



SPECIFIC JOB PROFILE

I. Post Information

POST NUMBER/ CASE NUMBER: 113916
POST/CASE NUMBER OF SUPERVISOR: 1437
REASON FOR CLASSIFICATION:
REGION/DIVISION: SOUTH ASIA
COUNTRY: PAKISTAN
DUTY STATION: ISLAMABAD
OFFICE: ROSA
SECTION: HEALTH
UNIT: POLIO

CATEGORY:
PROPOSED LEVEL: P-5
JOB TITLE: REGIONAL ADVISOR (POLIO)
Functional Code:
ICSC CCOG Code:

II. Strategic Office Context and Purpose for the job

Organizational Context

The universal mandate of UNICEF, as outlined by the Convention on the Rights of the Child is to promote the rights of every child, everywhere.,

The Global Polio Eradication Program is at the forefront of UNICEF equity agenda and envisages a world where no child, regardless of where they live is at risk from the crippling effects of the polio virus. Despite considerable gains the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) wild poliovirus (WPV) transmission continues in the epidemiological block of Afghanistan and Pakistan and is increasing. While important gains were made over the period 2019 to 2022, the trajectory of polio transmission in both Pakistan and Afghanistan has recently reversed putting at risks the GPEI goal of declaring the world eradicated from wild polio virus by 2027.

Given the complex geopolitical and epidemiological context of these remaining endemic areas in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and the urgency to stop polio transmission, UNICEF has determined that it needs to place its regional oversight and support for the two polio programs closer to our teams in the endemic countries. The Regional Advisor for Polio position will be outposted to Islamabad starting in 2025. This will facilitate greater insights to the program challenges and context, allow better alignment of support to the GPEI programme and partners in the two countries, and more rapid engagement and support to our two UNICEF country teams.

Purpose of the Job:

The Regional Advisor Polio will report to the ROSA Regional Director. In the capacity of Regional Adviser, the Regional Advisor Polio supports and advises the Regional Director, the Regional Management Team and Pakistan and Afghanistan Country Offices in developing policies, strategies, programmes and systems for the UNICEF regional polio programme support. Responsible for providing technical leadership, management advice, and programme support and capacity building to the UNICEF polio programs in the Pakistan and Afghanistan country offices.

Facilitates application, adaptation and achievement of UNICEF global and regional goals, policies, and strategies in the area of polio eradication in the two endemic countries. Provides UNICEF Polio programmes with innovative leadership including managerial advice, vision, oversight, knowledge management, policy development, strategy articulation, situation appraisal, harmonization of programme strategies, capacity building, monitoring & evaluation support, representation, networking and strategic partnership creation.

III. Key functions, accountabilities and related duties/tasks:

Support the planning, implementation and assessment of all UNICEF polio related activities in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and coordination support and alignment with other ROSA programmatic areas (SBC, Health and Immunization, Nutrition, Gender). Represent UNICEF in GPEI regional coordination and oversight bodies for strategic and general view across all areas (access, overall planning, and strategy). Provide inputs, with a regional perspective, to the Global Polio Eradication Team, for the GPEI's governance bodies (POB, Strategy Committee, different Programme Support Groups) and for Briefings to Global Management. Support HR planning and talent management for Country Offices. Act as the main reporting related officer to UNICEF Global and Regional team on progress of the Polio eradication in the Region (Country level Indicators, Communication outcomes, Impact on Immunization targets, etc). Contribute to the development of the Post Certification Strategy and its roll out for the Region. This includes a plan for the use of polio assets and lessons learned from Polio eradication to improve RI coverages in Polio high-risk areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan. This will specifically include:

1. Regional leadership

- Support the RD/DRD in providing leadership to the polio eradication agenda in the two endemic countries including providing up to date data and analysis and supporting their representation roles within the GPEI architecture.
- Engage with regional GPEI partners and provide strategic direction and coordination with their strategies and investments to ensure they align with UNICEF's regional efforts for polio eradication.
- Maintain excellent working relations with core GPEI partners (Gates Foundation, WHO, CDC, Rotary and Gavi) at Regional and Country level.
Provide inputs, with a regional perspective, to the Global Polio Eradication Team, for the GPEI's governance bodies (POB, Strategy Committee, different Programme Support Groups) and for Briefings to Global Management.

2. Technical Guidance and Support

- Provide technical and operational guidance and support to UNICEF Polio teams (National and Provincial) in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Champion results-based management.
- Provide Regional technical and operational leadership and guidance on scaling up WPV case response and preparedness interventions in particular related to SBC and Vaccine Management.
- Provide technical support and leadership to UNICEF's efforts on polio eradication in particular related to SBC and vaccine management & linkages to routine immunization, PHC and humanitarian programming in Pakistan and Afghanistan

- Coordinate the collaboration and alignment between the two UNICEF polio country teams in Pakistan and Afghanistan including regularly forums for sharing of information and alignment of programs.
- Ensure alignment between UNICEF's Global, Regional and Country level Polio Eradication efforts by staying abreast of decisions taken at POB and SC level and engaging on a regular basis with the Global Team.
- Provide contextual analysis that provides a better understanding of the opportunities and challenges for building Community Trust.

3. **GPEI Budgetary Oversight**

- In collaboration with other GPEI partners and the GPEI Financial Management Group, support the two country polio programs with the development of the annual polio program budgets, the quarterly review and identification of corrective actions to address shortfalls or underspends, and coordination with the GPEI Strategy Committee for oversight.

4. **Data-driven and results-based management**

- Lead timely, regular data-driven situational analyses (including epidemiological, social data, political, anthropological, economic data and emergency assessments) with our UNICEF country polio teams. Provide leadership in data-driven prioritization and implementation of polio strategies and interventions. All this with a strong focus on UNICEF's accountabilities within the GPEI, ie. SBC and Vaccine Management.
- Conduct field visits to support programmes and conduct periodic programme reviews at National and Provincial level in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

5. **Monitoring, evaluation and reporting**

- Collaborate with Monitoring and Evaluation officer in UNICEF COs and NYHQ to timely, efficiently, rigorously and transparently monitor, evaluate and report on effectiveness and impact of polio program activities.
- Participate in major evaluation exercises, programme reviews and polio review meetings within regional GPEI bodies (e.g. TAG) and with government counterparts; Ensure corrective action is undertaken to address bottlenecks related to UNICEF's Programme identified during evaluation exercises.

6. **Knowledge management**

- Ensure documentation and dissemination of lessons learned – within and between Afghanistan and Pakistan, and with other countries
- Explore areas and opportunities for staff development, including training and opportunities for cross fertilization with UNICEF staff from both Afghanistan and Pakistan COs and Regional office.

IV. Impact of Results

1. Improved technical programming in Afghanistan and Pakistan particularly in SBC and Vaccine Management, resulting in reduction in – and then cessation of – polio transmission in both countries.
2. Strategic partnership between UNICEF and other GPEI partners is strengthened, with practical positive impact in Afghanistan and Pakistan

V. UNICEF values and competency Required (based on the updated Framework)

Values

- Care
- Respect
- Integrity
- Trust
- Accountability
- Sustainability

Core Competencies

- Nurtures, Leads and Manages People (2)
- Demonstrates Self Awareness and Ethical Awareness (3)
- Works Collaboratively with others (3)
- Builds and Maintains Partnerships (3)
- Innovates and Embraces Change (3)
- Thinks and Acts Strategically (3)
- Drives to achieve impactful results (3)
- Manages ambiguity and complexity (3)

Functional Competencies

- Analyzing (3)
- Deciding and initiating action (3)
- Persuading and influencing (2)

VI. Recruitment Qualifications

Education:

- An advanced university degree (master's or higher) in Public Health, Social Sciences, Public Administration, Public Policy, Social Development, Community Development, or other relevant disciplines.

Experience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A minimum of Ten (10) years progressively responsible work experience in planning, programming, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, public health, including vaccine management at national or international levels.• Experience in developing and establishing policies and strategies in immunization disease control.• Experience of strategic partnerships in global health or other accelerated initiatives to combat vaccine-preventable diseases.• Specific experience in providing technical leadership, management advice, and programme support and capacity building on vaccine-preventable disease initiatives is desirable.• Experience of GPEI and polio eradication programmes is an asset.• Experience in coordination of emergency response especially in public health emergencies and complex humanitarian environment are an asset. Developing-country work experience and field work experience with a UN system agency or organization is considered as an asset.
Language Requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fluency in English is required. Knowledge of another official UN language (Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian or Spanish) or a local language is an asset.