

UNICEF GAMBIA – Covid-19 Vaccination Coordinator

Terms of reference

Section:	CSD / Health / Immunization	Date:	_____
Title:	Covid-19 Vaccination Coordinator/Emergency Health Specialist	Duty station:	Banjul, The Gambia
Reporting to:	CSD Manager/Emergency focal point	Contract type:	Individual Contractor (NoC/D)
Duration:	06 months with possibility of extension	Start date:	25 February 2022

BACKGROUND

The continuing COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented and sustained disruptions of services and ongoing interventions that are undermining national response efforts and putting strain on other critical and routine social services, especially in the health sector. In The Gambia, the COVID-19 pandemic response affected the immunization programme with children missing out on critical vaccines, initially due to impact on continuity of services and later due to competing priorities. However, in coordination with national and international partners and through provision of critical financial and technical assistance, continuity of services has been ensured. This multi-faceted crisis has critically exposed the structural and operational limitations of existing health systems and supply chain models and calls for increasing the investments aimed at supporting governments in their efforts to build and manage stronger health systems that are able to leave no child behind, operate at minimum capacity and meet surging needs.

COVID-19 vaccination could mitigate the further spread of the pandemic and ensure the resumption of routine service delivery. However, The Gambia is lagging in vaccinating against COVID-19. Despite the calls for reaching the targets of 10% and 40% by September and December 2021, respectively, vaccine uptake remains low at 20% of target population as of 24 January 2022. Initially, there was a good progress when vaccination started in The Gambia in March 2021, but it levelled off and slowed down during the first half of the year. The country launched mobile outreach vaccination campaigns in July-August which also showed good results as the number of vaccinated increased. However, the numbers started dwindling soon and once again by mid-September the number of people getting vaccinated dropped to less than a hundred per day which is much below the required rate to reach the national targets. It was clear that vaccine uptake improved considerably through mobile outreach campaigns as between December 2021 and January 2022, based on two house-to-house outreach campaigns, an additional 9 percent of the target population could be reached in contrast to 11% reached through the fixed site strategy which has been used since the beginning of the vaccination process in March 2021. The vaccination campaign is also facing some structural challenges including vaccine hesitancy, weak planning and coordination and also fatigue and competing priorities including nOPV2 campaign which divert both attention and already limited resources away from COVAX.

It is clear that without the rapid scale-up of vaccination, the population will remain at risk of continuing transmission of the virus and the emergence of new variants that may be more

UNICEF GAMBIA – Covid-19 Vaccination Coordinator

Terms of reference

transmissible (e.g. Omicron), can effect larger populations and possibly lead to further mutations with newer strains which could evade the immune protection provided by the currently available vaccines.

UNICEF Gambia's Response

UNICEF is the lead agency for the UN on risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) in the COVID19 response and co-chairs, with WFP, on Social Services Pillar covering social protection, WASH, education, protection, and education, and is an active member of all other coordination mechanisms and their sub-committees. UNICEF's involvement and leadership in the RCCE and Social Services pillars at the national and decentralized level is important to ensure that trust is built with communities by mobilizing and empowering them to be partners in the response to COVID19 while contributing to system strengthening for sustainability and building-back better. This process will include addressing the main barrier of human resource capacity and limited technical expertise available within the programme.

To address these urgent needs, UNICEF has successfully mobilized two project grants from USAID, namely "Prevention and Response to COVID-19 in The Gambia through RCCE interventions" and "COVID-19 Vaccine Roll Out", amounting to a total of US \$ 2,000,000. The main objective of these grants is to raise awareness around the risks regarding COVID19 and information sharing on preventative measures, and at same time support the Ministry of Health in the effective and timely roll out of the COVID19 vaccination campaign. The grants include a comprehensive component of supplies and also Infection Prevention and Control to ensure the protection of health care staff, effective data management and information sharing. The grants also include resources to address capacity gaps in the areas of coordination, data management and social mobilization/advocacy. The duration of both grants is for one year from September 2021 to September 2022.

Considering the above, the ToR is being circulated as there is an urgent need for COVID-19 Vaccination Country Coordinator/Emergency Health Specialist covering Data Management component to support National effort as part of UNICEF Gambia COVID-19 response team to work closely, support and guide the key stakeholders including the Government, UN Agencies, and other partners ensuring quick uptake of vaccines.

Objective of the assignment

To support The Gambia to further improve its COVID-19 vaccination, this TOR is launched to seek an individual contractor who will support the Ministry of Health (MoH) staff members and UNICEF Gambia Country Office (GCO). Specifically, the scope of the tasks carried out by the Vaccination Country Coordinator are stipulated around the following areas:

1. Support Ministry of Health (MoH) and relevant stakeholders in ensuring effective coordination of COVID-19 vaccination and linking this up with ongoing COVID 19 coordination

UNICEF GAMBIA – Covid-19 Vaccination Coordinator

Terms of reference

2. Support MoH in country policy development and decision making to ensure equitable vaccine service delivery, and implementation related to COVID-19.
3. Support MoH to facilitate the communication across MoH, other Ministries, partner agencies, organizations, and other stakeholders related to COVID-19 and COVAX
4. Support MoH for data management including providing technical support to prepare presentation
5. Other relevant tasks including the technical support to ensure timely and effective implementation of USAID project among others

Tasks

More specific tasks are listed as below.

1. Support Ministry of Health (MoH) and relevant stakeholders in ensuring effective coordination of COVID-19 vaccination and linking this up with ongoing COVID 19 coordination
 - a. Provide technical assistance to the Director Health Services and EPI manager for organizing weekly meeting with all members of COVAX and other partners
 - b. Support preparation of briefings and presentations on vaccination updates, or ad hoc presentations, webinars or partner meetings.
 - c. Provide technical support in the monitoring and implementation of recommendations and action plans of the NEC meetings
 - d. Support and coordinate with other Project staff hired for SM/Advocacy in their assigned tasks
2. Support MoH in country policy development and decision making to ensure equitable vaccine service delivery, and implementation related to COVID-19.
 - a. Provide strategic support to MOH, including improved targeted vaccination strategies and campaigns to increase COVID-19 vaccination uptake and coverage
 - b. Coordinate with the technical focal points of COVID-19 vaccination, especially at the National EPI Team
 - c. Support the monitoring of the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination plans at national and sub-national levels
 - d. Identify and evaluate risks and challenges, sharing with PS and MOH, and ensure adequate solutions are provided.
3. Support MoH to facilitate the communication across MoH, other Ministries, partner agencies, organizations, and other stakeholders related to COVID-19 and COVAX
 - a. Support national effort and UNICEF staff on communications workstreams, supporting the development and coordinating technical content across COVID-19 vaccination partners and teams

UNICEF GAMBIA – Covid-19 Vaccination Coordinator

Terms of reference

- b. Support development of communications to stakeholders to increase transparency of COVID-19 activities and ensure a timely flow of appropriate information reaches all participants, as a member of the appropriate National Coordination fora
 - c. Relay and collaborate with other COVID-19 teams and partners (UNICEF, WHO, Gavi, World Bank, CSOs, etc) to promote a coordinated country communications approach across multiple channels.
4. Support MoH for data management including providing technical support to prepare presentation
- a. Create data visualization and data reporting products with respect to COVAX and COVID-19 vaccination data, including the support for the development and maintenance of a COVID-19 vaccination dashboard
 - b. Ensure quality and accurate disaggregated data for data-driven and equity-based decision making
 - c. Provide analytical reports to the Director of Health Services/EPI Data Manager, and other technical focal points at MOH and UNICEF for during the technical working group meetings
5. Other relevant tasks including the technical support to ensure timely and effective implementation of USAID project among others
- a. Ensure timely and comprehensive recording and reporting of both the projects
 - b. Support the convening of monthly Project steering committee meetings, prepare presentations and ensure minute taking and reporting
 - c. Support focal points in ensuring appropriate visibility of the project
 - d. Other relevant tasks requested by supervisor to support COVID-19 response

Deliverables with timelines

Under the supervision of the Child Survival and Development (CSD) Manager who is also an Emergency Focal Point for GCO, the incumbent will primarily provide technical support to Ministry of Health in The Gambia for the COVID-19 vaccination implementation and improvements, and coordinate with the national, regional, and UNICEF teams.

Deliverables	Timeline
Submission of Monthly report	Monthly

Payment Schedule

Payment together with DSA is made in monthly basis, upon submission of Monthly report.

UNICEF GAMBIA – Covid-19 Vaccination Coordinator

Terms of reference

Profile requirement and Academic Qualifications

Education:

- Advanced degree in public health, epidemiology, project management, communications, public administration and management, or equivalent area.

Work experience:

- At least 10 years' experience (or 8 years if Master) of progressively responsible relevant work experience in the specified fields above, of which 4 years in developing countries.
- Experience working in the UN system agency or organization is an asset
- Experience in emergency response is an asset.
- Good analytical, oral, & written communication skills
- Fluency in English is required.
- Excellent inter-personal communication skills and coordination with multiple stakeholders

Administrative issues

The incumbent will be based at UNICEF The Gambia or EPI/MOH as the case may be (if the epidemiological context and physical space permits) on a full-time basis.

UNICEF The Gambia will provide an office space and email address.


UNICEF The Gambia will make arrangement for her/his travels (TA, tickets, DSA) as per policy and if the selected consultant is based outside of The Gambia.

Prepared by:


[Shahid Mahbub Awan]
[CSD Manager]

Date:

Reviewed by:


[Maxime Germain]
OIC Deputy Representative

Date:

Approved by:


[Jonathan Gordon Lewis]
Country Representative

Date:

UNICEF GAMBIA – Covid-19 Vaccination Coordinator

Terms of reference