



# BOSTON COLLEGE

## SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

---

### **Open Position**

Rwanda Program Manager

### **Employer**

Research Program on Children and Adversity (RPCA), Boston College School of Social Work

### **Principal Investigator**

Theresa S. Betancourt, Sc.D., M.A.,  
Salem Professor in Global Practice, RPCA Director  
School of Social Work, Boston College

### **Project Description**

The Research Program on Children and Adversity (RPCA) at the School of Social Work is an applied research program dedicated to improving the evidence base on the epidemiology of mental health problems and family functioning as well as intervention research to develop and test mental health services for children and families affected by multiple forms of adversity, including armed conflict, poverty, and infectious disease. The current research project links with an evidence-based, home-visiting model (Sugira Muryango; SM) that supports playful parenting, father engagement, improved nutrition, care seeking and family functioning -- to promote Early Child Development, positive parent-child relationships, and healthy child development. This scaling out implementation science hybrid design would enable RPCA to 1) expand SM to younger children (0-6 months); 2) increase by almost tenfold the number of children impacted by the intervention; 3) increase the use of technology to accelerate feedback; and, 4) test an evidence-based implementation strategy, the Promoting Lasting Anthropometric Change and Young Children's Development (PLAY) Collaborative, to engage local stakeholders and frontline providers and supervisors to ensure quality improvement and sustainability.

### **Position Description**

The Program Manager will be based in Rwanda. The Program Manager will oversee a local team and direct field logistics; manage day to day research team activities; manage research budgets; engage in national level stakeholder engagement; train, implement and monitor the PLAY Collaborative Approach; and liaise regularly with partner organizations on the ground as well as local and national government officials to fulfill the scientific aims of the project. Please note that international travel is required, as deployment to Rwanda will take place upon hire.

### **In Country Oversight (60%)**

- Build and steward critical relationships with collaborative partners and act as primary contact for external relationships.
- Provide supervision and oversight to a Rwandan research team, in partnership with FXB Rwanda and ensure that the team procedures align with FXB mandate and research protocols.
- Create project implementation plans, together with FXB.
- Partner with FXB to oversee participant recruitment and monitor study progress
- Direct the data collection and data management components of the study to ensure scientific and research ethics integrity.
- Direct Rwanda-based staff meetings.
- Co-facilitate Community Advisory Board Meetings with stakeholders.



# BOSTON COLLEGE

## SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

---

- Maintain project budgets.
- Help forecast expenses and allocate expenses across projects.
- Lead preparation of IRB/local ethics committee applications, and oversee data collection.

### **Coordination with RPCA (40%)**

- Oversee the day-to-day project deliverables of graduate students and post-doctoral research fellows linked to the project in coordination with the RPCA.
- Supervise Boston-based student interns, providing backstopping support for the program objectives.
- Supervise students visiting the project site in Rwanda.
- Provide subject matter expertise and extensive input on study measures development, survey development and methodology, and assessment strategies.
- Work with the RPCA to prepare data for analysis and dissemination in reports and peer-reviewed publications.
- Contribute to grant applications related to the project.
- Engage in weekly leadership calls and monthly cross-site exchange meetings with RPCA staff.
- Help present and disseminate research results, write research reports, and oversee the creation of deliverables for grantors.
- Provide unique expertise to develop content for outreach materials, training, and meetings to further scientific aims and ensure cultural competencies are met.

### **Requirements**

- Bachelor's Degree with 3+ years of related experience required.
- Master's Degree or higher education strongly preferred.
- Prior supervisory and prior international work strongly preferred.
- Project management experience in research and/or academic organization strongly preferred.
- Experience in managing research studies and maintaining regulatory materials/IRB approvals preferred.
- Increasingly responsible management in a research, academic, or intellectually based organization preferred.
- Experience working independently and proactively.
- Experience working with diplomacy in communications and interpersonal relations; experience effectively dealing with multiple constituencies and cultural diversity, at all levels, with poise.
- Experience evaluating problems thoroughly, showing resourcefulness in identifying solutions, and displaying sound judgment.
- Experience motivating, developing, and inspiring colleagues and employees at all levels.
- Experience navigating in a complex work environment and responding to shifting and fluid priorities preferred.
- Working Conditions
  - Hot, humid, tropical climate.
  - Extremely limited medical facilities.
  - Potentially contaminated water.
  - High incidence of HIV/AIDS.
- Prevalence of common diseases that include Rabies, Lassa fever, water-borne diseases, malaria, and other tropical diseases.

**Contact: [tesla.abrego@bc.edu](mailto:tesla.abrego@bc.edu)**