

Opportunity of Employment

Physical Therapy Instructor

Country: Haiti

City/Sites: Port-au-Prince and the surrounding areas

Position title: Assistant Physical Therapy Instructor

Direct Supervisor: Laure Ancellin

Deputy Supervisor: Frédéric Joyeux

Technical Expertise

Management of a team: No

Budget Responsibility: No

Travel between sites: Yes

Job and contract: National job position

General Information on the Program

On January 12, 2010, an earthquake hit Haiti and caused between 2,000 to 4,000 amputations and an even larger number of those wounded. Before the earthquake, it was estimated that the country had around 1 million handicapped citizens, 50,000 of them who needed prosthetics and orthotics. In Haiti, physical rehabilitation needs are immense, but there are only seven Haitian orthopedic technicians trained on the job and without a recognized diploma, and around 22 physical therapists trained abroad (mainly in Santo Domingo but also in Cuba, Suriname, and Brazil). Numerous international organizations have put in place some rehabilitation services but there is still an enormous lack of Haitian professionals to eventually replace the foreign personnel.

This project entitled, “Project for the Promotion and the Development of Professions in the Practical Rehabilitation Field in Haiti, supported by USAID,” will be carried out for 3 years and divided into 3 parts:

- Practical rehabilitation training, with a hospital round (5 months) and a community centers round (5 months)
- Orthopedic technician training at the OMS/ISPO II Level
- Reinforcement of the capabilities of Haitian physical therapists who are certified, among other associations, by the Association of Haitian Physical Therapists.

Job Description

Information on the Training of Rehabilitation Technicians

An 11-month, formal training will be developed for the rehabilitation technicians under the direction of Handicap International (HI). For this reason, a technical committee called

“Committee of Physical Rehabilitation Education” will be created and co-presided by MSPP and HI. It will also include technical service education from MSPP, SEIPH, partner organizations such as HHH, HVO, Partners in Health, Albert Schweitzer Hospital (HAS), Christoffel Blindenmission (CBM), the National Association of Haitian Physical Therapy, and others. This committee will work on gaining national recognition of the training program and the profession itself. Two sub-committees will be created in order to work on a set of standards of expertise and quality, and training curriculum.

This 11-month training will be divided in 2 modules: one module with a 6 month hospital round, which will be completed by a 5-month round working in community centers (RBC/occupational therapy). A teacher training curriculum, broken down in chapters on duration of sessions, specific pedagogical objectives, teaching and evaluation methodologies, necessary equipment, and manuals, will be prepared.

Throughout the three year project, three promotions of 36 students each will be selected for a total of 108 students trained by the end of the project. The students will mainly arise from partnerships. Each promotion will be divided in 2 groups. One group will be in theoretical training (Group A) while the other group (Group B) will be in practical service training. The students will be placed in various services by partner associations, supported if necessary by the Haitian physical therapy instructors.

During the first year, the theoretical training will be assured by two foreign physical therapists/occupational therapists aided by four assistant physical therapy instructors. The Haitian assistant physical therapist will be trained throughout the first year of the project on the clinical aspects but will also follow a specific module of “teacher training” bestowed by the University Hospital of Geneva. All the necessary training tools (teaching methods, follow-up, evaluation) will be ready and the Haitian instructors will have had a complete year of experience in training and will be fully operational. Consequently, the number of foreign instructors will decrease to just one foreign physical therapist/occupational therapist, aided by four Haitian physical therapy instructors. Two national instructors will be responsible for group A and two for group B. When one group is in practical training, the instructors of the group will visit the students to follow-up on their practical and clinical sessions.

General Mission

To support the foreign physical therapy/occupational therapy instructors in the theoretical and practical training of rehabilitation technicians. To participate in the educational follow-up of students during practical and clinical rounds at the various places where the internships are taking place in Port-au-Prince and in the surrounding areas, in accordance to the identified needs of the partners.

Responsibilities

Over time, the instructor will have some responsibilities in the educational development of the theoretical and practical course support, as well as in the follow-up of the students’ progress. Within the project’s framework, and in accordance to his or her expertise, the instructor will benefit from training modules that will continue to strengthen his or her clinical expertise. He or

she will also benefit from a teacher training module that will be given by the University Hospital of Geneva (HUG).

- Participate in the drafting/editing of teaching tools, manuals, follow-up methods, etc.
- Participate in theoretical and practical teaching
- Follow the students on where they conduct their practical and clinical rounds
- Participate in the understanding and oral translation of Creole in the courses that will be given in French or in English
- Participate in thematic group work
- Participate in the planning of theoretical and practical training
- Follow the different continuous training modules from the University Hospital of Geneva

Main Interactions

Internal: Foreign instructors, project managers, and students

External: NGO partners

Required Qualifications

- University degree in Physical Therapy
- Must be able to communicate in French and Creole
- Must have 3 years of clinical experience in a hospital and/or in a community setting in the following fields: pediatrics, orthopedics and traumatology, and neurology. Experience in professional training/development is desired.
- Ability to communicate, adapt to new surroundings, and perform all duties with rigor.

To apply, please send the following documents

- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Cover Letter
- University Transcript(s)

Candidates who are preselected will be interviewed by those in charge of the rehabilitation physical therapy training. For the final selection of candidates, an interview will be conducted by the program manager.

Deadline to apply

Incomplete applications will not be considered. The 4 proposed job posts will begin at a date to be determined, with a trial period of 1 month.