



In Search of Better Health

KENYA MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Research Officer (HSU) KEMRI - Wellcome Research Programme Nairobi

The Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) is a state corporation established through the Science and Technology (Amendment) Act of 1979, as the national body responsible for carrying out health research in Kenya. KEMRI's vision is "to be a leading centre of excellence in research for human health," and its mission is "to improve human health and quality of life through research, capacity building, innovation, and service delivery."

The KEMRI-Wellcome Research Programme (KWRP) is a partnership between KEMRI, Wellcome, and the University of Oxford. The Programme established in 1989, has evolved from conducting research in the immunology and epidemiology of malaria to a world class research institute conducting multi-disciplinary research that spans molecular biology to health systems and policy research.

The KEMRI-Wellcome Research Programme (KWRP) seeks to invite applications from experienced person to fill the following position;

Job Title: Research Officer(HSU)

Reference Number: KWTRP/26/RO-HSU/007

Employment Type: Full time

Category: Health Services Unit (HSU KWRP)

Country:Kenya

Location: Nairobi

JOB PURPOSE:

We are looking for a social science research officer to join the Health Systems and Research Ethics department at the KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme (KWTRP) in Nairobi. The post holder will work on studies examining vulnerabilities after a birth complication and transitions from hospital to home with an aim of co-designing strategies to strengthen neonatal post-discharge continuity of care. He/She will work closely with a team of researchers that utilize qualitative methods to explore and understand the experiences of mothers and families of hospitalized sick newborns as well as the realities of staff who care for the neonates and families in hospitals and primary care levels.

The post holder will work with the PI and other colleagues to conduct empiric work including primary data collection (non-participant observations, focus group discussions, narrative interviews and experience based-codesign with mothers, their families, and staff). He/she will also work together with other colleagues in Kenya and the University of Oxford to finalize methodological tools and construct the analysis. The post holder will also assist with

management and analysis of data and developing written outputs. S/he will also participate in related training activities and study workshops or meetings.

The post holder will contribute to wider social science research activities within the KWTRP and related research networks including presenting the work in various internal and external forums as needed.

DESCRIPTION:

Reports to: Study Principal Investigator.

Direct reports: None.

Indirect reports: Assistant Research Officer.

Budget and Resource Responsibility:

Responsible for a laptop computer, study phone, and one or more digital voice recorders used in this work.

Job Dimensions:

The primary responsibility will be to support qualitative research on pieces of work focused on post-discharge care of neonates.

The research activities will be carried out nationally, in hospitals in Kenya.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- i. To contribute to the development of research proposal as needed, including through reviewing literature and synthesising learning from reviews and supporting the development of data collection tools.
- ii. To support, and in designated instances take primary responsibility for; community sensitization, stakeholder engagement, data collection including, supporting planning for fieldwork, and managing all interactions with study participants in ways that positively support ethical conduct and the collection of high-quality data. Given the nature of the study, fieldwork might sometimes necessitate weekend work.
- iii. To contribute to the management and analysis of data from the study and take primary responsibility for analysis in designated areas.
- iv. To support the dissemination of study findings as necessary, including through the preparation of drafts of reports and manuscripts for publication; making presentations at scientific meetings, and supporting feedback to study participants.
- v. To actively contribute to developing their capacity in social science and related research methods, particularly for qualitative research. This includes engaging with a wide literature on relevant topics and social science methods, active participation in pieces of training provided, and focused efforts to continuously seek and act on feedback on performance.
- vi. To attend departmental and programme scientific meetings, including Programme seminars and regular meetings of the Social Science Group.
- vii. And any other duties that may be assigned from time to time.

QUALIFICATIONS:

The successful applicant will have:

- i. A Master's degree in a relevant subject such as Social Science & Humanities Anthropology or sociology-, from a recognized institution.
- ii. At least three(3) years of research experience, ideally including experience in collecting and analysing qualitative research data through interviews, focus group discussions and non-participant observations, health systems research, stakeholder engagement.
- iii. Evidence of ability to produce and publish research.
- iv. Computer literacy with proficiency in Microsoft applications.
- v. Knowledge of NVivo (qualitative analysis) software will be an added advantage.

DESIRABLE:

- i. Willingness to travel within Kenya and spend time conducting field work.
- ii. Excellent understanding of the Kenyan health system.
- iii. Experience of participatory research and co-design.
- iv. Excellent organisational and communication skills.
- v. Experience of engaging with stakeholders at community, hospital, county and national level.

COMPETENCIES:

- i. Good writing skills.
- ii. Good planning, organisation, and coordination skills.
- iii. Good presentation skills.
- iv. Ability to take and follow instructions, show initiative, keen to learn, and proactive with the ability to work under minimal supervision.
- v. Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- vi. Flexibility, adaptability, multi-tasking, and attention to detail.
- vii. Conscientiousness, timeliness, and willingness to work to meet deadlines.
- viii. Team working and ability to work in a multi-cultural environment.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT/CONDITIONS:

- Office-based.
- Fieldwork in selected counties.
- Willingness to travel throughout the country.

Working hours:

Requires flexibility in the hours worked, **it is highly likely that weekend work will be required given the nature of the study.**

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

All applications for roles in KEMRI and its partners (including KWRP) are centrally applied for using https://www.kemri.go.ke/e-recruitment_portal. To apply for this post, you must register as a user. Log into your account, then proceed to the vacancies, view the post and click on the button: **"Apply Now"**

Applications which should include your CV, Cover letter, copies of certified academic certificates, testimonials and other relevant documents should be made through KEMRI Website

Successful candidates will be required to provide the following: Certificate of good conduct,

Higher Education Loans Board compliance certificate, KRA Tax compliance certificate, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission clearance.

Applicants are required to state their current/last salary.

Applicants are required to provide a valid email address and telephone number for communication regarding interview invitations. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted. During the interview, shortlisted candidates must present the ORIGINALS of the following documents: National Identity Card or Passport, academic and professional certificates, academic transcripts, testimonials, a detailed curriculum vitae (CV), and a valid clearance certificate (Certificate of Good Conduct or its equivalent).

All the applications to be done through KEMRI Website [https://www.kemri.go.ke/e-recruitment portal](https://www.kemri.go.ke/e-recruitment-portal) on or before 27th May ,2026 by 12.00 p.m.

KEMRI IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER COMMITTED TO DIVERSITY; PERSONS WHO ARE ABLED DIFFERENTLY, WOMEN, YOUTH AND THOSE FROM MARGINALIZED AREAS ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY. DIRECT OR INDIRECT CANVASSING WILL LEAD TO AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATION. KEMRI DOES NOT CHARGE A FEE AT ANY STAGE OF ITS RECRUITMENT PROCESS INCLUDING APPLICATION, INTERVIEW AND PROCESSING OF OFFER LETTER. IF ASKED FOR A FEE, REPORT SUCH REQUEST IMMEDIATELY.