



*In Search of Better Health*



**UNIVERSITY  
OF OSLO**

### **Vacancies: PhD & Postdoctoral Fellowships**

The Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), in collaboration with the University of Oslo (UiO), is implementing the research project [\*“Pandemic Funds, Public Goods for Health, and the Future of Global Health Financing \(PANDFUND\)”\*](#), funded by the Research Council of Norway.

The project examines how new regional financing initiatives for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (PPR)—including the Pandemic Fund, the Africa Public Health Foundation (APHF), and the Africa Epidemics Fund (AfEF)—align with governance, funding, and policy priorities of African countries, and how they advance pandemic PPR as a global public good. The project is managed by Dr. Jacinta Victoria Muinde (UiO) and Prof. Stephen Munga (KEMRI) with an international team of social scientists based in Norway, Ethiopia, and India.

We invite applications for the following full-time (100%) three-year fellowships (social science) under the PANDFUND project:

1. [PhD Fellowship \(Reference VN00923\)](#)
2. [Postdoctoral Fellowship \(Reference VN00923\)](#)

We welcome project proposals for ethnographic, advanced qualitative and/or policy research in Kenya focusing on a) global health financing, governance, and pandemic PPR initiatives and their interaction with national priorities and local realities; or b) the political economy and governance of the Pandemic Fund, APHF and/or the AfEF in relation to national and regional (e.g. African CDC) health governance.

**Location:** KEMRI, Kenya and Oslo, Norway

**Reporting to:** Principal Investigators (PIs)

## **Studentship Descriptions**

### **1. PhD Fellowship (1 opportunity)**

The PhD candidate will be employed by KEMRI and registered in a PhD programme at the University of Oslo, Institute of Health and Society, Faculty of Medicine. The fellow will fulfil all UiO PhD requirements, including required coursework and submission of a doctoral thesis (article-based or monograph) within three years. The position will be based at KEMRI and includes a fully funded six-month research stay at the University of Oslo, Norway.

## **2. Postdoctoral Fellowship (1 opportunity)**

The Postdoctoral Fellow will conduct advanced qualitative and policy-oriented research. The Postdoctoral Fellow will be employed at KEMRI for three years and will spend up to three months at the University of Oslo, Norway, as part of the collaboration (fully funded). The fellow is expected to publish 2-3 peer-reviewed scientific articles in high quality international journals within the three-year period. The fellow will contribute to PANFUND's comparative analysis, academic publications, and policy-relevant outputs.

## **Key requirements**

### **PhD Fellowship:**

- i. Master's degree (equivalent to a Norwegian Master's degree, minimum grade B or equivalent) in Social Sciences or Humanities (Medical/Social Anthropology, Development Studies, or related disciplines).
- ii. Eligibility for admission to the PhD Programme at the University of Oslo.
- iii. Documented experience with qualitative research methodologies.
- iv. Excellent written and oral proficiency in English and Kiswahili.
- v. Proven independent research experience in East Africa.
- vi. Demonstrated ability to complete writing projects within deadlines.
- vii. Strong motivation and suitability for doctoral research.

### **Postdoctoral Fellowship:**

- i. PhD in Social Sciences or Humanities (Medical/Social Anthropology, Development Studies, or related disciplines).
- ii. Documented qualitative research expertise.
- iii. Strong academic writing and publication record.
- iv. Proven independent research experience in East Africa.
- v. Excellent written and oral proficiency in English and Kiswahili.
- vi. Ability to work independently and collaboratively in interdisciplinary and international teams.

### **Additional Requirements:**

- i. Proficiency in Microsoft Office applications and preferably NVivo or other qualitative data analysis software.
- ii. Demonstrated interest in global health governance and international development policy.
- iii. Evidence of peer-reviewed publication(s) will be an added advantage.

- iv. Commitment to contribute to the academic and research standards of the host institutions

## **Key Responsibilities (both positions)**

- i. Conduct ethnographic, qualitative, and/or policy research aligned with project objectives.
- ii. Participate in project meetings, seminars, and workshops at KEMRI and UiO.
- iii. Present research findings at national, regional, and international academic and policy forums.
- iv. Contribute to project reports, dissemination outputs (policy briefs, blog posts, podcasts), and public engagement activities.
- v. Work closely with the respective PIs and interdisciplinary research team.
- vi. For PhD candidate: complete coursework and submit a doctoral thesis within three years.
- vii. For Postdoctoral Fellow: publish 2-3 peer-reviewed scientific articles within three years.

## **Terms of Engagement**

- i. Full-time (100%) three-year fellowship.
- ii. Monthly salary will be provided.
- iii. Funding for research activities, conferences, dissemination, books, and equipment.
- iv. Office space and access to facilities at host institutions.
- v. Travel expenses and living allowance for six months (PhD) or three months (Postdoctoral) stay in Oslo, Norway and for international conferences, with PI approval.
- vi. Supervision by an experienced international research team in Kenya and Norway.
- vii. Employment is conditional on successful PhD admission at the University of Oslo.

## **Applications Should Include**

- i. Cover letter (max. 1 page) outlining motivation, research interests, and relevant experience.
- ii. Curriculum Vitae (max. 2 pages), including education, positions, and publications. CVs that exceed 2 pages will not be considered.
- iii. Project description (max. 5 pages) including research objectives, conceptual and methodological approach, ethical considerations, expected outputs, timeline and references. The project proposal should clearly specify how the project contributes to PANFUND's overall goal. Any use of AI chatbots must be declared.
- iv. Certified copies of academic certificates and transcripts.
- v. Writing sample (e.g., Excerpt of Master's or PhD thesis, academic publication, or other academic work).
- vi. Documentation of English and Kiswahili proficiency.
- vii. Contact details of two academic referees familiar with the applicant's work.

PhD applicants educated outside Norway must include documentation from the Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills (HK-dir) confirming equivalency of their Master's degree to a Norwegian Master's degree (or proof that the application for such review has been submitted).

Applications should be in English and made through KEMRI Website <https://www.kemri.go.ke/e-recruitment> portal on or before 02<sup>nd</sup> April 2026, at the latest 5:00 pm.

Please visit the KEMRI Website <https://www.kemri.go.ke> for more details on the Studentship opportunity.

For questions about the position, please contact Dr Jacinta Victoria S. Muinde, Associate Professor and Project Leader, University of Oslo ([j.v.s.muinde@medisin.uio.no](mailto:j.v.s.muinde@medisin.uio.no)).

**Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted and will be invited to an online interview.**