

Terms of Reference: Cold Chain Officer

Functional Title	Cold Chain Officer
Duty Station	Monrovia, Liberia
Level of the post	NO2
Type of Appointment	Temporary Appointment (TA)
Duration	364 Days
Start Date	January 02, 2024
Section	Child Survival Development (CSD)
Reporting to	Immunization Specialist, UNICEF Liberia
Purpose/objectives	<p>The Cold Chain Officer is expected to provide technical support to install new solar refrigerators and manage the cold chain maintenance and logistics system and to build the capacity of the technicians at national, regional stores and county depots.</p> <p>Basic objectives of the recruitment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide technical support to MOH for the procurement and installation of new refrigerators based on the MOH cold chain replacement plan/schedule. 2. Provide on-job training on the installation, proper use, and preventive maintenance of cold chain equipment for users at the national, regional, county and health facility vaccine stores. 3. Provide technical support to MOH to implement activities related to effective vaccine management (EVM) and other assessment findings

Background and Context

Some of the main constraints currently preventing Liberia from achieving a quality immunization programme with universally high coverage rates relate to Cold Chain and Vaccine Logistics. There is limited cold chain infrastructure and capacity for both routine and supplemental immunization. Systematic efforts to identify gaps and address issues in cold chain and vaccine logistics management have been conducted in recent years. Key constraints identified include inadequate and poor infrastructure, HR issues including technical capacities; weak monitoring and data issues; and vaccine management.

These constraints have led to high breakdown rate of cold chain equipment, overstocking and stock outs, inadequate monitoring and supervision, poor management thus hampering improved vaccine coverage. UNICEF intends to address the above-mentioned issues by the development of an integrated and innovative solution that aims to transfer skills to government counterparts to setup up a system for real time information of vaccine stocks and temperature, timely diagnosis and repair of faulty cold chain equipment, etc at the various levels of the EPI programme.

Immunization is one of the key result areas (KRC#1) for Liberia Country Office. Towards achieving high immunization coverage while introducing new vaccines through equity-focused vaccination program, the need for effective cold chain management remains vital. The supply chain equipped with reliable cold chain equipment are important in helping the country primarily, to reaching children with potent lifesaving vaccines to protect them against vaccine preventable diseases and subsequently, increase immunization coverage.

According to the most recent inventory of the cold chain, the National Immunization Program has a total of 697 cold chain equipment (CCE) units across the country, which include walk-in cold rooms (WICR), walk-in freezers (WIFR), refrigerators, freezers, ultra-cold chain (UCC) and Arktek devices. Those CCE require frequent routine and corrective maintenance. Currently, the country has a shortage of workforce regarding cold chain maintenance. Therefore, the Cold Chain Officer will train health staff at national, regional, county and health facility level on cold chain maintenance among other supports.

For the specific purpose above UNICEF-Liberia intends to recruit a Cold Chain Officer to be based in Monrovia with frequent travel to the regional stores and counties and s/he is expected to complement the technical HR capacity of the health unit to adequately provide technical expertise in solar refrigerators installation to the Government. The Cold Chain Officer will work under the direct supervision of the Immunization Specialist, Health Unit, CSD Section, UNICEF.

Purpose of the TA position

UNICEF works in some of the world's toughest places, to reach the world's most disadvantaged children. To save their lives. To defend their rights. To help them fulfill their potential.

The cold chain officer is expected to complement the technical capacity of the Health Section to support the Government during the installation of over 300 solar refrigerators across the country.

He/she provides technical guidance and management support throughout the programming processes to facilitate the achievement of concrete and sustainable results according to plans, allocation, results-based management (RBM) principles and established standards of performance and accountability. The ideal candidate is accountable for ensuring that UNICEF's support to the Government of Liberia in terms of strengthening cold chain is carried out in a timely and efficient manner throughout the duration of the post.

Major duties and responsibilities

1. Provide technical support to MOH for the procurement and installation of new refrigerators based on the MOH cold chain replacement plan/schedule.

- Support the forecast of solar refrigerators and spare parts
- Support the update of the national cold chain inventory
- Update the national operational deployment plan for all solar refrigerators
- Support the custom clearance, transport and storage of solar refrigerators at the national, regional, county and health facility levels pending installation
- Conduct field visits to installation sites to assess readiness and update the ODP
- Develop standardized checklists for installation and commissioning of CCE
- Support the installation and commissioning of all cold chain equipment procured under various fundings

2. Provide on-job training on the installation, proper use and preventive maintenance of cold chain equipment for users at the national, regional and county vaccine stores

- Develop capacity building and training plan for cold chain officers on the installation and preventive maintenance of CCE at all levels of the immunization supply chain (iSC)
- Conduct on-site trainings for cold chain officers at all levels of the iSC
- Compile capacity building and training report for cold chain officers

3. Provide technical support to MOH to implement activities related to effective vaccine management (EVM) improvement plan as related to the EVM Assessment such as temperature mapping, etc.

- Support the updating and implementation of EVM Improvement plan based recent finding
- Support the temperature mapping of the National and Regional Vaccine Stores
- Assist the MOHs in providing technical support for the National Logistic Technical Working Group (TWG)

4. Networking and partnership building

- Build and sustain effective working partnerships with immunization supply chain sector government counterparts, national stakeholders and global partners/allies/donors through active networking, advocacy and effective communication to build capacity and exchange knowledge/expertise to facilitate the achievement of program goals
- Work and collaborate with other sections within UNICEF to ensure health system strengthening
- Participate and/or represent UNICEF in appropriate inter-agency discussions and planning on iSC and related issues to collaborate with inter-agency partners/colleagues on cold chain strengthening.

5. Innovation, knowledge management and capacity building

- Apply/introduce innovative approaches and good practice to build the capacity of partners and stakeholders and to support the implementation and delivery of concrete and sustainable program results.
- Keep abreast and conduct research to provide evidence for implementation of best and cutting-edge practices in iSC.
- Assess, institutionalize and share best practices and knowledge learned.
- Organize and implement capacity building initiatives to enhance the competencies of clients/stakeholders to promote sustainable results on iSC, specifically cold chain strengthening.
- Other assigned duties and responsibilities are effectively performed.

Qualifications, Experience and Competencies

- University degree in one of the disciplines relevant to the following areas: Engineering, Supply Chain Management, Social Sciences, Medicine, Health, Public Health, International Development, or a field relevant to technical assistance in immunization Supply Chain and Logistics (iSCL)
- At least two years previous relevant and proven experience in immunization supply chain strengthening, specifically solar refrigerators installation
- Experience in vaccine and cold chain management
- Ability to produce technically sound, well-written reports in English.
- Experience with Liberian populations or similar development/programming context would be an asset.
- Prior experience with UN and other international organizations and exposure to UNICEF's work

Competencies and level of proficiency required.

Core Values

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

Core Competencies

- Builds & Maintains Partnerships.
- Demonstrates Self-Awareness & Ethical Awareness.
- Drive to Achieve Results for Impact.
- Innovates and Embraces Change.
- Manages Ambiguity and Complexity.
- Thinks and Acts Strategically.
- Works Collaboratively with others-Establish.
- Nurtures, Leads & Manage People