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| **I. Post Information** |
| Job Title: **Health Program Specialist (Subnational polio coordinator)**Supervisor Title/ Level: **Health Specialist Polio Coordinator**Organizational Unit: **Health / Immunisation** Post Location: 3 positions (**DRC / Kinshasa; Maniema/Goma; Haut Lomami/Lubumbashi)**

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 | Job Level: **P3-TA** Job Profile No.: 130266, 130267, 130268CCOG Code: Functional Code: Job Classification Level: **Level 3** |

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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, 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. 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, 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. This is why 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.**Purpose for the job:** Despite the African region being certified free of wild polio virus, since 2022, Africa is facing a resurgence of wild polio virus type 1 cases and persistent outbreaks of cVDPV2 and cVDPV1 (polio viruses).The DRC has been certified free of wild poliovirus since 2015. However, the country has faced outbreaks of circulating variant poliovirus (cVDPV1 and 2) since 2017. To date, there have been 24 separate outbreaks and transmissions linked to cases from Angola, Burundi and the Central African Republic, with a total of 1,066 cases, reported in 185 health zones and spread across 25 provinces. To date, 10 outbreaks remain active. The highest number of cases was recorded in 2022, i.e. 531 cases (around 50% of cases) with co-circulation of type 1 and 2 poliovirus variants. In 2023, 280 cases of circulating variant polio were reported, including 172 of type 2 and 108 of type 1. A case of VDPV3 has also been reported in one province. The DRC has already exported the virus to 6 neighboring countries: Congo, Burundi, Botswana, Malawi, CAR and Zambia in 2023. The DRC is the country in the African region most at risk of polio and the priority country in the efforts of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). In addition to persistent polio epidemics, the DRC is also faced with multiple health emergencies, including measles, MPox, yellow fever, cholera and conflict-related population movements. This situation encourages the outbreak of epidemics in camps for displaced people and creates an urgent need for access to primary healthcare.To ensure good preparation and organization of quality campaigns, continued support from Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) partners is critical to achieving the goals. The Polio Eradication Strategy 2022-2026 has two main goals based on the current stage of the eradication effort: I) to permanently interrupt all poliovirus transmission in endemic countries; and II) to stop cVDPV transmission and prevent outbreaks in non-endemic countries. Also, in order to provide adequate support to the government’s response to the new outbreaks of cVDPV1 and 2 and, above all interrupt the circulation of the virus, UNICEF's health section in the DRC has set up a Polio programme to carry out interventions in collaboration with other partners. Given the challenges over the next 5 years and the critical need for a decisive response, it is imperative that our Polio team is staffed with skilled professionals in secure, fixed-term positions to enhance operational effectiveness and ensure a sustained, impactful engagement.Under the administrative direction and technical guidance of the Health Specialist Polio Coordinator, the incumbent will provide strategic and technical support to the Ministry of Health and the Polio Emergency Organization Committee (COUP) in provincial level. It will ensure the strategic and political positioning of UNICEF in the major decision-making institutions and meetings in the context of the fight against polio in the DRC. He/she will be responsible for coordinating the UNICEF team (SBC and VM Specialist and national consultant) in charge of the fight against Polio in relationship with the national coordination level |

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| III. Key function, accountabilities and related duties/tasks  |
| Summary of key functions/accountabilities: * Under the guidance of the coordination of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) in the DRC, the Ministry of Health and the Comité des opérations d'urgence contre la poliomyélite (COUP), support the provincial coordination of the polio response and that of the GPEI block..
* Collaborate with the SBC team to ensure the preparation of an overall outbreak response communication plan and the appropriate content of advocacy and messaging strategies.
* Collaborate with the logistics and vaccine management team to ensure the preparation and implementation of the overall outbreak response vaccine management plan.
* Collaborate with the Outbreak Operations Manager to ensure that the logistical aspects of the outbreak response, especially financing and HR, are managed optimally.
* Support the coordination of the preparation and implementation of the "plan to interrupt the circulation of circulating vaccine-derived polio virus type 2 (cVDPV2).
* Support big catch up of children zero dose and under immunized.
* Collaborate with the Ministry of Public Health, WHO and other GPEI partners in finalizing, updating and monitoring the implementation of the plan to interrupt the circulation of cVDPV2 in the DRC and ensure that aspects of vaccine management and communication for development are taken into account, in provincial level.
* Participate actively in national coordination meetings before, block GPEI and provincial coordination, during and after the response.
* Ensure that the entire process of planning, implementing and monitoring-evaluating the vaccine response plan is properly prepared:
* Advocate with the authorities, in collaboration with other partners, for the effective involvement of the political and administrative authorities in the response.
* Participate in the evaluations of each phase of the response as well as in the final evaluation of the immunization response.
* Ensure the organization of independent post-campaign monitoring activities with the WHO and the analysis of the results of these Independent Monitoring and LQAS.
* Contribute of preparation of a fortnightly situation report to be sent to the country office, Regional Office.
* Contribute of Draft of general report on the response, highlighting good practice, lessons learned and recommendations.
* Ensure effective and efficient management of allocated funds.
* Support the monitoring and preparation of responses to other epidemics.
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| **V. UNICEF values and competency Required (based on the updated Framework)** |
| **i) Core Values** * Care
* Respect
* Integrity
* Trust
* Accountability
* Sustainability

**Core Competencies (For Staff without Supervisory Responsibilities) \**** 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** |
|  | * A master’s degree in public health/epidemiology preferably or in an equivalent field.
* At least 5 years' experience in Polio, public health and immunization, preferably in developing countries.
* Proven experience in coordinating and managing teams within the framework of the GPEI and other accelerated initiatives to combat vaccine-preventable diseases.
* Experience in organizing Polio campaigns and experience of mOPV2 and nOPV2 campaigns.
* Familiarity with Public Health Emergencies, such as Cholera, and Ebola, is desired.
* Ability to work in a multicultural and emergency environment.

Knowledge of IT management techniques |
|  | **Language Requirements:** Fluency in French and good command of English is required |

Prepared by:

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