

Context

FHF is currently supporting our partners and respective Ministries of Health to minimize the impact of Covid-19, and to develop plans to restart eye care systems safely and thus minimise the resultant increased avoidable blindness in our project countries during this pandemic.

As an eye health organization our immediate focus is ensuring our partners and their governments have the ability to safeguard staff and patients during this precarious time, and that urgent eye care remains available. It is important however, that we also prepare for the longer term implications on the provision of eye care and ensure that significant gains made are not lost.

FHF's Medical Director (MD) has been the Medical lead on this FHF Covid-19 workstream and its relation to the emerging FHF Cataract Quality Improvement and Safety programme, with support from the Medical and Program Teams. Most ophthalmologists and clinical teams globally, have been either re-purposed or partially stood down to provide emergency services only. Where safe, these clinical teams are now being asked to re-start elective care and re-double all efforts to clear the increased backlogs. FHF MD has been asked by his part time UK clinical employer (NHS Scotland) to increase his support during 2020 for their Covid response. In particular, this includes the restart of elective comprehensive eye care and cataract services with NHS Orkney, where he is the sole visiting surgeon.

FHF is seeking a short-term consultancy to engage additional medical support for a 6 month period to support the Foundation with clinical Covid-19 related efforts.

Role

The role will have an overall focus on being the first point of Medical contact for all matters relating to FHF and international responses to Covid-19 as relating to prevention of visual impairment and blindness globally. The post will specifically ensure timely integration of Covid related policy with the emerging FHF global CatQIP programme for safety, efficiency and quality of eye care services. FHF works with partners in vulnerable environments with varying degrees of support for their states and as such are currently under significant pressures to meet increased demands placed on services and systems. This post will also support the integration of gender, equity and disability inclusion considerations into FHF's Covid-19 responses and the emerging FHF CatQIP globally.

Activities pertaining to a Covid-19 response and recovery period include; advising on safely reopening clinics and hospital departments, recommencing the delivery of services, developing protocols for maintaining outbreak safety once services recommence and working with partners to manage patient backlogs resulting from pandemic related closures. In addition the role will support with the reviewing and development of COVID-19 related projects which are developed within the Programs Division and Country Teams. The Foundation is committed to its mission of reaching the most marginalized members of the communities it serves and the consultant will provide technical support to ensure this focus remain paramount.

The consultant will also advise on the dissemination of hygiene and prevention messaging and behaviour change communication for vulnerable communities. Further, they will provide training and advice for health workers to reduce risks of cross contamination in clinical settings. This training and advice will also ensure that healthcare works remain supported during these challenging times and

have the means by which to access clinical guidance first hand. The current challenges experienced across the eye health sector to deliver services has highlighted an opportunity for the Foundation to further explore alternate service delivery modes including telemedicine. The consultant will support efforts which explore these options further.

Candidate

The successful candidate will be an experienced ophthalmologist, with a good reputation in ongoing infectious disease control. The candidate should have a good understanding of how International NGO's need to work in partnership with MOH, Country teams and their partners. The candidate should ideally have experience of working at regional and international level and be able to demonstrate a track record of working relationships with some of the key international and regional stakeholders involved in the Covid-19 response. In addition, the candidate should have experience in clinic settings on community and national scale and have extensive field work experience in research and programming. A background in Public Health ophthalmology would be essential and the candidate should be well respected by their peers to facilitate international information sharing and collaborations across the sector.