

## UNICEF Niamey recruits

- **Job Title:** Child Protection Specialist– MHPSS, GBV
  - **Job level:** P3
  - **Job reference:** # 00129318
  - **Type of Contract:** Temporary Appointment (TA)
  - **Report to:** Chief Child Protection
  - **Location:** Niamey, Niger
  - **Duration:** 11 months
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### I. Background

Niger is a landlocked Sahelian country of 21.5 million people, most of whom live in rural areas (84%). The population is young, with 58% of Nigeriens being under 18, and nearly half of the population is poor, despite reductions in the poverty rate over the past decade. The country, which ranked last on the 2021 Human Development Index, sees its development constrained by several factors: high population growth, climatic conditions that hinder rural development, vulnerability due to the absence of economic diversification, gender equality issues, low levels of literacy and education, and the size and landlocked nature of the country, which obstruct the provision of essential goods and services to the population.

With children comprising more than half of the rapidly growing population, strengthening the realization of children's rights to be free from violence, exploitation and abuse is an urgent priority in Niger. UNICEF supports the Government of Niger's efforts to improve the situation of women and children, and the strengthening of the child protection system is a priority for in UNICEF's Country Programme Document and rolling Annual Work Plan. In 2023, UNICEF worked closely with the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (MPFPE) until the coup d'état on 26 July. Since the dissolution of the MPFPE on 9 August, UNICEF has been working with the Ministry of Health, which oversees child protection and gender-based violence services.

The scale up of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), as well as the mitigation, prevention and response to gender-based violence, and the strengthening of the CPIMS+ system that supports case management in Niger are critical priorities for the Child Protection section, as per its annual work plan. UNICEF is aiming to reach 177,556 children and adults with community-based mental health and psychosocial support in 2024. In line with UNICEF's approach to MHPSS globally, there is also a need to strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration on MHPSS, including with the health and education sectors in particular. Support for greater alignment of inter-agency standards, including as part of the inter-agency MHPSS working group in Niger, is also a priority.

In 2023, Niger adopted a new national strategy to prevent and respond to GBV, reaffirming the country's political commitment to fight impunity and promote access to justice and rights without discrimination. However, the capacity of decision-makers at all levels to prevent and respond to GBV remains limited due to lack of information, inaccessibility to supervisory structures and social norms that make it difficult to claim sexual and reproductive rights and to eliminate other forms of GBV. Survivors of child marriage and young mothers face multiple barriers to accessing appropriate sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence services, especially given current funding levels and the limited capacity of child protection services. UNICEF is aiming to reach 390,000 women and girls with gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevent and response interventions in 2024, which will require a significant scale up of technical support, partnerships and cross-sectoral collaboration, as well as strengthened engagement in the GBV AoR in order to promote inter-agency engagement.

Finally, the full roll-out of CPIMS+ is a critical priority for Niger in 2024, where the country has recently upgraded to version 2.0 and technical support to government and NGO partners to ensure its full utilization is ongoing. This position will provide technical support to a national child protection officer working on case management and related issues, in order to address bottlenecks in CPIMS+ roll-out in Niger in a manner that is inclusive of government and NGO partners

## **II. Purpose of the assignment**

Under the supervision of the Chief Child Protection and as part of the section's overall support to the Government of Niger to strengthen child protection systems and services, the incumbent will provide programme management and technical support for the implementation of the section's annual work plan priorities on MHPSS, GBV and CPIMS+. Given the relatively small size of the Child Protection section in Niger, this position will be expected to bring a sufficient level of subject matter expertise as well as prior management experience in order to achieve high impact results for children in the areas of MHPSS, GBV and CPIMS+, working alongside other section members whose work will also be contributing to these areas.

## **III. Key functions, accountabilities, and related duties/tasks**

### **1) Support to programme/project development and planning**

Support the preparation, design and updating of the situation analysis for the child protection programmes/projects to ensure that current and comprehensive data on child protection issues is available to guide UNICEF's strategic policy advocacy, intervention and development efforts on child rights and protection, and to set programme priorities, strategies, and design and implementation plans. Keep abreast of development trends to enhance programme management, efficiency and delivery.

Support the Child Protection Chief with oversight and management of funds for MHPSS, GBV and CPIMS+ where applicable, in collaboration with other section members.

Participate in strategic programme discussions on the planning of child protection programmes/projects in the areas of MHPSS, GBV and CPIMS+. Formulate, design and prepare programme/project proposals for the sector, ensuring alignment with UNICEF's overall Strategic Plans and the Country Programme, as well as coherence and integration with the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSCDF), regional strategies and national priorities, plans and competencies.

Establish specific goals, objectives, strategies, and implementation plans for the sector using results-based planning terminology and methodology (RBM). Prepare required documentations for programme review and approval. Work closely and collaboratively with colleagues and partners to discuss strategies and methodologies, and to determine national priorities and 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**

- Provide technical support and assistance to UNICEF child protection staff and partners, including government and NGOs, to scale up MHPSS, GBV and CPIMS+ components of the child protection programme, including development or amendment of projects and partnerships.
- Manage procurement and distribution of supplies related to child protection interventions.
- Plan and collaborate with colleagues and external partners to establish monitoring benchmarks, performance indicators, other 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 child protection programmes.
- Monitor the trends and emerging evidence of child protection concerns and the response by Government, and analyses this information to advise on the child protection response.
- Participate in monitoring and evaluation exercises, programme reviews and annual reviews with the government and other counterparts to assess progress and to determine required actions and interventions to achieve results.
- Provide inputs on MHPSS, GBV and CPIMS+ and UNICEF's response thereto in all UNICEF, inter-agency and government planning and reporting processes.
- Prepare and assess monitoring and evaluation reports to identify gaps, strengths and/or weaknesses in MHPSS and GBV programme management. Identify lessons learned and use knowledge gained for development planning and timely intervention to achieve goals.
- Actively monitor programmes/projects through field visits, surveys and exchange of information with partners to assess progress, identify bottlenecks and potential problems. 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, as well as standards of accountability and integrity. Ensure timely reporting and liquidation of resources.
- Prepare regular and mandated programme/project reports for management, donors and partners to keep them informed of programme progress.

### **3) Technical and operational support to programme implementation**

- Provide technical guidance and operational support to government counterparts, NGO partners, UN system partners and other country office partners and donors on the interpretation, application and understanding of UNICEF policies, strategies, processes, best practices, and approaches on MHPSS, GBV and CPIMS+.

- Lead the technical implementation of UNICEF's global MHPSS good practice standards, including their adaptation, in Niger, working closely with health, education and other sectors in order to strengthen systems and achieve high impact results for children.
- Provide technical support for the development, updating and implementation of GBV SOPs, in line with global best practice standards.
- Provide technical training and support to health workers to roll-out GBV best practice standards in the areas of the clinical management of rape, as well as an adaptation of global guidance on Caring for Child Survivors of Sexual Abuse (UNICEF/ IRC) for Niger, including for mental health and protection actors.
- Lead the overall implementation of IASC GBV Guidelines across UNICEF's programming, including the strengthening of national and community-based systems that prevent and mitigate GBV, and by enabling survivors and those at risk of GBV to access specialized care and support.
- Provide overall technical support and lead the implementation of CPIMS+ v2.0 roll-out across all regions of Niger, including to update SOPs, data protection standards and related support.
- Carry out rapid assessments, together with partners, using agreed inter-agency tools.
- Arrange and coordinate availability of technical experts with Regional Office/HQ to ensure timely and appropriate support throughout the programming process.
- 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 relevant government counterparts, national stakeholders, global partners, allies, donors, and academia - through active networking, advocacy and effective communication - to build capacity, exchange knowledge and expertise, and to reinforce cooperation to achieve sustainable and broad results in child protection.
- Represent UNICEF in the inter-agency MHPSS working group and provide regular technical support to UNICEF government and NGO partners, across relevant sectors, to strengthen implementation of the MHPSS minimum services package, in line with global best practice standards
- Strengthen coordination and collaboration with the health and education sectors on MHPSS, including improved MHPSS service delivery through health and schools, as well as through ongoing child protection interventions
- Represent UNICEF in the GBV AoR and provide regular technical support to UNICEF government and NGO partners, across sectors, to strengthen GBV risk mitigation, prevention and response.
- Strengthen coordination between the Child Protection and Health sectors in order to address gaps and technical support needs for the referral and provision of services to survivors of gender-based violence, in accordance with global best practices.

- Provide overall technical support and management to UNICEF's programming on case management, including CPIMS+, in order to update SOPs, data protection agreements and standards, and the harmonization of tools.
- Provide overall inter-agency coordination support of the UNICEF-led case management task force in order to ensure the full roll-out of CPIMS+. Provide day to day technical support to a child protection officer working in this area.

#### **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 concrete and sustainable programme results.
- Keep abreast, research, benchmark, and implement best practices in child protection 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 in child protection and related programmes/projects.

### **IV. Qualifications and Experience**

Advanced university degree in relevant Social Science disciplines, such as: Child Development, Social Development, International Relations, Social Work, Law (international law, humanitarian law), Economics and Social Policy.

A minimum of 5 years of relevant professional work experience with strong programme management skills as well as technical expertise in the areas of child protection systems, mental health and psychosocial support, gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and response, and CPIMS+.

Prior programme management experience, including cross-sectoral collaboration and inter-agency coordination, is a plus.

Proven experience in managing project budgets, results management, and providing technical support on budgeting for results in the area of child protection is a plus.

Fluency in French and working knowledge in English required.

### **V. Competencies of Successful Candidate**

#### **Core Values**

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

#### **Core Competencies**

- 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)