



## Mental Health Volunteer (Funded), King's Sierra Leone Partnership

### Terms of Reference

Start Date: [As soon as possible]

Placement Duration: until the end of May 2018

Location: Freetown, Sierra Leone

Reporting to: Country Director

### The Function

The King's Sierra Leone Partnership (KSLP) is a long-term capacity building partnership between King's Health Partners in London and key partner institutions in Sierra Leone. KSLP aims to help strengthen Sierra Leone's health system by improving training, clinical services, policy and research. Key partners include University of Sierra Leone Teaching Hospital Complex Connaught Hospital, the College of Medicine & Allied Health Sciences (COMAHS) and the Ministry of Health & Sanitation (MOHS).

Emergency situations such as the 2014-2015 Ebola outbreak, which claimed the lives of more than 3,500 Sierra Leoneans, threaten to abate the provision of already limited mental health services. Following the Ebola outbreak there has been an increase in the number of people reporting mental health and psychosocial problems. Providing integrated mental health care and psychosocial support is economically sound and leads to better outcomes for those with mental and psychosocial disorders and other health conditions

KSLP is committed to supporting the Ministry of Health & Sanitation (MOHS) in its ambition to provide comprehensive, integrated, and responsive mental health, psychosocial support, and social care services in community-based settings. Our work in-country is varied and includes working with the MOHS to establish mental health and psychosocial units within general hospital services, providing ongoing training and clinical supervision to the newly trained mental health nurses, developing record-keeping and monitoring and evaluation tools to strengthen mental health information systems, and contributing to undergraduate psychiatry teaching.

### The Role

KSLP is looking to recruit a new Mental Health Volunteer to support the in-country team from September 2018 onwards. This person will be based in Freetown and will spend a proportion of time in Bombali, Port Loko, Kenema, Kailahun districts playing a critical role in supporting the establishment of integrated mental health clinics within the district hospitals in these regions. The role focuses on improving access to mental health care in the districts, by improving systems at the new mental health clinics and implementing programmes to improve referrals and increase access to these clinics at the hospital and community level. Specifically, the role will include the following:

- Support mental health nurses in developing strong working relationships with their colleagues in Western Area, Port Loko, Bombali, Kenema and Kailahun
- Develop and implement programmes to increase access and referrals to these clinics by close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and other partners. These will include the training of "link" nurses in government facilities who will be able to signpost patients towards the newly established mental health clinics
- Work closely with the referral coordinators in the above districts to support safe and appropriate referrals to mental health services
- Scope community based mental health awareness programmes and ensure alignment with current mental health services offered and create links with these programmes to ensure referral in to mental health clinics
- Participate in developing a training curriculum for newly qualified mental health nurses and delivering a new examination for accreditation of this cadre
- Contribute to training programme for all mental health nurses during their quarterly continuous professional development programme in Freetown
- Explore opportunities for supporting undergraduate mental health teaching for Nursing and Community Health Officer students

### Person Specification

- **Qualifications:** It is essential to be a qualified mental health nurse or psychiatrist; it would be desirable to have some post-graduate training and to be trained to use the WHO MHGAP intervention guide
- **Experience:** Experience in mental health liaison service, crisis resolution, or community mental health team setting, as well as an awareness of cultural issues in mental health
- **Personal Characteristics:** Flexibility and ability to deal with change, willingness to travel in Sierra Leone, and previous experience living and or working in low or middle-income country
- **Leadership and Management:** Experience in project management, including leadership experience, excellent time management skills, and an ability to work with people from different backgrounds and professional groups
- **Teaching:** It is essential to have experience using various teaching styles; it would be desirable to have experience teaching mental health in LMICs as well as experience organising teaching programmes for a range of audiences

- **Research:** It is essential to have experience with quality improvement projects and it would be desirable to have research experience, including a track record of publications

## Support Provided to Volunteers

This is a 9-month unpaid voluntary position, but the post holder will be provided with:

- Return flights to and from initial post, plus one paid leave flight to and from Freetown for every six months in post
- £500 monthly stipend for living expenses, paid in local currency
- Multi-entry visa, residency permit & professional registration
- Vaccinations & antimalarials
- Insurance
- Accommodation in a shared KSLP house

**To Apply:** Submit a cover letter (maximum 2 pages) and CV (maximum 4 pages) to [volunteer@kslp.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@kslp.org.uk). Please include the role title in the subject line of the email. Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.