# VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



**Job Summary** 

**Position: Laboratory Scientist (1 post)** 

**Reports To: Principal Investigator/ Project leader** 

**Work Station:** Dar es Salaam **Apply By:** 15 August 2025

#### **Institute Overview**

Ifakara Health Institute (IHI) is a leading research organization in Africa with a strong track record in developing, testing and validating innovations for health. Driven by a core strategic mandate for research, training and services, the Institute's work now spans a wide spectrum, covering biomedical and ecological sciences, intervention studies, health-systems research, service delivery and policy translation.

#### **Position Summary**

The **Ifakara Health Institute (IHI)** in collaboration with the Ministry of Health through the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP), the President's Office, Regional Administration, and Local Government (PO-RALG), and the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) are jointly implementing the second phase of the project on molecular surveillance of malaria in Mainland Tanzania (MSMT2). IHI is seeking a highly motivated and experienced Laboratory Scientist to perform laboratory activities for the project.

#### **Duties and Responsibilities.**

- Plan and supervise collection of samples from participating health facilities.
- Ensure all specimens delivered to the laboratory are properly received, appropriately registered, processed and all tests done, and results are recorded according to standard operating procedures (SOPs) of the MSMT2 project.
- Ensure storage and location of records of specimens are conducted in accordance with SOPs
- Plan and perform routine and specialized technical procedures required by the project including troubleshooting during the course of work.
- Assist in maintaining standards and cleanliness of laboratory premises and equipment in accordance with engineer's advice, guidelines and equipment's manual.
- Perform the experimental process to get the sequencing and other analyses results within the promised time.
- Participate in Quality Control programs as required by Good Clinical Laboratory Practices (GCLP) to ensure reliability of testing procedures, proper functioning of laboratory equipment and compliance with relevant regulations.
- Do library preparation for sequencing, quality and quantity checks for DNA and RNA samples
- Endeavour to refine and upgrade laboratory processes in order to save the experimental costs and improve performance of the laboratory.
- Review the sequencing results to improve the experimental protocol and to increase the success rate.

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- Prepare and update SOPs and engage in other administrative work as directed by senior project leaders.
- To perform molecular, genetic, genomic, and serological laboratory and data analytics to support malaria molecular surveillance (MMS) and other requirements based on the project's work plan and milestones.
- Generating genomic data in all three genomes involved in malaria (parasites, vectors and human) and any other data as may be assigned by senior project leaders.
- Assist and ensure that preventive maintenance of laboratory equipment is carried out as planned.
- Ensuring adherence to all relevant regulatory requirements, including those related to safety, ethics, and data management.
- Maintaining records of compliance and safety documentation.
- Managing waste disposal and recycling programs.
- Be able to work on-call duties when required to do so.
- Performing any other duties as may be assigned by the Project Principal Investigator and other senior leaders of the project and IHI.

## **Qualification and Experience**

- Bachelors' degree in Life Sciences (Molecular Biology, Biotechnology and Laboratory Sciences, Medical Laboratory Science or other relevant fields). Holding an MSc in the relevant field will be an added advantage.
- Applicants should have experience in genomics and/or bioinformatics, and practical skills in different molecular biology techniques; with at-least three (3) years of proven working experience in a similar field.
- Prior research experience in genomics, bioinformatics, or a related field, hands-on nextgeneration sequencing (NGS) laboratory skills such as, library preparation and sequencing on Illumina MiSeq or similar NGS platforms will be highly advantageous.
- Prior experience with bioinformatics tools and databases, such as BLAST, NCBI, Ensembl, or UCSC Genome Browser, e.t.c. will be an added advantage.

#### **Skills and Competencies**

- Basic analytical skills with the ability to interpret complex genomic data and draw meaningful conclusions.
- Applicants should be excellent in written and verbal communication skills with adequate proficiency in English language communication.
- Flexibility and adoptive to new environments.
- Good Clinical Laboratory Practices.

#### Remuneration

An attractive and competitive remuneration package will be offered to successful candidates as per IHI salary scales.

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Ifakara Branch

Dar es Salaam Office

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IHI is an equal opportunity employer. We prohibit intentional biases or discrimination and harassment of any kind at the work place and during recruitment. All employment decisions are based solely on job requirements and individual qualifications, and our recruitment process is governed by the labour laws of Tanzania.

## **Mode of Application**

All candidates who meet the above job requirements should send their application letters together with their detailed curriculum vitae (CVs) showing contact addresses including email, telephone/cell phone numbers and copies of academic and professional certificates to the email address below.

The **deadline** for this application is **17:00** hrs on Friday, August **15 2025.** All e-mail application subject lines should include: [Laboratory Scientist – MSMT2]. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted for interview.

**Senior HR & Administration Manager** IFAKARA HEALTH INSTITUTE

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Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Email: recruitment@ihi.or.tz

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# **VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Job Summary** 

**Position:** Senior Research Scientist – 1 post **Reports To: Principal Investigator / Project Leader** 

Dar es Salaam **Work Station:** 20th August, 2025 **Apply By:** 

# **Institute Overview**

**Ifakara Health Institute (IHI)** is a leading research organization in Africa with a strong track record in developing, testing and validating innovations for health. Driven by a core strategic mandate for research, training and services, the Institute's work now spans a wide spectrum, covering biomedical and ecological sciences, intervention studies, health-systems research, service delivery and policy translation.

#### **Position Summary**

Ifakara Health Institute (IHI) is seeking a Postdoc Researcher with advanced modelling skills will contribute to the Malaria Atlas Project (MAP) East Africa (EA) Node's mission and objectives of developing and employing cutting-edge advanced geospatial analytical architectures to understand the risks and estimating the burden of Plasmodium falciparum and Plasmodium vivax malaria, assessing the impact of interventions across various levels and settings at global, regional and national to provide the National Malaria Control Programmes (NMCPs) with the quality evidence to guide optimal allocation of resources in malaria endemic countries.

The post-docs are expected to follow coding and data-management standards, develop methodologies that can be utilized by others within the team and/or used in a complex analytical pipeline. As a scientific achievement, postdocs should take leadership in the preparation of scientific reports and journal articles for publication of research findings from their work in open access journals but also contribute to the team communication strategies.

This role will also involve collaboration with a wide range of malaria stakeholders, translating model outputs to NMCPs and communicating the utility to the malaria decision, building and strengthening analytical skills to others through training, mentoring and supervision.

#### **Duties and Responsibilities**

- To provide statistical expertise in development and implementation of spatiotemporal models to respond to a variety of malaria research questions related to risk estimations, estimating of morbidity and mortality, understanding transmission profiles, and optimizing the impact of interventions.
- To guide others and contribute to the best presentation of outputs from analysis, interpretation of results and relevant conclusions.
- Manage own academic research and administrative activities, including small-scale project management to coordinate multiple aspects of the work to meet deadlines.
- Lead collaboration and engagements with NMCPs to translate and communicate MAP's modelling efforts, products, and outputs to foster utilization and uptake.

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- Work with the data scientist and data engineering team on creating data-pipelines, setting up computation infrastructure and managing NMCP's data and outputs requests.
- Work collaboratively with other scientists within the wider MAP group to produce estimates of malaria, acting as a source of information and advice to other members of the group.
- Apply due diligence by scrutinizing model results for all project deliverables, reviewing and refining theories as appropriate.
- Maintain rigorous data- and code management practices, including thorough documentation and version control, to ensure data replicability and cross-compatibility with past and future MAP products.
- Contribute ideas for new research projects and for generating research income.
- Contribute to and, as appropriate, lead, in the preparation of scientific reports and journal articles for publication of research findings from this work in open access journals.
- Present the research findings from this work at selected regional and international conferences and meetings.
- Travel to collaborators in different MECs, Europe, the United States, Africa, and Asia.
- Take reasonable care for your own safety and health and avoid harming the safety and health
  of others through any act or omission at work.
- Identify and assess workplace hazards and apply hazard controls.
- Report every workplace injury, illness or near miss, no matter how insignificant they seem.
- Abide by institutional policies and procedures.

#### **Qualification and Experience**

- PhD in biostatistics, mathematics, or a similar quantitative discipline with epidemiological knowhow.
- Expertise in Bayesian modelling using Gaussian processes with demonstrable understanding of the issues arising from scaling these models to a global scale, validation, assessing performance and sensitivity analysis.
- Experience of multi-metric analysis and covariate selection in the context of modelling large and complex data with spatial correlations.
- Experience of state-of-the-art statistical software libraries such as INLA, TMB or similar packages.
- Demonstrable commitment to using best practices in writing code, including the use of source control, code documentation/repositories, and coding standards.
- Experience of working with national disease programmes, managing relationships with senior stakeholders, data-owners, and collaborators. applicants will be contacted for interview.
- Applicants from Africa, especially females and those from malaria-endemic countries, are strongly encouraged to apply.
- Experience in research design and implementation, analyzing routine health data in LMICs hence good understanding of challenges on data utilization and quality issues in low resource settings.
- Ability to manage own academic research, mentoring junior staff, define and meet milestones on time.
- Demonstrable evidence of having worked successfully within a collaborative, team-based research setting.
- An understanding of the malaria epidemiology and public health surveillance.
- Track record of scientific publications in high quality peer-reviewed journals in the areas of epidemiology, modelling or health system research.

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- Experience of working with NMCPs, understanding of malaria surveillance including using DHIS2.
- Knowledge and experience in working with ministries of health in LMICs, funding agencies and bilateral organizations.
- Experience in developing and delivering training for different audiences.
- Knowledge of other languages including Swahili, French, Spanish, Portuguese.

#### **Skills and Competencies**

- Excellent communication skills (oral and written) in both professional and courteous manner.
- Proficiency in one or more programming languages (e.g., R/Python, Stata), knowledge of other statistical software and data visualization applications.

#### Remuneration

An attractive and competitive remuneration package will be offered to successful candidates as per IHI salary scales.

#### **Equal Opportunity**

IHI is an equal opportunity employer. We prohibit intentional biases or discrimination and harassment of any kind at the work place and during recruitment. All employment decisions are based solely on job requirements and individual qualifications, and our recruitment process is governed by the labour laws of Tanzania.

#### **Mode of Application**

All candidates who meet the above job requirements should send their application letters together with their detailed curriculum vitae (CVs) showing contact addresses including email, telephone/cell phone numbers and copies of academic and professional certificates to the email address below.

The deadline for this application is 17:00 hrs (EAT) on Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup> 2025. All e-mail application subject lines should include: SENIOR RESEARCH SCIENTIST - MAP EA. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted for an interview.

Applicants from Africa, especially females and those from malaria-endemic countries, are strongly encouraged to apply.

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