



UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN’S FUND

I. Post Information

Job Title: Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Specialist
Supervisor Title/ Level: Health Specialist (Adolescent) P4 Position Number: 23036
Organizational Unit: Survive and Thrive
Post Location: LACRO, Panama
Category (DE/GRP): GRP

Job Level: P4
Job Profile No.:
CCOG Code:
Functional Code:
Job Classification Level: L4

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.

Job organizational context:

The Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Specialist will be based in the Adolescent Health Unit within the Survive and Thrive Section and works under the overall guidance and supervision of the Regional Adolescent Health Specialist. The incumbent will work within the context of the implementation of the UNICEF Strategic Plan and the LAC Regional Office Management Plan, with direct accountability to Goal Area 1 (Survive & Thrive), and also supporting other Goal Areas which include MHPSS actions. The MHPSS Specialist will work closely with the LACRO Child Protection and Education Sections. The incumbent will also collaborate and coordinate with other relevant LACRO sections as needed.

Purpose for the job:

The MHPSS Specialist will support the advancement of UNICEF’s work in the Latin America and Caribbean region to meet its institutional priorities as well as contribute to strengthening UNICEF and inter-agency results, focusing on regional implementation and advocacy efforts on MHPSS including the roll out of the global UNICEF MHPSS Operational Framework. The Specialist ensures that adequate regional coordination and mechanisms are in place between sectors, and provides technical guidance and operational support to the relevant LACRO programme sections and all 24 Country Offices in the region throughout the programming process to facilitate the achievement of concrete and sustainable results,

according to plans, allocation, results based-management approaches and methodology (RBM), organizational Strategic Plans and goals, standards of performance, and accountability framework.

The MHPSS specialist leads the regional coordination with PAHO on the Joint Programme initiative between UNICEF-WHO.

III. Key function, 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 results-based key functions/accountabilities:

- 1. Programme development, planning and management**
- 2. Technical support**
- 3. Advocacy, networking and partnership building**
- 4. Innovation, knowledge management and capacity building**

1. Programme development, planning and management.

- 1) Assist with the development of programmatic interventions on MHPSS at country level and provide technical guidance to country offices and the regional office.
- 2) Support the development of country level and regional funding proposals and take other actions to leverage funds in the area of MHPSS.
- 3) Consult and collaborate with colleagues and partners to provide technical and operational support on programme planning, management and implementation, and to ensure integration, coherence, and harmonization of programmes/projects with other UNICEF sectors throughout all stages of programming processes.
- 4) Coordinate the preparation of programme reports, as required, for management, donors and partners.
- 5) Contribute to and coordinate where needed, major monitoring and evaluation exercises to assess progress regionally and to engage stakeholders to take required actions to achieve results; identify and document lessons learned and facilitate strategic use of knowledge gained.
- 6) Coordinate a technical working group at the regional office ensuring multi-sectorial representation in the area of MHPSS
- 7) Coordinate the development of a regional and country-focused resource mobilization strategy for MHPSS.

2. Technical support

- 1) Provide technical support to COs and RO sections on issues pertaining to MHPSS, including the recipients of the 7% set aside funding for the acceleration of MHPSS..
- 2) Support the adaptation and implementation of the new UNICEF MHPSS Operational Framework across the region
- 3) Lead the development and implementation of a regional MHPSS strategy in alignment with the Global Framework, including direct technical support to COs strategies for the acceleration of MHPSS
- 4) Support the roll out and adaptation of UNICEF-led MHPSS 'global goods' from the global context to the regional context, including protocols, tools, and relevant guidance documents.
- 5) In humanitarian contexts, promote the use of inter-agency standards, guidance and tools in line with the inter-agency initiatives under the IASC MHPSS Reference Group.
- 6) Provide technical inputs for UNICEF coordination on MHPSS issues at the regional level, including preparation of talking points, briefing notes, and background documents.

7) Technical oversight on Mental Health Global Advocacy Priority (GAP) #OnMyMind

3. Advocacy, networking and partnership building

- Contribute to strengthening technical partnerships including with PAHO, the Mental Health Action Network, and other regional partnerships and initiatives on MHPSS, including in the context of the Joint Programme with PAHO/WHO .
- Support the maintenance of inter-agency relationships towards the development of MHPSS.
- Strengthen strategic partnerships through networking and advocacy with governments, UN system agency partners, donors, internationally recognized institutions, NGOs, funding organizations, research institutes and private sector in order to leverage these partnerships to achieve greater results for children.

4. Innovation, knowledge management and capacity building

- Promote critical thinking and innovative approaches on MHPSS, keeping abreast of current research and introducing and implementing cutting edge practices on implementation, systems strengthening, and workforce development. Work to institutionalize and disseminate best practices and knowledge learned, including in humanitarian emergency settings, across UNICEF.
- Contribute to the development of programme knowledge acquisition through the systematic collection of country programme experience (lessons learned, best practices, reviews, evaluations) in the area of MHPSS, including a key focus on the best practices; facilitate sharing of this knowledge between relevant UNICEF offices and community of practice on MHPSS.
- Contribute to advancement of research, and identify research gaps, with key partners in the area of MHPSS, specifically on evidence-based programming to advance the agenda on MHPSS at regional and country level.
- Contribute to disseminating and tracking relevant shifts in programme design and implementation.

IV. Impact of Results

- The efficiency and efficacy of support provided by the MHPSS Specialist to multisectoral coordination, programme preparation, planning and implementation facilitates the delivery of concrete and sustainable results that directly impact the improvement of the health and wellbeing of the most marginalized and vulnerable children, adolescents and caregivers in the region. This in turn contributes to maintaining and enhancing the credibility and ability of UNICEF to continue to provide programme services to protect the rights of children, including adolescents, and to promote greater social equality to enable them to survive, develop and reach their full potential in society.

V. Competencies and level of proficiency required (based on UNICEF Competency Profiles per level and functional area select top 5 functional competencies)

i) Core Values

Care, Respect, Integrity, Trust, Accountability, Sustainability

ii) Core Competencies (For Staff with Supervisory Responsibilities) *


- Nurtures, Leads and Manages People (2)
- 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)
- Drive to achieve impactful results (2)
- Manages ambiguity and complexity (2)

***The 7 core competencies are applicable to all employees. However, the competency Nurtures, Leads and Manages people is only applicable to staff who supervise others.**

VI. Recruitment Qualifications

Education:	An advanced University degree in psychology, mental health or related field is required.
Experience:	A minimum of 8 years of professional experience in mental health, psychology, MHPSS and/other related areas, including at the international level, is required. Relevant experience in child protection, human rights and related areas, programme/project development and experience in a UN system agency or organization is an asset. Training delivery, content development, and Knowledge Management experience are desirable assets. Experience in both development and humanitarian contexts is an added advantage.
Language Requirements:	Fluency in English and Spanish is required. Knowledge of another official UN language or a local language is an asset.

VII. Signatures- Job Description Certification

Title: Regional Advisor Survive and Thrive		
Name: Maaike Arts	Signature: 	Date 16 December 2022
Title: Regional Adolescent Health Specialist		
Name: Diana Restrepo Mejia	Signature	 Digitally signed by Diana Restrepo Mejia Date: 2022.12.16 10:44:42 -0500
Title: Deputy Regional Director, OIC		
Name: Rada Noeva	Signature: 	Date 20-12-2022
Title: Regional Director (ai)		
Name: Youssouf Abdel-Jelil	Signature: 	Date 20 Dec. 2022