

I. Post Information			
Job Title	Health Specialist (MNCH/EMTCT)		
Post Number	105181	Level	P-4
Region	LAC	Country	Panama
Office	LAC Regional Office	Duty Station	Panama

Strategic office context
<p>The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015, embody the consensus of governments and different stakeholders to work towards a transformative vision of economic, social and environmental sustainability. It is a civilizing, universal, indivisible and rights-based agenda that proposes to "leave no one behind" and needs all sectors to be engaged in its implementation. Supporting Member States achieve these goals, and the 2030 Agenda is and will continue to be main objective of UNICEF in Latin America and the Caribbean to ensure that none of the 195 million children and adolescents in the region is left behind. The LAC Regional Office Management Plan (ROMP) 2022 — 2025 aims at contributing, at regional, sub-regional, and country levels to progressively achieving the child-related.</p> <p>Sustainable Development Goals as defined in the 2030 Agenda. The ROMP reflects the various roles and accountabilities of the regional office. These functions include: (a) provision of technical, quality assurance and oversight support to Country Offices; (b) global, region-wide or multi-country support for evidence generation and dissemination, advocacy and campaigns, leveraging resources and partnerships, and fostering UN Working Together; (c) effective and efficient functioning of the organization and well-being of its staff. LACRO will work closely with a wide range of partners (governments, inter-governmental organisations, UN-agencies and academia) to build further evidence around each of these topics and mobilise these stakeholders for concerted, evidence informed action.</p> <p>Outcome 1 of the ROMP aims at ensuring that girls, boys and adolescents in LAC benefit from equitable policies and programmes that guarantee their health, wellbeing and full development. This outcome will focus on supporting countries in the implementation of the Secretary General Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016-2030) in the region, across its broad agenda of survive, thrive and transform, with an emphasis on reducing health inequities, strengthening health and community systems, promoting multi-sectoral action and building partnership in health, nutrition and HIV, including in fragile and emergency contexts. Within this outcome, there are 3 outputs related to: (1) Maternal, newborn and child health, including the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis and Hepatitis B (MNCH/EMTCT), (2) Nutrition, and, (3) Adolescent health.</p>
Purpose of the Job

The Health Specialist (MNCH/EMTCT) reports to the Regional Adviser Survive & Thrive, who coordinates the Survive and Thrive outcome of the ROMP 2022 – 2025 for general guidance and supervision. The Health Specialist (MNCH/EMTCT), under the supervision of the Regional Adviser, Survive & Thrive in charge of the overall result of outcome 1, is responsible for the development, implementation and monitoring of the strategies and activities towards the achievement of output 1.1, related to maternal, newborn and child health, and the mainstreaming of the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B (MNCH/EMTCT) within it. The Specialist is responsible for managing, implementing, monitoring, evaluating and reporting of the MNCH/EMTCT programme/s within the regional programme and providing technical guidance and operational support to Country Offices in the LAC Region throughout the programming process to facilitate the achievement of concrete and sustainable results according to plans, allocation, results based-management approaches and methodology (RBM) and organizational Strategic Plans and goals, standards of performance and accountability framework.

Key functions, accountabilities, and related duties/tasks

Summary of key functions/accountabilities:

- 1. Programme development and planning**
- 2. Programme management, monitoring, and delivery of results**
- 3. Advisory services and technical support**
- 4. Advocacy, networking, and partnership building**
- 5. Innovation, knowledge management and capacity building**

1. Programme development and planning

- Plan and provide technical support/guidance to the preparation/design and conduct/update of situation analysis as well as other evidence generation to establish a comprehensive/updated strategic plan for development, design and management of maternal, newborn and child health, and elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B (MNCH/EMTCT) related programmes in the region, in the context of strengthening primary health care, and with linkages to MNCH/EMTCT programmes and interventions. Keep abreast of development trends to enhance programme management, efficiency and delivery.
- Prepare, coordinate and/or supervise the formulation of MNCH/EMTCT programme strategies and recommendations and related documentations as a component of the ROMP establishing clear programme goals, objectives, strategies and results based on results-based management terminology and methodology (RBM).
- Ensure alignment of the sectoral programme with the overall UNICEF's Strategic Plans, LACRO regional strategy and priorities, plans and competencies.
- Consult and collaborate with internal and external colleagues and partners to provide technical and operational support on programme planning, management, and implementation and to facilitate and ensure integration, coherence and harmonization of MNCH/EMTCT programmes/projects with other UNICEF sectors throughout all stages of programming processes, including within the Survive and Thrive portfolio and with Early Childhood Development.

2. Programme management, monitoring and delivery of results

- Coordinate, plan and/or collaborate with internal and external partners to establish monitoring benchmarks, performance indicators and other UNICEF/UN system indicators and measurement to assess/strengthen performance accountability, coherence and delivery of concrete and sustainable results in MNCH/EMTCT programmes.

- Participate in monitoring and evaluation exercises, programme reviews and annual sectoral reviews to assess progress and to determine required action/interventions to achieve results.
- Prepare/assess monitoring and evaluation reports to identify gaps, strengths/weaknesses in programme and management, identify lessons learned and use knowledge gained for development planning and timely intervention to achieve goals.
- Actively monitor programmes/projects to assess progress identify bottlenecks and potential problems and take timely decisions to resolve issues and/or refer to relevant officials for timely resolution.
- Plan, monitor certify disbursements and control the optimum/appropriate use of sectoral programme resources (financial, administrative, and other assets) confirming compliance with organizational rules, regulations/procedures, donor commitments, standards of accountability and integrity and ensuring timely reporting and liquidation of resources. Prepare mandated and key programme/project reports for donors and other partners to keep them informed programme progress.

3. Advisory services and technical support

- Collaborate/consult with sectoral stakeholders and partners, NGO partners, UN system partners and country offices on policies, strategies and best practices and approaches on MNCT/EMTCT in the context of strengthening primary health care, and with linkages MNCH/EMTCT programmes and interventions and related issues to support Country Offices in LAC in their programme development planning, management, implementation and delivery of results.
- Promote and support the development of innovative strategies that help ensure access to quality MNCH and EMTCT services at primary level while strengthening secondary and tertiary level health services.
- Participate in programme strategic discussions/planning to provide technical advice/contribute to policy discussions and agenda setting to promote health and development issues especially in the areas of gender, emergency preparedness and maternal, newborn and child survival and development.
- Prepare policy papers, briefs and other strategic programme materials for management use, information and/or consideration as required.
- Participate in emergency preparedness initiatives programme development and contingency planning and/or to respond to emergencies in country or where designated.

4. Advocacy, networking and partnership building

- Build and strengthen strategic partnerships with health sector government counterparts, regional and sub-regional stakeholders and partners/ allies/ donors/ academia/ regional platforms and alliances through active networking, advocacy and effective communication to build capacity, exchange knowledge/expertise and/or promote cooperation and alliances to achieve programme goals on children rights; child development and wellbeing and social justice/ equity.
- Prepare communication and information materials to highlight programme goals, achievements and/ or needs to promote awareness, establish partnership/ alliances and support fund raising for MNCH/EMTCT.
- Participate and/or represent UNICEF in appropriate inter-agency discussions and planning on MNCH, EMTCT and related issues to ensure organizational position, interests and priorities are fully considered and integrated in regional health partners' priorities. Collaborate with inter-agency partners/colleagues for planning and preparation of joint MNCH/EMTCT programmes/projects.

5. Innovation, knowledge management and capacity building

- Promote critical thinking and innovative approaches and good practices for sustainable MNCH/EMTCT initiatives, with an equity focus.
- Keep abreast, research, benchmark and implement best and cutting-edge practices in health management and information systems, including the use of digital technologies. Institutionalize and share best practices and knowledge learned.
- Contribute to the development of policies and procedures and introduce innovation, including digital solutions, and best practices to ensure optimum efficiency and efficacy of sustainable MNCH/EMTCT programmes and projects.
- Lead/ plan/ implement capacity building initiatives to enhance the competencies of UNICEF COs, counterparts, and partners to promote sustainable results on MNCH/ EMTCT related programmes and projects.

Competency and level of Proficiency Required

Core values attributes: Care, Respect, Integrity, Trust, Accountability and Sustainability (CRITAS).

Core competencies: Demonstrates Self Awareness (2) and Ethical Awareness (2), Works Collaboratively with others (2), Builds and Maintains Partnerships (2), Innovates and Embraces Change (2), Thinks and Acts Strategically (2), Drive to achieve impactful results (2), and Manages ambiguity and complexity (2).

VI. Recruitment Qualifications

Education	Master's Degree or higher in public health/nutrition, paediatric health, family health, health research, global/international health, health policy and/or management, environmental health sciences, biostatistics, socio-medical, health education, epidemiology or other health related sciences is required.
Experience	A minimum of 8 years of professional experience in public health/ nutrition planning and management and/ or in relevant areas of maternal and newborn health care, HIV, elimination of mother-to-child transmissions (EMTCT), health emergency/ humanitarian preparedness, at the international level some of which preferably in a developing country is required. Relevant experience in health/ nutrition/ HIV programme/ project development and management in any UN system agency or organization is an asset.
Language	Fluency in English and Spanish is required. Knowledge of French or Portuguese will be an asset.