



UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (GENERIC) JOB PROFILE

I. Post Information

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| Job Title: Nutrition Officer Supervisor Title/ Level: Nutrition Manager P4 Organizational Unit: Programme Post Location: Nigeria | Job Level: Level 2 Job Profile No.: CCOG Code: 1102 Functional Code: NUT Job Classification Level: Level 2 |
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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 programmes, advocacy, and 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 favouritism. To the degree that any child has an unequal chance in life — in its social, political, economic, civic, and cultural dimensions — her or his rights are violated. There is growing evidence that investing in the health, nutrition, 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.

In Nigeria, the nutrition situation of children under five has recorded minimal change over the past decade. Currently, Nigeria is off track to achieve the World Health Assembly 2025 Sustainable Development Goal nutrition targets by 2030. Nigeria's high burden of malnutrition is a cause for public health concerns. One in three children is stunted, and one of every ten children is wasted. As a result, close to 17 million Nigerian children are undernourished (stunted and/ or wasted), giving Nigeria the highest burden of stunting in Africa and the second highest in the world. Measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic have exacerbated inequalities in nutrition status. In addition to an increased risk of sickness and death, malnutrition is also linked to poor cognitive development, a lowered performance in education, and low productivity in adulthood — and consequently on human capital development.

To accelerate the reduction of stunting, UNICEF, in partnership with the government and other stakeholders, aims to implement a robust Strategic Behavior Change Communication Strategy (SBCC) for various audiences, including providers, caregivers, and influencers. Additionally, UNICEF is working closely with both the Federal and State Governments to strengthen systems (health, food and social protection) to deliver high quality counselling and services (including procurement of commodities) to improve maternal, infant and young child nutrition (MIYCN). To enable UNICEF to accelerate results in these two areas, the UNICEF Nigeria Office is seeking a Nutrition Officer (NOB) to be based in Abuja, Nigeria.

Purpose for the job:

Supervised by the Nutrition Manager (Diets & Practices), the Nutrition Officer will support the implementation of the SBCC strategy and the strengthening of systems (health, food and social protection) to ensure that mothers and children consume optimal diets. The Nutrition Officer will provide technical guidance throughout the programming processes to facilitate the administration and achievement of concrete and sustainable results. This will be carried out according to plans, allocation, results-based-management approaches and methodology (RBM), as well as UNICEF's Strategic Plans, standards of performance, and accountability framework.

III. Key function, accountabilities, and related duties/tasks**Summary of key functions/ accountabilities**

1. Support to programme development and planning
2. Programme management, monitoring, and delivery of results
3. Technical and operational support to programme implementation
4. Networking and partnership-building
5. Innovation, knowledge management and capacity building

1. Support to programme development and planning

- Contribute to and support the implementation of a robust gender transformative behaviour change communication strategy and system strengthening strategies (health, food and social protection) and activities to improve maternal, infant, and young child nutrition.
- Participate in strategic programme discussions on gender-sensitive nutrition programmes/ projects, on behavior change communication and systems strengthening (health, food and social protection), with both internal and external stakeholders.
- Formulate, design, and contribute to the development of high-quality nutrition programme proposals, ensuring alignment with UNICEF's Strategic Plans, Country Programme, and coherence/ integration with the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), regional strategies, as well as national priorities, plans and competencies.
- Establish specific goals, objectives, strategies, and implementation plans based on results-based planning terminology and methodology (RBM). Prepare high-quality documentation for programme review and approval.
- Work closely and collaboratively with colleagues and partners to discuss gender and nutrition transformative strategies and methodologies and to determine national priorities/ competencies to ensure the achievement of concrete and sustainable results.
- Provide technical and operational support throughout all stages of programming processes to ensure integration, coherence, and harmonization of programmes/ projects with other UNICEF sectors and achievement of results as planned and allocated.

2. Programme management, monitoring, and delivery of results

- Plan and/ or collaborate with internal and external stakeholders to establish gender transformative monitoring benchmarks, performance indicators, and UNICEF/ UN system indicators and measurements, to assess and strengthen performance accountability, coherence, and delivery of concrete and sustainable results for the assigned sector in nutrition programmes.
- Participate in monitoring and evaluation exercises, programme reviews and annual reviews with government and other stakeholders to assess progress and to determine required action and interventions to achieve results.
- Prepare and assess monitoring and evaluation reports to identify gaps, strengths and/or weaknesses in programme management. Identify lessons learned and use the knowledge gained for development planning and timely intervention to achieve goals.
- Actively monitor programmes and projects through field visits, surveys and/ or exchange of information with partners and stakeholders to assess progress. Identify bottlenecks and

potential problems and take timely decisions to resolve issues and/ or refer to relevant officials for timely resolution.

- Monitor and verify the optimum and appropriate use of sectoral programme resources (financial, administrative, and other assets) confirming compliance with organizational rules, regulations, procedures, donor commitments, and standards of accountability. Ensure timely reporting and liquidation of resources.
- Prepare regular high-quality programme/ project reports and databases for management, donors, and partners to keep them informed of programme progress.

3. Technical and operational support to programme implementation

- Oversee implementation of gender transformative behaviour change communication strategies for nutrition, working in partnership with government, development partners and the private sector.
- Support implementation of high impact nutrition interventions across the health, food and social protection systems, including supporting procurement of commodities.
- Provide technical guidance and operational support to government counterparts, NGO partners, UN system partners and other country office partners/ donors on the interpretation, application and understanding of UNICEF policies, strategies, processes, best practices, and behaviour change communication approaches on nutrition and related issues to support programme development planning, management, implementation, and delivery of results.
- Participate in discussions with national and sub-national stakeholders to promote nutrition and development issues.
- Draft policy papers, briefs, and other strategic programme materials for management use, information and/ or consideration.

4. Networking and partnership-building

- Build and sustain effective close working partnerships with nutrition sector government counterparts and national stakeholders through active sharing of information and knowledge.
- Represent UNICEF in external meetings as appropriate
- Facilitate programme implementation and build the capacity of stakeholders to achieve programme goals on maternal and child rights as well as social justice and equity.
- Prepare high-quality communication and information materials for Country Office programme advocacy to promote awareness, establish partnerships/ alliances and support fundraising for nutrition programmes (maternal, newborn and child survival and development).
- Participate and/ or represent UNICEF in inter-agency discussions, ensuring that UNICEF's position, interests, and priorities are fully considered and integrated in the UNDAF development planning and agenda setting.

5. Innovation, knowledge management and capacity building

- Apply and introduce innovative approaches and good practices to build the capacity of partners and stakeholders, and to support the implementation and delivery of normative change
- Keep abreast, research, benchmark, and implement best and cutting-edge practices in nutrition management and information systems. Assess, institutionalize, and share best practices and knowledge learned.
- Contribute to the development and implementation of policies and procedures to ensure optimum efficiency and efficacy of sustainable programmes and projects.
- Organize and implement capacity building initiatives to enhance the competencies of clients and stakeholders to promote sustainable results on nutrition related programmes and projects.

IV. Impact of Results

The efficiency and efficacy of support provided by the Nutrition Officer to the preparation, planning and implementation of nutrition programmes/ projects contributes to and accelerates the national development efforts to improve the nutritional status of mothers, infants, and children in the country. This in turn contributes to maintaining and enhancing the credibility and ability of UNICEF to continue to provide programme services to mothers and children that promotes greater social equity in the country.

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

| <u>Core Values</u> | <u>Core Competencies</u> | <u>Functional Competencies</u> |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Care• Respect• Integrity• Trust• Accountability | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nurtures, Leads and Manages People (1)• Demonstrates Self Awareness and Ethical Awareness (2)• Works Collaboratively with others (2)• Builds and Maintains Partnerships (2)• Innovates and Embraces Change (2)• Thinks and Acts Strategically (2)• Drives to achieve impactful results (2)• Manages ambiguity and complexity (2) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analyzing (2)• Applying technical expertise (2)• Learning and researching (2)• Planning and organizing (2) |

VI. Recruitment Qualifications

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| Education | A university degree in one of the following fields is required: nutrition, public health, nutritional epidemiology, global/ international health and nutrition, health/nutrition research, policy and/or management, health sciences, nutritional epidemiology, or another health-related science field. An advanced university degree in the social/ behavioural sciences (Communication, Sociology, Media, Nutrition, Health Education) with proven experience in SBCC strategy and plan development for specific programmes is an asset. |
| Experience | A minimum of five years of professional experience in a developing country in one or more of the following areas is required: nutrition, public health, nutrition planning and management, or maternal, infant and child health/nutrition care. Experience in health/ nutrition programme/ project development in a UN system agency or organization is an asset. Prior experience developing SBCC strategies and costed operational plans. Knowledge and prior experience working on MIYCN/IYCF is a plus. Experience in conducting qualitative interviews with stakeholders. |
| Other requirements | Nigerian National, fluency in English. Knowledge of another official UN language or local language of the duty station is considered as an asset. |

VII. Signatures- Job Description Certification

| Title | Name | Signature | Date |
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| Chief of Nutrition | Nemat Hajeebhoy | <i>Nemat Hajeebhoy</i> | 28-08-2024 |
| Deputy Representative, Programs | Rownak Khan | <i>Rownak Khan</i> | 28-08-2024 |