**JOB DESCRIPTION FOR ADVERTISEMENT**

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| **Position** | Social Science Researcher, Myanmar |
| **Department** | The Myanmar Oxford Clinical Research Unit |
| **Location** | Myanmar |
| **Hours of work** | Preferably full time |
| **Tenure** | The position would be full time for 3 years. It is likely to commence as soon as possible after interview. The conditions of work will be as for MOCRU employees which includes support for medical costs and a per diem for fieldwork involving an overnight stay. |
| **Reporting to** | The head of MOCRU and Hayley MacGregor at IDS, UK. |
| **Vacancy reference** | ZELS project Social Science Researcher |
| **Background** | This project funded under a United Kingdom research Council initiative entitled ‘Zoonoses and Emerging Livestock Systems’ (ZELS) is seeking to appoint an in-country social science researcher for the social science component of the study. The main consortium research partners for this five year project are: The Department of Veterinary Medicine, University of Cambridge; the Centre for Social, Technological, and Environmental Pathways to Sustainability, Institute for Development Studies, University of Sussex (STEPS Centre); the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam (OUCRU); and the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, (LBVD), Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development.  The project involves an interdisciplinary team of researchers and the social scientist must be comfortable working in collaboration with those from other disciplines, such as veterinarians, medical doctors, epidemiologists and microbiologists. Close liaison is expected with researchers at the LBVD. The appointed individual will work closely with a postdoctoral researcher based at IDS, who will also join fieldwork in Myanmar, and with Drs Hayley MacGregor and Michael Loevinsohn, who lead the social science work.  The Myanmar Pig Partnership research project focuses on the risks of zoonotic disease emergence associated with a rapid growth in and intensification of livestock production in Myanmar in recent years. Zoonotic diseases (Zoonoses) are passed between animals and humans. Bacterial zoonoses, especially gastrointestinal infections, are a deeply damaging but often unrecognized limiter to health and well-being, particularly of the poor, in low and middle income countries. Our hypothesis is that the diverse emerging livestock systems, especially those based on pigs, upon which these countries increasingly rely, are major sources of these infections. Furthermore, we hypothesise that these zoonotic threats are impacted upon by the risk environment and pathogen- and host-related factors. |
| **Job summary** | The focus of our work will be on how changes in the risk environment such as intensification of farming and supply chains, increased purchased inputs such as antibiotics, increased consumer demand, and national policies affect the likelihood of zoonotic transfer between livestock and humans.  We are also concerned with how these changes affect the dynamics of antibiotic resistance. The results will inform the design of integrated responses which we intend to mount at three levels: (1) frontline workers down supply chains and communities (knowledge-based management training, public engagement on zoonotic and related risks), (2) national agencies (3) internationally.  Over the course of the work we aim to describe and characterize livestock systems as they are emerging, from “backyard production” to larger commercial units. We will describe the key influences on practices along production-consumption chains, including how people’s perceptions of risk at these different points affect which practices are used and how.  The understanding we will develop of the constraints to the two-way flow of information on risks e.g. to and from producers and veterinary health workers, is critical to the design of effective and socially accepted surveillance and control measures. The pathogens we target cause substantial morbidity and mortality through contact and ingestion so that their impact is likely to be greatest on farmers, frontline workers and their families.  The social science component of the research will involve onsite fieldwork in 3 townships in the vicinity of Yangon, namely Hlegu, Taikkyi and South Dagon. In each township, we will select two village tracts and conduct participant observation on pig farms and interviews with key actors, such as farmers, slaughterhouse workers and traders. We will also map the supply chains for pork and the broader policy, regulatory and stakeholder environment related to pig production and veterinary antibiotic usage in Myanmar. The schedule will involve daily fieldwork in each township. The work in each township will take on average ten weeks to complete.  There is a training bursary available for the successful candidate and could be used to support travel and a month as a visiting scholar at the Institute of Development Studies in the UK, after a period of fieldwork has been completed. This position is well suited to a candidate who might be interested in developing their academic skills with mentoring from the senior academics involved in the project. |
| **Key responsibilities and tasks** | The social science researcher will:   1. Assist with the social science research in Myanmar, liaising with and working in a team with the social science postdoctoral researcher, the local veterinary coordinators and the Myanmar and Yangon LBVD project leads. 2. Focus on researching the understandings of disease risk and the practices of farmers, local veterinarians and frontline workers along the supply chains. This involves fieldwork for extended periods in the 3 selected townships. 3. Complete the preparatory engagement work and build the necessary local relationships to set up the selected fieldwork sites. 4. Identify the key stakeholders to get permission to do the work and assist in obtaining these permissions and negotiating appropriate access to farms and other research sites. 5. Work closely with researchers at IDS in the UK in developing in advance the interview schedules, the checklists for participant observation, and survey questionnaires. 6. Once the fieldwork commences, conduct interviews and focus groups, as well as the participant observation of farming and slaughtering practices, ensuring that ethical protocols are adhered to. 7. Be responsible for the recording of interviews and focus groups, and for collating and storing all the data. 8. Organize the transcription and translation of the interviews. 9. Assist in the budgeting and the responsible financial administration of the social science in-country work that he/she conducts. 10. On completion of the fieldwork, take part in the analysis of the field data alongside the other social science researchers. 11. The project also involves a final component where farmers will be engaged in training activities related to the information obtained about farming practices and understandings of disease risk and antibiotic usage. The researcher will also be involved in the planning and possibly implementation of these activities. |
| **Other Requirements** | Willingness to travel and spend substantial time in the field sites (Yangon district) is essential. |
| **Selection criteria** | We are seeking to appoint an individual who is:   * Qualified or experienced in a social science or a related discipline, such as Anthropology, Sociology, Human Geography, Economics or International Relations. A MA degree is required. Medical or veterinary graduates can apply if they also have suitable qualifications in social science methods and experience of independent research. * Knowledge and experience of employing social science methods and preferably experience of conducting independent qualitative research (this could be individual research towards a MA degree) * Fluent in relevant local languages * Very good command of written and spoken English * Experience of management of a research project is desirable. |
| **How to apply** | Please submit   1. full CV with educational background and employment history clearly documented 2. an additional 2 page statement detailing how your qualifications and experience will enable you to meet the requirements of this position, including why you are interested in this particular job; 3. The names and institutional affiliations of two professional referees who have agreed to support your application. One should be a recent employer.   These materials must be emailed to MOCRU Human Resources (Aye Yee Lin) [hr@mam.org.mm](mailto:hr@mam.org.mm) , copying in Annie Lowden at IDS [a.lowden@ids.ac.uk](mailto:a.lowden@ids.ac.uk)  **Important note:** If a candidate is shortlisted for interview, we will contact named referees for references. We will then require these two references to be submitted prior to the interview in order for a candidate to be considered. |
| **Contact person** | For further information about the position please email Hayley MacGregor at [h.macgregor@ids.ac.uk](mailto:h.macgregor@ids.ac.uk). |
| **Deadline for submission** | Application due in on Friday 26 February 2016 by 4 pm Myanmar time.  Interviews will take place on Tuesday 1 March 216 in Yangon at the MOCRU offices. At interview candidates will be expected to discuss their research experience and show experience of methods relevant for the research in the project, as outlined above in the background and job summary. |