



SPECIFIC JOB PROFILE

I. Post Information

POST NUMBER: #128905
POST/CASE NUMBER OF SUPERVISOR:
Regional Adviser Nutrition
REGION/DIVISION: ESARO
COUNTRY: Kenya
DUTY STATION: Nairobi
OFFICE: ESARO
SECTION: Nutrition

CATEGORY: International Professional
PROPOSED LEVEL: P-4
JOB TITLE: Nutrition Specialist (food systems, overweight prevention and school age and adolescent nutrition)
Functional Code:
ICSC CCOG Code:

II. Strategic Office 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 programs, 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.

Strategic office context :

The Nutrition Section in the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) provides technical and strategic assistance, quality assurance and oversight for 21 country office nutrition programmes in the region, based on the UNICEF global nutrition strategy, strategic plan and regional office priorities. The ESARO nutrition section contributes to country office results in preventing all forms of maternal, child and adolescent malnutrition and ensuring treatment for wasted children; supports evidence generation, data analysis, knowledge management and the strengthening of information systems, and pursues strategic partnerships with RECs, UN agencies, NGOs, academic institutions, donors and other stakeholders to advance the nutrition agenda in the region and mobilize resources. The ESARO Nutrition Section provides technical assistance to country offices to apply the systems approach to nutrition outlined in the global nutrition strategy, encompassing the food, social protection, health, WASH and education systems. The position reports to the Regional Adviser Nutrition, Level 5.

Purpose for the job:

Under the overall supervision of the Regional Nutrition Advisor, the position will be responsible for technical support and strategic direction on food systems for children, overweight prevention and school age and adolescent nutrition (abbreviated as “**FS/OW/SACA-N**”), across all the country offices of ESAR. The food systems aspect focuses on food environments but also supports the broader food systems for children agenda of the regional office; the position provides substantive support to the Regional Adviser for leadership on the entire Nutrition agenda in the region.

The Nutrition Specialist provides substantive support to the Adviser for the work of the Nutrition Section, in terms of authoritative technical assistance and advocacy, oversight on implementation of multi-country grants and quality assurance to the FS/OW/SACA-N aspects of nutrition programs in countries, contribution to the regional aspects of the nutrition section’s work on FS/OW/SACA-N, including development of tools and guidance, innovation, evidence generation, analysis and knowledge development, exchange and thought leadership. The position contributes to partnerships with regional economic commissions (RECs) in the region, as well as with other stakeholders including UN agencies, NGOs, donors, academia, technical institutions and others on FS/OW/SACA-N. The Specialist provides authoritative technical guidance and management support throughout the regional and country programming processes to facilitate the achievement of concrete and sustainable results in FS/OW/SACA-N programs/projects according to plans, allocation, results based-management (RBM) approaches and methodology and UNICEF’s Strategic Plans, standards of performance and accountability framework.

III. Key functions, accountabilities and related duties/tasks:

1. Management and advisory support to the Regional Adviser

- Provide advice to the RA in establishing the FS/OW/SACA-N components of the annual work plan, including developing strategies and determining priorities, targets and performance measurements.
- Coordinate work progress monitoring and ensure results for FS/OW/SACA-N are achieved according to schedule and performance standards, and report to RA critical issues for timely action.
- Provide technical assistance and advice to colleagues in the section on the FS/OW/SACA-N aspects of programming and implementation to enable them to achieve performance objectives.
- Perform the full duties of the RA in his/her absence.

2. Programme development and planning

- Provide technical support and guidance on the preparation, design and updating of regional and country situation analyses on FS/OW/SACA-N, to ensure comprehensive and current data is available to guide the regional agenda and strategic support for effective FS/OW/SACA-N goals, policy strategy, and development as well as support for design, planning, management and monitoring of multi-sectoral FS/OW/SACA-N programmes/projects in countries.
- Keep abreast of development trends and evidence to enhance technical and strategic advice on FS/OW/SACA-N.
- Participate in strategic programme discussions on the planning of nutrition programmes/projects related to FS/OW/SACA-N.
- Provide technical and strategic assistance to country offices to formulate, design and prepare the FS/OW/SACA-N components of the nutrition programme proposal, ensuring alignment with UNICEF’s Strategic Plans, Country Programmes, coherence/integration with global and regional nutrition priorities, policies and guidance, as well as national priorities, plans, and competencies.

- Provide technical and strategic assistance to country offices to establish specific goals, objectives, strategies, and implementation plans for the FS/OW/SACA-N component, based on results-based planning terminology and methodology (RBM) and with a systems strengthening focus. Prepare required documentations for programme review and approval.
- Work closely and collaboratively with colleagues in other UNICEF sectors, particularly Health, SBC, Supply, Adolescents and Gender, Education, Social Policy and Communications and with partners to discuss strategies and methodologies, and to determine regional and national priorities and competencies to ensure the integration of the FS/OW/SACA-N programme component with other UNICEF sectors in all stages of the programming process, and the achievement of concrete and sustainable results for FS/OW/SACA-N.
- Provide authoritative technical and operational support on FS/OW/SACA-N 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.

3. Programme management, monitoring and delivery of results

- Plan and/or collaborate with internal and external partners to establish monitoring benchmarks, performance indicators and other UNICEF/UN system indicators and measurements to assess and strengthen performance accountability, coherence, and delivery of concrete and sustainable results for FS/OW/SACA-N programmes in countries.
- Provide quality assurance and review of country office annual reports, RAM, CSIs, NutriDash and results related to FS/OW/SACA-N and review of RO to CO compacts and related indicators.
- Contribute to the design of evaluations and research related to FS/OW/SACA-N and review reports. Assess monitoring and evaluation reports to identify gaps, strengths and/or weaknesses in FS/OW/SACA-N programme management and prepare regional synthesis reports. Identify lessons learned and use knowledge gained for development planning and timely intervention to achieve goals in countries. Support maintenance of regional FS/OW/SACA-N information system for monitoring gender/sex disaggregated data.
- Actively monitor programmes and projects through country support visits, surveys and/or exchange of information with country office colleagues, partners and stakeholders to assess progress, identify bottlenecks and potential problems, and take timely decisions to resolve issues and/or refer to relevant officials for timely resolution.
- Coordinate with PD, RO and CO Nutrition, Resource Mobilisation and Supply on supply and resource mobilisation activities for FS/OW/SACA-N. Monitor the overall allocation and disbursement and distribution of regional FS/OW/SACA-N programme funds and supplies respectively, making sure they are properly coordinated, monitored and liquidated/reported. Take appropriate actions to support planning, monitoring and verification of the optimum and appropriate use of programme resources including supplies for FS/OW/SACA-N at RO, confirming compliance with organizational rules, regulations, procedures, donor commitments, and standards of accountability, and support countries on this as required. Ensure timely reporting and liquidation of resources.
- Prepare regular and mandated programme/project reports for management, donors and partners to keep them informed of FS/OW/SACA-N programme progress in the countries of the region and RO.
- Provide oversight and support to the implementation of multi-country grants and ensuring appropriate and timely grant utilization in line with project proposals and plans.

4. Advisory services and technical support

- Provide advice to key government officials, regional economic communities and bodies, NGO partners, UN system partners, and other regional partners/donors on policies, strategies, best practices and approaches on FS/OW/SACA-N -related issues to support programme development planning, management, implementation, and delivery of results.

- Participate in strategic programme discussions and planning to provide technical advice, contribute to policy discussions and agendas, and promote appropriate FS/OW/SACA-N interventions.
- Prepare policy papers, briefs and other strategic programme materials on FS/OW/SACA-N for management use, information and/or consideration.
- Provide technical advice and inputs as required on FS/OW/SACA-N in relation to emergency preparedness, response planning, guidance implementation, monitoring learning and documentation.

5. Advocacy, networking and partnership building

- Build and strengthen strategic partnerships with relevant nutrition/health sector UN agencies, regional economic communities, government counterparts, NGOs, national stakeholders, global and regional partners, allies, donors, and academia focusing on FS/OW/SACA-N , through active networking, advocacy and effective communication.
- Oversee the engagement with the relevant RECs and regional bodies to advance the nutrition agenda in the region, including advocacy and technical assistance, contribution to the development of policy, standards, guidance and tools, convening meetings and webinars, production of reports and knowledge products.
- Build capacity of regional partners and platforms, facilitate country level South to South exchange of knowledge and expertise, and/or promote cooperation and alliances to achieve programme goals on FS/OW/SACA-N .
- Prepare communication and information materials to highlight programme goals, achievements and/or needs to promote awareness, establish partnerships/alliances and support fund raising for FS/OW/SACA-N programmes and actions.
- Participate and/or represent UNICEF in appropriate inter-agency discussions and planning on FS/OW/SACA-N -related issues to ensure organizational position, interests and priorities are fully considered and integrated in planning and agenda setting. Collaborate with inter-agency partners/colleagues on planning and preparation of FS/OW/SACA-N programmes and actions.

6. Innovation, knowledge management and capacity building

- Promote critical thinking, innovative approaches and good practices for sustainable and high coverage FS/OW/SACA-N programmes through advocacy and technical advisory services.
- Keep abreast, research, benchmark, and implement best and cutting edge practices in nutrition management and information systems, particularly as related to FS/OW/SACA-N. Institutionalize and share best practices and knowledge learned.
- Contribute to the development of policies and procedures, and introduce innovation and best practices to ensure optimum efficiency and efficacy of sustainable FS/OW/SACA-N programmes.
- Organize, plan and/or implement capacity building initiatives to enhance the competencies of country office Nutrition staff, Government counterparts and other stakeholders to promote and deliver results on FS/OW/SACA-N related actions and programmes.

IV. Impact of Results

KEY END-RESULTS

1. Timely and quality sectoral analysis, input, support and coordination contribute to the FS/OW/SACA-N regional agenda, its periodic update, and all programme documents to formulate effective MIYCN regional goals, strategy, and project planning and development.
2. Integrated Nutrition strategies for FS/OW/SACA-N, that are risk informed, include methodologies and new approaches are developed and implemented based on results-based approach within Human Rights framework by broad participation and collaboration with internal and external partnership.

3. Technical support is provided to country level UNICEF staff and regional partners (UN, CSO, RECs, Academia, donors etc) on nutrition, specifically in FS/OW/SACA-N, including capacity building of government personnel and beneficiaries.
4. Monitoring and evaluation of FS/OW/SACA-N programme performance across the region is properly undertaken for adjustment, acceleration and improvement of program delivery. Gender/sex disaggregated data and inputs relevant to the nutrition analysis provided.
5. Work plan and objectives on the regional FS/OW/SACA-N genda are effectively established, performance is managed, and planned results are timely delivered through exercise of strong programme management leadership.
6. The capacities of Country Office staff are strengthened in FS/OW/SACA-N through an effective capacity building programme
7. Support to supply forecasting, resource mobilisation and multicountry grant management is provided for FS/OW/SACA-N at regional level, with a focus on micronutrient supplies.
8. Effective partnership and collaboration at regional level are achieved and maintained for advocacy, technical cooperation, programme coordination, information sharing and knowledge networking.
9. The most relevant and strategic information is provided to support the regional FS/OW/SACA-N agenda by the effective implementation of integrated programme monitoring system.
10. All required programme reports are timely prepared in compliance with the established guidelines and procedures.
11. Other assigned duties and responsibilities are effectively accomplished, including serving as OIC for the regional adviser.

IMPACT OF RESULTS

The efficiency and efficacy of support provided by the Nutrition Specialist to the preparation, planning and implementation of regional nutrition technical and strategic assistance, initiatives and partnerships contributes to and accelerates the national development efforts to improve the nutritional status of mothers, infants and children in the countries of the region. This in turn contributes to maintaining and enhancing the credibility and ability of UNICEF to continue to provide programme services to mothers and children that promotes greater social equity in the countries.

V. Competencies and level of proficiency required	
<p><u>Core Values attributes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care • Respect • Integrity • Trust • Accountability • Sustainability 	<p><u>Core competencies skills</u></p> <p>Core Competencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nurtures, Leads and Manages People (1) ▪ 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) ▪ Drives to achieve impactful results (1) ▪ Manages ambiguity and complexity (1) <p>Functional Competencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Analyzing (3) ▪ Deciding and Initiating action (2) ▪ Applying technical expertise (3)

VI. Recruitment Qualifications	
Education:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced university degree in Public Health, Nutrition (preferably with specialized training in one or more of the following: public health and nutrition planning, health and nutrition education, health care system management, epidemiology, food systems, food policy, overweight and NCD prevention), Epidemiology, Social Policy, Social Development, Social Anthropology, Community Development, Food Policy, or other relevant disciplines.
Experience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least eight years of professional work experience at the national and international levels in planning, programming, implementation, research, monitoring and evaluation of nutrition programmes. Professional work experience in a managerial/leadership position, or a technical expert position. Developing country work experience. Relevant experience in program/project development and management in any UN system agency or organization is an asset. Background/familiarity and specific work experience on food systems, overweight prevention and school age and adolescent nutrition
Language Requirements:	Fluency in English and another UN language