



NIROGI LANKA PROJECT

Diabetes Prevention Task Force
Sri Lanka Medical Association



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Background

The NIROGI Lanka project of Sri Lanka Medical Association, which was funded by the World Diabetes Foundation since and has shown excellent results in providing a nationally relevant model for tackling the Non Communicable Disease burden in Sri Lanka. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and partnerships with all stakeholders. The project has ably impacted on relatively neglected but important risk factors in relation to primary prevention of NCDs in highly vulnerable populations.

The Ministry of Health has identified that local evidence of 'best buys' should be combined and incorporated into the existing PHC system. This would entail scaling up the delivery of prevention and control measures through the empowerment of vulnerable populations towards healthy lifestyles.

The project will be expanded for the next two years with financial contribution of the world bank through the Second Health Sector Development Project (SHSDP) of the Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka.

Vacancy End Date: 29th of July 2017

Interview date will inform through e-mail

Contract Duration: 6 months fixed term

District Health Promotion Officers (2 positions)

1. B.Sc. in Health Promotion, any other relevant B.Sc. degree or equivalent or minimum 5-year of experience in the field of health promotion.
2. Experience related to non-communicable diseases prevention through community health promotion.
3. Have a working knowledge of Windows and Microsoft Office package.
4. Have excellent communication and interpersonal skill.

Monthly Allowance – Rs 35,000 + Transport allowances

Applications with names of two non-related referees and with copies of recent testimonials should reach "Dr.Palitha Karunapema, NIROGI Lanka Project, No.06, Wijerama Mawatha, Colombo 07." Or dptfslma@gmail.com on or before 25th September 2016.

Dr.Palitha Karunapema, NIROGI Lanka Project, Sri Lanka Medical Association

Web: <http://nirogilanka.org> | Tel: (011) 2693303, 0777387839

DISTRICT HEALTH PROMOTION OFFICER – JOB DESCRIPTION

The HPO is assigned to a District for whom he/she is responsible. The HPO is expected to live in that area. The HPO is expected to be a role model unless it would be difficult to change the mind-set of the community. During the time of internal inspection (Once in three months), the work of the HPO will be assessed.

"The focus of health promotion is on prevention. It involves working with a population group and designing programs that will assist the health of that group." Population groups vary in size and type, and might range from an entire town, to a group of single mothers with different ethnic backgrounds living in a high-rise estate, or a recently settled community in urban areas.

Health Promotion Officer help people to improve their health and increase their control over it. Role of HPO may vary from giving face-to-face advice to individuals to producing strategic policies for health promotion. They may set up schemes promoting a healthy lifestyle, run campaigns and implement government initiatives relating to public health.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Due to the diverse nature of the job there is no standard role, but typical activities may include:

- Developing health policies and strategies for promoting health at local which supports to the regional and national level policy changes;
- Planning, developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating project activities to promote health improvement;
- Facilitating and supporting a wide range of statutory, voluntary, charitable, government, non-government and commercial organizations in their delivery of health promotion activities;
- Developing the health awareness of individuals, groups and organizations and empowering them to make healthy choices; leading, supporting, or cooperating in multi-agency projects to promote a healthy context or social environment;
- Running training courses and workshops in areas such as mental health, accident prevention, cancers and heart disease; developing and supporting local partnerships to broaden the local response to health inequalities;
- Identifying training needs arising from strategic and local agendas and developing and delivering appropriate training for people such as health promotion activists and volunteers;
- providing specialist advice and resources to other agencies, such as schools, local communities, workplaces and community based organizations; ensuring that work is underpinned by sound, up-to-date knowledge of health promotion theory and making sure that projects are based on evidence of effectiveness;
- lobbying for increased recognition of preventative and promotional measures that can take place at a population level and which have a positive impact on the health of a community;
- writing and producing leaflets, posters, videos and brochures to aid health promotion in different environments.

QUALIFICATIONS

1. B.Sc. in Health Promotion, any other relevant B.Sc. degree or international equivalent or at least 5-year experience in the field of health promotion.

2. Minimum 2-year experience related non-communicable diseases and community health promotion.

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL WORKING DAY INVOLVE?

- HPO's typical working day means that he/she spends his/ her entire working hours with a people. "have meetings with representatives of different cultural groups and lots of on-site visits. There's heaps of interactions. He/she might visit schools to assess their healthcare needs, run a presentation about promoting health to government ministers or meet with groups in community health centers. Also he/she needs to present at the relevant meetings which are held in RDHS/PDHS or MOHs as required.
- HPO works around 45 hours a week. "A lot of commitments, like meetings with community groups, are held outside normal hours. And there may be weekend work too as per community requirements.
- HPOs should provide weekly and monthly reports as per the requirement and the specifications given by the project office.

WORKING HOURS

Working hours are usually nine to five, Monday to Friday, but flexibility is essential and some evening and weekend work may be required, especially when running community groups and will vary depending on the community and the project requirements.

SKILLS

Candidates should have a mature, non-judgmental, confident and caring manner. The ability to interact well with people from a wide range of backgrounds, together with good problem solving, project/time management and communication skills are essential. Excellent communications skills are vital, as is the ability to motivate others.

You will need to have:

- excellent oral and written communication skills;
- ability to network effectively;
- decision-making skills;
- leadership skills and the ability to motivate and influence others;
- an understanding of health issues;
- empathy;
- negotiation skills;
- initiative;
- problem-solving ability;
- time management skills;
- determination;
- creativity and the ability to think strategically;
- research skills;
- project management skills.

NATURE OF SETTINGS

Health promotion Officers work in a wide range of settings, including:

- Hospitals (including primary health care units like HLCs and MOHs);
- schools;
- prisons / Rehabilitation centers;
- workplaces (Government or non-government);
- neighborhoods;
- communities;
- Community Based Organizations (CBOs like *Maranadhara sammithi*, Women's clubs etc.)

They educate on a number of different health-related issues, such as:

- Drug use;
- The dangers of smoking;
- Excessive alcohol consumption;
- Lack of Physical activities
- Healthy eating;
- Sexual health;
- Mental health;

Their work may be focused on a specific section of the community, such as elderly or disabled people or an ethnic minority groups.