Leader for the MSF Task Force on Antibiotic Resistance (ABR)

Position: Leader for the MSF Task Force on Antibiotic Resistance (ABR)
Location: Any MSF Operational Centre location (Geneva, Brussels, Paris, Amsterdam or Barcelona).
Contract: Fixed-term at 100%
Duration: 24 months extensible
Starting date: March 2017

I. MSF INTERNATIONAL

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international, independent, medical humanitarian organisation that delivers emergency aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, healthcare exclusion and natural disasters. MSF offers assistance to people based only on need and irrespective of race, religion, gender or political affiliation.

MSF International is the legal entity that binds MSF’s 21 sections, 24 associations and other offices together. Based in Geneva, MSF International provides coordination, information and support to the MSF Movement, as well as implements international projects and initiatives as requested.

II. POSITION BACKGROUND

Resistance to acute bacterial infections is a rapidly growing problem. MSF is increasingly confronted with ABR in many of our projects, while realising that we are only aware of a fraction of the extent of the issue. Our microbial laboratory and diagnostic capacity in the field is still very limited and in most projects, the attention to ABR and what it entails is still fairly narrow. WHO and public health leaders now consider antibiotic resistance (ABR) as one of the main matters of concern for global public health.

In response to this and in order to coordinate MSF’s common commitment to this dossier, the MedOp platform (composed of the medical and operational directors of the Operational Centres) in 2015 decided to create a specific task-force on ABR. This task-force was requested to develop a detailed roadmap to improve the capacity to prevent, detect and manage ABR in the MSF projects. In 2016 a finalised roadmap was presented and approved, and it was decided to renew the mandate of the MSF ABR task-force to guide the implementation of the plan over a period of 4 years. Three main topics were identified as priorities in the roadmap: (1) Antibiotic stewardship and rational antibiotic prescription, (2) Diagnostic tools and ABR surveillance, (3) and IPC (Infection/Prevention/Control). For these 3 topics, specific subgroups of the TF were created.
To achieve the scope and ambition of this project, a new position was created to lead the task force.

III. PLACE IN THE ORGANISATION

The ABR task force Leader will be a full time position, for the duration of the task force mandate. The TF leader will report to the MedOp platform, through the Medical Director of OCP and the Operational Director of OCB.

IV. OBJECTIVES OF THE POSITION

The objectives of the position of ABR task force leader are to:
- Coordinate the further development and regular review of the ABR roadmap.
- Follow-up and support the implementation of the ABR roadmap across OCs.
- Provide close support to the leaders of the 3 subgroups (IPC, lab and diagnostics and AB stewardship) and liaise with relevant existing working groups.
- Oversee the development of tools and guidelines in coordination with the guidelines project.
- Together with the 3 subgroups develop an advocacy strategy in coordination with the MedOp and the AC. This should also include the coordination of the operational research planning.

V. MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

The overall tasks of the ABR task force Leader will be to:
- Provide leadership to drive the understanding, the ownership and the implementation of ABR roadmap objectives in all OCs, and drives the political ownership of ABR as a new cross-sectional priority in all MSF entities.
- Liaise with relevant external stakeholders on this subject.

The main activities of the positions will be as follows:
- Organise regular meetings of the ABR TF, coordinate the development and implementation specific action plan of the TF.
- Develop an active network of contacts inside MSF, including AC, Epicentre, Luxor, SAMU, etc. on the topic of ABR.
- Mobilise all relevant people and resources in the OCs to achieve appropriation and development of the roadmap activities. Each OC will designate a focal point (deputy medical or operational director is recommended) to carry the ambition inside the OC.
- Provide an overview of existing projects and resources, and potential synergies between the OCs and identify opportunities to optimise results and the use of resources.
- Carry out relevant field visits.
- Organise regular meetings and interaction with leaders of the subgroups and focal points (see above) in all Operational Centres.
- Network outside MSF.
- Suggest and where relevant carry out specific advocacy activities.
- Report on progress and relevant information to the MedOp, through the 2 focal points (DirOp OCB and DirMed OCP).

VI. PROFILE REQUIREMENTS

- Medical or paramedical background;
- Some experience in the field of ABR;
- Proven leadership skills;
- MSF experience in senior role;
- Excellent organisational skills;
- Dynamic personality with ability to prioritise;
- Good written and oral communication skills;
- Ability to travel as needed to the field, within Europe and US;
- Fluent in written and oral English, French would be an asset.

Deadline for applications: **19 February 2017**

Please submit all applications **only by email to:**

IO-recruitment.gva@msf.org stating “ARB task force Leader” in the subject

Please submit **only ONE file containing your CV and cover letter and name the file with your last name only.**

*Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.*