enable the implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR) including participation in the process of verification and risk assessment on reported public health events
- Promote the effective coordination for rapid assessment, surveillance, and response activities for epidemic-prone diseases at national and sub-national levels and ensure timeliness of response to outbreaks
- Provide technical guidance for the management of a unified information system (e.g. SitAware) to ensure availability of core EBS data and other information on surveillance-related technical areas such as: case incidence; case management surveillance data; laboratory surveillance data; contact tracing, etc.

Mortality Surveillance (Routine and Rapid MS)

- Coordinate the development of a mortality surveillance reporting mechanism linked to the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) reporting system
- Facilitate the identification and active dissemination of best-practice guidance for the implementation of Mortality Surveillance in the country and maintain situational awareness of evolving issues
- Coordinate communication with VS/RTSL internal teams and external stakeholders with interest in mortality surveillance, civil registrations and vital statistics in Nigeria
- Map, identify and engage stakeholders and partners with linkages to mortality surveillance, civil registration & vital statistics reporting in the country as well as partners from external agencies and represent Vital Strategies at RMS technical events and meetings

Qualifications, Skills and Experience Required:

- MBBS / MD with at least four years' experience working on surveillance and health security or public health program implementation at the national level or other health related qualification with a Master's in Public Health and at least six years' experience implementing public health programs
- Further training in epidemiology, postgraduate training in community medicine or public health will be an advantage
- Experience working on communicable diseases and responding to outbreaks locally and internationally
- Demonstrated knowledge of technical and programmatic aspects of the international health regulations, indicator or event-based surveillance for infectious diseases and epidemic prone diseases
- Proven ability to identify and quickly address challenges or obstacles
- Training and/or technical support provision experience

- Demonstrated experience in tools and/or guidance development
- Strong data analytical skills
- Demonstrated experience managing partnerships
- Exceptional inter-personal skills and ability to communicate and work effectively with policy makers, government officials, stakeholders, and partners at the national and state levels
- Solid report writing skills
- Excellent communication and presentation skills
- Willingness and ability to travel to program sites

To Apply: Please submit your resume and a cover letter to recruitment@christopherkings.com and recruitment@ng.christopherkings.com indicating in the subject line the position you are applying for. Applications will be received until the position is filled.

