



UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND
JOB PROFILE

I. Post Information

Job Title: **Health Specialist- Health and Immunization Financing.**

Supervisor Title/ Level: Regional Adviser, Health, P5

Organizational Unit: Health

Post Location: ROSA, Kathmandu, Nepal

Job Level: **P 4**

Job Classification Level: P4

II. Organizational Context and Purpose for the job

The fundamental mission of UNICEF is to promote the rights of every child, everywhere, in everything the organization does — in programs, in advocacy and in operations. The equity strategy, emphasizing the most disadvantaged and excluded children and families, translates this commitment to children's rights into action. For UNICEF, equity means that all children have an opportunity to survive, develop and reach their full potential, without discrimination, bias, or favoritism. There is growing evidence that investing in the health, education, and protection of a society's most disadvantaged citizens — addressing inequity — not only will give all children the opportunity to fulfill their potential but also will lead to sustained growth and stability of countries. Therefore, the focus on equity is so vital. It accelerates progress towards realizing the human rights of all children, which is the universal mandate of UNICEF, as outlined by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, while also supporting the equitable development of nations.

Job organizational context.

UNICEF ROSA health agenda is driven by multisectoral coordination and investments to strengthen Primary Health Care (PHC) toward the achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in the South Asia Region. The focus will be on accelerating the unfinished agenda on newborn, child, and adolescent health, in building resilient primary health care in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. While moving these agenda forward, investments will be made in health and community systems strengthening with a focus on building internal and local capacity for evidence generation and use to influence policies, plans, strategies, and priorities, including sustainable health financing.

In the area of health financing, the focus will be on strengthening domestic resource mobilization efforts and improved management and efficiency of available funds. Despite progress made, health expenditure is still pushing millions of families into poverty in South Asia. Data from 2019 showed that an average of less than 2% percent of Southeast Asian countries'

GDPs goes toward healthcare. Therefore, health financing is still relying heavily on out-of-pocket spending and development assistance.

UNICEF's commitment to supporting countries to reach universal health coverage lies in its capacity to influence national priorities and budgets, leverage partners and resources in order to break the cycle of inadequate domestic financing for health in general and immunization specifically. UNICEF will work with partners to generate evidence for policy dialogue on health financing, including policy formulation to strengthen public financial management in the context of revitalized primary health care systems toward the SDG. UNICEF will also build capacity, develop investment cases and fiscal space analysis to ensure countries get value for money for strategic investment in health based on the public financing for children framework.

UNICEF's approach to Health Systems Strengthening (HSS), including health financing explicitly focuses on the most marginalized women and children, as an ethical and practical priority. UNICEF Approach to HSS also focuses on the need for, and complementarity of interventions at the national and sub-national levels and the centrality of district-level management to the overall performance of a national health system.

Purpose for the job

The Health Specialist-health and Immunization Financing provides strategic and enhanced technical guidance and support for economic analysis, costing, investment cases, and devise strategies for resource mobilization to accelerate scale-up of maternal, newborn, and adolescent health interventions with a specific focus on immunization. The Specialist will also provide guidance for leveraging existing resources in this context, as well as related advocacy and policy dialogue with the counterparts.

The position of Health Specialist, Health and Immunization Financing is based at the UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA), and provide assistance to the countries of South Asian and the East Asia and the Pacific region (EAPRO). Under the overall supervision and guidance of the Regional Health Adviser, the Health Economist is responsible for the strategic and operational guidance, and technical support in the areas of health financing, including immunization financing. This includes support to managing, implementing, monitoring, evaluating, and reporting on health expenditures and financing for maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health, with a focus on immunization.

Specific work areas are:

- Provide strategic and programmatic guidance and technical support to the countries in UNICEF South Asia and East Asia and the Pacific regions (ROSA & EAPRO) to improve the linkages between planning, costing, budgeting, and financing of child health programs with a focus on immunization.
- Align child health and immunization financing to broader health financing, focusing on efficiency and sustainability.
- Ensure that policy dialogue and resource mobilization issues are addressed from a sector wide and "Health in All Policies" approach with the focus that sustainability is not seen solely in terms of additional resources but also as requiring efforts to improve efficiency in the use of the existing resources, being domestic or external.

- Strategically leverage immunization resources to strengthen the pillars of the health system to impact broader MNCAH services with a focus on decentralized health systems management, innovative service delivery, and equitable access to quality services.
- Provide technical assistance to governments and other relevant stakeholders in costing of PHC, particularly the operational costs of health and immunization related strategic and operational plans with a focus on allocative efficiency.
- Work with national governments, health, and immunization partners on sustainability strategies in the context of PHC, including identifying new funding sources especially through domestic resource mobilization.
- Support the development of research agendas and special initiatives related to improving health policy and financing.

III. Key functions, accountabilities, and related duties/tasks (Please outline the key accountabilities for this position and underneath each accountability, the duties that describe how they are delivered. Please limit to four to seven accountabilities)

Summary of key functions/accountabilities:

Influence policies, plans and priorities

- Lead the undertaking of timely health system analysis, including equity analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis and public health expenditure reviews.
- Empower UNICEF Country Offices with evidence for dialogue in improving the efficiency of health spending.
- Development of investment cases for PHC revitalization including community health.
- Support and guide UNICEF Country Offices for the development of national health financing systems in the context of PHC towards Universal Health Coverage, including revenue collection, pooling, and purchasing, to assure access to needed promotive, preventive, curative, and rehabilitative services without financial hardship
- Lead timely, regular data-driven situational analyses, country program planning and monitoring of the state of health systems, health services and health care financing in South Asia and East Asia and the Pacific regions for supporting the monitoring of health sector performance, including general financing indicators, Sustainable Development Goals and UHC indicators.
- Collaborate with social policy sections to support analysis and understanding of the underlying social determinants of health, to help develop and implement health policies and programmes that enhance health equity and integrate pro-poor, gender-responsive, and human rights-based approaches.
- Facilitate the analysis of social and economic trends and health financing information in South Asia with focus on implications on fiscal space for health services and support engagement for policy dialogue.
- Advocate for and support efforts to leverage resources for sustainable health system strengthening

Strategic and technical guidance and support

- Provide guidance to country offices on advocacy and partnerships building for the development of context responsive national and sub-national health system strengthening policies and programs, particularly with regard to health care financing.
- Inform and upskill health staff in the region on Public Financial Management (PFM) for health.
- Support identification and analysis of PFM-related bottlenecks to health services delivery relating to the availability, flow and use of resources.
- Support capacity building in PFM to overcome bottlenecks and weaknesses in fund management at subnational level.
- Provide in-country technical and operational leadership and guidance on health care financing for PHC-UHC. Undertake field visits and periodic programme reviews with UNICEF teams and their partners for monitoring frontline implementation for UHC and SDG indicators.
- Support and guide the harmonization and alignment of health financing policies/strategies/plans and donor coordination mechanisms for health at country level.

Accelerate immunization agenda

- Serve as the health section's focal point on immunization financing including COVID-19 vaccination, and provide support on immunization planning, budgeting and overall Public Financial Management to selected countries.
- Support countries in costing of National Immunization Strategies (NIS) and Annual Operational Plans (AOPs) as well as developing establishing a system for its periodic monitoring.
- Develop immunization-specific investment dossiers coupled with fiscal space analysis for targeted interventions to inform policy decision, prioritization, and strategic and programmatic shifts as appropriate
- Gather Ministry of Health budgets and expenditure records for inclusion in UNICEF's planned database on immunization budgets
- Work in close collaboration with the immunization supply chain team and liaise with the Supply Section for establishment of systems for monitoring financial sustainability of Cold Chain Equipment Optimization Platforms.
- Support GAVI transitioning countries to fulfill their commitment through data collection and progress tracking.
- Provide support in strengthening local capacity including innovative approaches on financial sustainability to the pre-transition and late transition Gavi countries, and other Middle-Income countries.

Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting

- Collaborate with Monitoring and Evaluation officers at regional and country offices for timely, efficiently, rigorously, and transparently monitoring, evaluation and reporting on immunization, PHC and HSS initiatives.
- Participate in major evaluation exercises, programme and sector review meetings with government counterparts and partners as related to the assigned areas of responsibilities

Knowledge management:

- Document and disseminate lessons learned from regional and national efforts in

accelerating Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030), strengthening health systems, accelerating PHC and expanding health coverage for UHC and the efforts to improve partnerships for sustainable health systems strengthening.

- Develop and implement country-specific national capacity building strategies in health financing
- Explore areas and opportunities for country office staff development, including training and opportunities for cross fertilization with UNICEF staff from countries in other UNICEF regions.
- Provide technical leadership and coordination of relevant operational research, thus contributing to the knowledge base in health systems strengthening with a focus on health economics
- Disseminate relevant academic research findings, publications, presentations, and reports

Other related duties

- Maintain highest level of contacts and active collaboration with regionally active partners, including WHO, Gavi, the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and other key operational partners to coordinate activities in leveraging technical and financial resources for RMNCH and immunization
- Provide guidance and coordination to enable country offices to prepare Gavi Full Portfolio Planning (FPP) proposals that are of high technical quality and provide inputs to regional and global resources leveraging efforts as required.
- Represent UNICEF ROSA in relevant meetings at global, regional, and national levels to ensure that UNICEF perspectives are adequately represented in relevant strategies and frameworks related to health and immunization financing.
- Carry out any other duties that may be assigned by the Regional Health Adviser and Regional Office from time to time including guiding, training, and coaching staff, interns, and consultants, as needed.

IV. Impact of Results (Please briefly outline how the efficiency and efficacy of the incumbent impacts its office/division and how this in turn improves UNICEF's capacity in achieving its goals)

It is expected that the strategic and technical leadership of the incumbent will significantly impact overall child survival and development across countries in the region. The efficacy and efficiency of the support provided by the position in terms of partner coordination, provision of guidance, resource and partner leveraging, and technical support will contribute to strong strategic and technical positioning of UNICEF at the regional and country level. This will ultimately contribute to enhancing the leadership, credibility, and ability of UNICEF in health financing as critical components of its efforts to improving child survival and development in East Asia (SA) and East Asia and the Pacific (EAP)

V. Competencies and level of proficiency required (please base on UNICEF Competency Profiles)

<p><u>Core Values</u> Care • Respect • Integrity • Trust • Accountability</p> <p><u>Core competencies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates Self Awareness and Ethical Awareness (1) • Works Collaboratively with others (1) • Builds and Maintains Partnerships (1) • Innovates and Embraces Change (1) • Thinks and Acts Strategically (1) • Drive to achieve impactful results (1) • Manages ambiguity and complexity (1) 	
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VI. Recruitment Qualifications	
Education:	An advanced university degree in health economics or in Public Health with a focus on health economics or health financing, or an advanced degree in economics or financing with a focus on Health Systems Strengthening and/or other related field.
Experience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum of eight years of professional experience in health economics analysis and Public Financial Management in Health. • Experience working in a developing country preferably in Asia is considered as an asset. • Relevant experience in a UN system agency or organization is considered as an asset. • Strong relationship building skills in the global health community, particularly among donors, multilateral partners, and implementers • Experience in strengthening public health financing and governance
Language Requirements:	Fluency in English is required. Knowledge of another official UN language (Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian or Spanish) or a local language is an asset