

Call for applications: Qualitative Researcher/Project coordinator

CHORUS which stands for Community-led Responsive and Effective Urban Health Systems is a research program consortium that brings together health researchers from Africa, South Asia and the UK. The aim of the consortium is to address urban health challenges in poor urban communities. The project adopts a demand-driven approach that brings together stakeholders from the community to higher level policy makers to identify and find solutions to health challenges in urban poor.

The Ghana partner in the consortium (CHORUS-GHANA) seeks to address the following research objective 'Linking communities, local government and health workers to support life cycle health promotion and preventive policies, programmes and services at the household and community level in urban poor neighbourhoods in Ghana'.

CHORUS GHANA is thus calling for application for the position of a qualitative researcher/project coordinator.

Position Summary

The qualitative researcher/project coordinator will work with the Senior Researchers, Research Assistants, and other Junior Researchers to execute the project. They must be able to function somewhat independently and participate in design, organization and conduct of the CHORUS Ghana research project. This includes implementing research using established scientific protocols and procedures; data collection, data analysis, summarizing findings, disseminating results to academic and non-academic audiences. Where needed, they must also be able to provide supervision and guidance to research assistants. The qualitative researcher/project manager will also be responsible to work with the Senior Researchers to coordinate project activities, ensuring all parts of the project are organised and progressing according to predetermined timelines and deliverables.

Specific Duties

- i. Coordinate project activities
- ii. Assist with the design and implementation of research protocols.
- iii. Assists with collection, preparation and analysis of research data;
- iv. Generate clear and timely records of research work.
- v. Understand relevant scientific literature
- vi. Supervise research assistants on the project
- vii. Participate in training and mentoring of research assistants as needed
- viii. Assist with ordering and procurement of supplies and equipment for research
- ix. Troubleshoot and customize research tools to respond to research questions

- x. Analyze and present data for presentation in academic (research) and non research audiences, including at conferences, stakeholder forums, policy dialogues, preparation and publication of manuscripts, blogs and policy briefs
- xi. Attend and present at relevant consortium wide meetings
- xii. Maintain good relationships and communicate regularly with relevant stakeholders in the municipalities and communities where the project is being conducted (including but not limited to local governments, health workers, opinion leaders, policymakers, community members)
- xiii. Ensure all activities related to the dissemination of the needs assessment, co-creation and formative evaluation are proceeding according to agreed upon work plans and deliverable dates

The applicant must have a research masters or PhD in the following or related social Science Fields-Medical Anthropology, Sociology, Psychology, Health Policy and Systems. Previous experience in project coordination will be an advantage.

This position covers a 3-year period from January 2023 to December 2025, renewable annually based on performance. Successful applicant will be required to commit over 80% his/her time to the project.

Applications must include:

- A cover letter explaining the candidate's interest in the position
- An up-to-date CV that contains information on:
 - Educational training and qualifications with names of institution and dates of graduation
 - Work experience
 - Any publications including masters or doctoral thesis dissertations
 - Language fluency
 - Names, email and telephone contact of 3 references of whom one must have supervised the applicant in an academic capacity and one in a work /professional capacity

All applications must be submitted to Dr. Adana Nwameme aunwameme@ug.edu.gh with a copy to gcaryeetey@ug.edu.gh and lauren.jean.wallace@gmail.com.

Applications must be received before **5pm Accra time on Friday 30th December 2022**

Job description – Qualitative Researcher/Project Manager -CHORUS GHANA

The CHORUS Ghana project

CHPS was adopted in Ghana in 2005 as a national policy for the provision of primary health care services, with a focus on improving equity in access to basic health services, efficiency and responsiveness to clients and also to develop effective intersectoral collaboration. The programme has brought about health improvements in rural communities but the unique organizational structures and epidemiological characteristics found in the urban context impede the full implementation of aspects of the rural CHPS. The objective of the project (which is implemented by researchers from University of Ghana School of Public Health as part of the CHORUS – Community-led Responsive and Effective Urban Health systems – FCDO-funded Research Consortium) is to co-produce with stakeholders, design, implement and evaluate a package of interventions that will enable sustainable provision of life cycle health promotion and prevention programs and services at the household and community level in urban poor neighborhoods in Ghana.

This is a mixed methods study that employs a Participatory Action Research approach. This study is conducted in 4 phases: (1) Problem Diagnosis/Needs Assessment (2) Planning and Co-Creation (3) Implementation and (4) Formative Evaluation. Activities are implemented in 4 purposively selected communities in two municipalities (Ashaiman and La-Nkwantanang Madina) in Greater Accra region. The needs assessment process is currently underway. The study population are local governments, health service providers, health policymakers, and individual community members. Data collection methods include stakeholder mapping and analysis, health facility surveys, analysis of routine data, Transect Walks, Focus Group Discussions, Key Informant Interviews and, stakeholder validation, and stakeholder co-creation forums.

This study works to effectively identify, reach and engage poor, vulnerable and marginalized urban communities in the design and implementation of relevant, affordable and cost-effective interventions to strengthen the capacities of key stakeholders and their organisations and improve promotion, prevention and first level clinical care for urban poor populations in the context of an urban CHPS program.

Our principal research objective is: **To co-produce with stakeholders, implement and evaluate a package of interventions that enable sustainable provision of life cycle health promotion and prevention programs and services at the household and community level for urban poor populations in Ghana.**

In the context of our primary research objective, our specific research objectives are:

- To describe service availability and readiness, utilisation, management and finance practices that support the provision of health promotion, prevention and first level clinical care services for urban poor populations in public and private sector, including the CHPS program;
- To describe and analyse factors and the inter-relationship of these factors that influence awareness, access to and utilization of the CHPS program by urban poor populations;
- To assess the existing individual capacity assets and gaps of key non academic stakeholders (community members, frontline health workers and managers, local government decision makers and decentralized departments of relevance to urban health e.g. community development, water, sanitation etc) to engage in intervention co-production, implementation, monitoring and evaluation for effective life cycle provision of health promotion, prevention and first level clinical care for urban poor populations in the context of an urban CHPS program;
- To assess the organizational capacity assets, gaps and capacity strengthening needs of the research team in UG-SPH, the city level local government and health system in the research area to support intervention co-production, policy and program development implementation, monitoring and evaluation for effective life cycle provision of health promotion, prevention and first level clinical care for urban poor populations in the context of an urban CHPS program;
- To co-produce/create with key stakeholders an urban CHPS program design / package of interventions that will enable the sustainable provision of life cycle health promotion and prevention programs and services at the household and community level to improve health among the urban poor;
- To co-create with key stakeholders and their organizations a capacity strengthening program, within available resources; to address identified individual and organizational gaps in capacity to support intervention co-production, policy and program development implementation, monitoring and evaluation for effective life cycle provision of health promotion, prevention and first level clinical care for urban poor populations in the context of an urban CHPS program;
- To conduct a formative evaluation of implementation of the co-produced /created intervention(s) to understand how and why it works (or not) in context to inform a continuous quality improvement process to arrive at the final design of the interventions.

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Hours of work:

This position is 80% of Full Time Hours.

Reports to:

- Project Co-PI, Senior Researchers

Supervises:

- Research Assistants

Relates with (colleagues)

Other researchers who are part of the CHORUS Research Programme Consortium in all four countries (Nepal, Nigeria, Bangladesh)

Specific Duties

- Assist with the design and implementation of research protocols;
- Assists with collection, preparation and analysis of research data; maintain computer database of research data;
- Generate clear and timely records of research work.
- Understand relevant scientific literature
- Supervise research assistants on the project
- Participate in training and mentoring of research assistants as needed
- Assist with ordering and procurement of supplies and equipment for research
- Troubleshoot and customize research tools to respond to research questions
- Analyze and present data for presentation in academic (research) and non research audiences, including at conferences, stakeholder forums, policy dialogues, preparation and publication of manuscripts, blogs and policy briefs
- Attend and present at relevant consortium wide meetings
- Maintain good relationships and communicate regularly with relevant stakeholders in the municipalities and communities where the project is being conducted (including but not limited to local governments, health workers, opinion leaders, policymakers, community members)
- Ensure all activities related to the dissemination of the needs assessment, co-creation and formative evaluation are proceeding according to agreed upon work plans and deliverable dates

Minimum Qualifications

- Masters (or a PhD) in a relevant social science e.g. Sociology, Medical Anthropology, Psychology, Health Economics, Health Policy and Systems
- Demonstrated ability to employ and use qualitative research design for data gathering, analysis and dissemination
- Experience with conducting quantitative research is an asset, but is not required
- Fluency in written and spoken English
- Fluency in local languages will be an advantage but does not exclude a candidate from consideration

Location of Office

Ghana. Department of Health Policy, Planning and Management, School of Public Health, University of Ghana

Occasional travel may be required