

NUTRITION INFORMATION SYSTEM INTERN TOR- Lusaka, UNICEF Zambia CO

Title	Nutrition Information System Intern (For Zambian Nationals only)
Purpose	To support build the capacity of government staff to foster a culture of generating quality data and use for nutrition policy and programming
Location	Lusaka
Duration	6 months
Start Date	1/06/23
Reporting to	Nutrition Specialist
Budget Code/PBA number	Non-Grant
Project and activity codes	

Background:

Good nutrition is essential for the health and well-being of individuals, families, communities, and nations. Preventing and addressing malnutrition demands a multifaceted, multi-sectoral response, and has been identified as a key element of Zambia's development agenda. This is evidenced by the fact that Zambia's 8th National Development Plan (8NDP) 2022–2026 has placed a greater emphasis on nutrition as a key development outcome, "Improved Health and Nutrition" under the Strategic Development Area II i.e., the Human and Social Development. Despite high-level commitment and focus by the Government of Republic of Zambia (GRZ), malnutrition among women, adolescents and children continues to be a challenge.

Chronic malnutrition, manifesting as stunting, remains a problem in Zambia, even though the country has made incremental progress in the reduction of stunting. Zambia is one of the five countries selected to benefit from a 4-year European Commission support through UNICEF and WHO to ministry of health to improve and strengthen the existing nutrition information systems to contribute to high quality sustainable national data and information systems that are regularly used for programme monitoring and performance improvement. In addition to the NIS program, UNICEF, in partnership with the Government of Zambia (GRZ) National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC), United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the World Health Organization (WHO), amongst others, launched the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) II programme in 2019. The SUN II programme is a four-year initiative that provides a package of high-priority nutrition interventions to targeted households. To support the successful implementation and strengthen the impact of the SUN II programme as well as GRZ's broader and longer-term nutrition programming objectives, UNICEF Zambia supported NFNC to design a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system and a corresponding set of tools including the development of a harmonized, interoperable, and

accessible, web-based multi-sectoral nutrition information system (MNIS). The system aims to facilitate evidence-based actions and advocacy to in monitoring of the interventions across target households.

The Nutrition information System Intern will work on both the programs to broaden their knowledge and skills in Nutrition data.

Justification

For evidence-based decision making, advocacy, planning, targeting of beneficiaries and monitoring of implementation of nutrition interventions at the district and community levels, quality nutrition information is required. Reliable, accurate data is necessary to “diagnose the magnitude and diversity of nutrition deficits, coordinate timely action, set credible targets and monitor progress. “Quality nutrition data can support consensus around nutrition actions; it also informs advocacy strategies to elevate nutrition in policy discussions and promote investment in nutrition. To strengthen the nutrition information system in Zambia, the Ministry of Health has been updating the HMIS system to integrate all the databases and information systems to ensure that all information can be obtained in one platform. Progress includes integration of Smart-Care (electronic patient information system) and District Health Information System version2 (DHIS2) into HMIS. Through the Scaling up Nutrition Program, an integrated, harmonised and responsive monitoring and evaluation system for the SUN-II Programme has been developed to enhance the mechanisms for priority-setting and data coordination; strengthen nutrition data system across line ministries; develop the capacity at multiple levels; contribute to development of multi-sectoral nutrition plans; promote innovation and foster a culture of data use and sharing. In close collaboration with the NFNC, line ministries and other UN partners, the SUN-II Programme has established an M&E system that allows for simplified collection of data across each line ministries’ frontline workers and community volunteers and developed a Multi-sectoral Nutrition Information system.

Therefore, there is need for the internship in order to support the Nutrition Section to strengthen government knowledge in nutrition management systems, and support generation of quality nutrition data for programming.

Objectives/Target

The objective of the research internship is to support build the capacity of government staff to foster a culture of generating quality data and use for nutrition policy and programming.

Major duties/responsibilities and output expectations

No.	Major duties & responsibilities	Deliverables
1	Support MoH and NFNC in ensuring quality data generation at grassroots level	Support MoH/NFNC in training of relative staff to strengthen quality data generation at district/facility level Ensure facilities have data collection tools in place
2	Support with the rolling out of Multi-sectoral Nutrition Information system in six provincial districts	Support NFNC in ensuring the six (Choma, Chinsali, Chipata, Solwezi, Lusaka & Mongu) supported provincial districts use the MNIS
3	Support generation of quality nutrition for development of briefs and nutrition profiles	Support MoH and NFNC in conducting data quality audits and to develop documentation such as nutrition briefs and profiles

Qualifications and experience

Education

1. Studies in Information Technology, computer science, or related field
2. Excellent knowledge in working with databases a plus.
3. Have excellent academic performance shown through university records
4. Bachelor's degree required

Work experience

1. At least 1 year work experience, preferably in nutrition and/or database management activities, development of data collection instruments, data analysis working with HMIS.
2. Experience working with government or international organisations is an asset

Skills and Competencies:

1. Knowledge in databases and query languages
2. Knowledge in working with DHIS2 databases. Working with MoH HMIS a plus
3. Candidate should possess good communication and organisational skills
4. Candidate should possess ability to work well in a diverse team

5. Training in Monitoring & Evaluation is an advantage

Learning elements

This position is based in a dynamic Nutrition team and the intern will interact with Nutrition Specialists and other programme specialists in UNICEF, government, and other development partners. This position offers excellent learning opportunities in understanding and applying data principles in a multi-sectoral environment.

Fees and Honorarium

According to UNICEF's internship program administrative instruction, no compensation will be provided. Where appropriate, interns may be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred during official travel authorised by UNICEF. A monthly stipend enough to cover transport costs of in Zambian currency shall be paid for the internship duration (6 months).

Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted for next level of the recruitment process

Evaluation

Evaluation will be done at the end of the internship by the supervisor, and intern and a copy of the evaluation will be provided to the intern and the original submitted to HR.

Work Place and Duration

The duty station will be in Lusaka. The internship will be for-6 months.