

With a solid background in public health, epidemiology, and data science, I am confident in my ability to lead the implementation, management, and analysis of HIV, STI, and hepatitis surveillance systems. My experience spans a range of public health initiatives, where I have consistently demonstrated my ability to manage complex projects, analyse epidemiological data, and contribute to the development of evidence-based health policies.

#### Relevant Qualifications and Experience

I hold a Master of Public Health (MPH) and a Master of Science in Health Data Science, along with specialized training in STD/HIV Research, Sexual and Reproductive Health, and Program Management. These qualifications have provided me with a solid foundation in epidemiology, data analysis, and public health research. My academic and professional experience equips me to manage complex datasets, implement surveillance systems, and contribute to public health policy and program development.

#### Knowledge and experience

**Relevant Work Experience :** Relevant work experience in public health including time spent undertaking surveillance, behavioural research or health promotion

With over seven years of extensive experience in public health, I have dedicated significant time to conducting surveillance, leading behavioural research, and implementing health promotion initiatives aimed at achieving HIV epidemic control. In my role as a Senior Technical Advisor (STA), I spearheaded targeted interventions such as Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) HIV prevention, PMTCT (Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission), HIV & STI control among MSM, and commercial sex workers. and intensified HIV &STI case finding among the general population. A critical aspect of my work was systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of HIV data from these population, with the objective of identifying cases to enable treatment, assess general trends and evaluate interventions. Through rigorous data analysis, I was able to re-design and implement tailored health promotion strategies that resulted in a 70% increase in HIV screening uptake across 21 local government areas, playing a pivotal role in controlling the HIV epidemic in these regions

**Experience of communicable disease epidemiology, surveillance and/ or prevention, e.g. HIV or STI:**

As the STA on the Global Fund project, I integrated key principles of disease surveillance into program design, employing both active and passive methods to ensure systematic data collection. This included community-based testing for high-risk individuals and using routine health facility data to track HIV and STI incidence. By aligning efforts with WHO protocols, I accurately assessed trends, identified hotspots, and evaluated the effectiveness of strategies. In low-prevalence regions, I ensured increased test specificity through repeat HIV testing with a confirmatory rapid test to enhance data reliability in guiding effective public health decisions.

**Demonstrated Experience of Developing and Managing Projects in Complex and Challenging Environments, Including Budgets:**

With seven years of practice, I have developed and managed complex projects in challenging environments, with a strong focus on effective budget management. On the Global Fund project, I successfully designed and implemented sexual health programs across 70 local governments, increasing HIV and STI screening rates by 30% within six months despite significant socio-economic and geographical challenges. These challenges included limited resources, cultural barriers, and the need for high stakeholder engagement. My expertise in adaptive management, ensured a 100% linkage to treatment for identified cases. I employed meticulous financial oversight to optimize fund utilization and secure contract renewals. I mitigated financial risks, and collaboratively engaged diverse stakeholders, resulting in achievement of project objectives.

#### Significant experience of successfully operating in a politically sensitive environment

Throughout my career working in Senior management roles, I operate in politically sensitive environments. I have consistently maintained an apolitical approach, ensuring that my work and guidance to governing bodies are grounded in evidence-based practices and aligned with public health objectives. I prioritized transparency, neutrality, and integrity in all my interactions.

#### Experience of managing risks and reporting

In my role various roles on HIV & STI projects, I managed significant risks associated with engaging marginalized communities such as Men who have Sex with Men (MSM), Female Sex Workers (FSW), and Adolescent and Young People (AYP). The stigma surrounding these communities affect their participation in interventions, posing a substantial risk to accurate data collection and program implementation. I mitigated this risk by building trust and community engagements. These efforts improved participation rates and ensured the reliability of the data.

I meticulously documented these risk management strategies and their outcomes, providing detailed reports to stakeholders on the increased engagement and improved data accuracy.

#### Understanding of public health policy and the organisation of the NHS and of public health in England:

Through my collaboration with the NHS (Lancashire and South Cumbria Foundation Trust), I have developed a comprehensive understanding of public health policy and the organization of the NHS and public health in England. I understand the NHS structure, commissioning processes, the roles and responsibilities of key organizations such as Public Health England (now UK Health Security Agency), local authorities, and the Department of Health and Social Care. I have good understanding of the objectives outlined in national public health policies, such as reducing health inequalities, improving health outcomes, and promoting preventive health measures.

#### Skills / capabilities/ behaviours

##### Experience of Using Computers and Database Software Packages (such as Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint, PowerBI)

Throughout my career, I regularly used Microsoft Excel to manage and analyse large datasets, track project progress, and generate insightful reports. I employed PowerPoint to create compelling presentations for stakeholders, translating complex data into accessible formats to support decision-

making processes. I have experience with PowerBI, which I used to visualize key performance indicators (KPIs) and facilitated real-time monitoring of project outcomes. I skilled in use of SQL to manage database.

#### Experience of Using Statistical Packages, such as STATA or R

In my role as a research assistant, I used R to perform complex statistical analyses including developing a prediction model on large NHS datasets, identifying trends and outcomes that informed my recommendations for service improvement.

#### Experience of Interpreting and Evaluating Epidemiological Data

During my tenure with the Global Fund project, I was responsible for analyzing data on HIV and STI prevalence across multiple regions, interpreting these findings to guide program interventions. For example, I conducted a detailed analysis of HIV incidence among Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW), which revealed critical gaps in service coverage. This analysis directly informed the strategy to increase HIV screening uptake by 70% across 21 local government areas. Furthermore, my work with the NHS on mental health service evaluation involved interpreting epidemiological data to identify key predictors of patient outcomes, enabling me to recommend targeted improvements to service delivery. These efforts have consistently led to informed, evidence-based public health decisions.

#### Experience of Data Management, Analysis, and Reporting

As a Research Assistant, I managed and analysed large NHS dataset and generated comprehensive reports for stakeholders based on the findings. In addition, I provided supervisory oversight for data collection and validation process and management in the various HIV and STI implementation projects I managed, ensuring that the data collected was accurate, reliable, and fit for analysis. I analysed the data and generated reports that provided actionable insights that guided interventions. These reports were regularly presented to international donors and local stakeholders.

#### Experience of Preparing Scientific Reports and Presentations

I developed publication manuscript from my research work with Lancaster university which is undergoing process of publication. Additionally, in my roles on both Global Fund and USAID projects, I presented abstracts at international conferences to showcase the work done by my organisation. I regularly prepared comprehensive reports that detailed project findings on HIV and STI trends, the effectiveness of our interventions, and recommendations, to key stakeholders. These included international donors, government officials, and healthcare providers.

#### Ability to Maintain Required Levels of Confidentiality

I demonstrated this ability in handling over 14,000 NHS patients data without a data protection breach. In all my work, outside UK, I handled patients' sensitive information with the utmost

discretion, adhering to strict confidentiality protocols and data protection laws. I maintained this in my work environment by conducting annual refresher training for healthcare workers on confidentiality and data protection.

#### Equality and Diversity:

In my roles on HIV and STI projects, I ensured that interventions were inclusive, providing equal access to services for diverse populations, including AGYW, MSM, and other vulnerable groups. By engaging community leaders and tailoring programs to the unique needs of each group, I fostered trust and collaboration. I also advocated for non-discriminatory practices within our teams, creating an inclusive environment that enhanced effectiveness and ensured that every individual's contribution was valued.

#### Conclusion

In conclusion, my qualifications, experience, and skills align well with the requirements of the Senior HIV/STI Surveillance and Prevention Scientist position at UKHSA. I am confident that I can contribute to the success of your team and help advance the UKHSA's mission of protecting the public from infectious diseases. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss how my background and expertise can be of value to your organization.