



JOB PROFILE

I. Post Information

Job Title: Multiregional Innovation Manager (outposted)
Supervisor Title/ Level: Global Innovation Strategy and
Capacity Building Innovation Manager, P4
Organizational Unit:
Post Location: Istanbul, Turkey

Job Level: P4 Temporary Appointment
Job Profile No.:
Job Classification Level:

II. Strategic context and purpose for the job

For every child, success...

The Office of Innovation (Ooi) works to catalyse UNICEF's and all its partners' expertise and resources against key children-outcomes bottlenecks to continuously ideate and scale the most effective solutions with transformational potential at scale to achieve the child-related SDGs.

The office is doing this by continuously exploring new ways of accelerating results for children, investing across a range of early-stage solutions, harnessing internal and external expertise towards continuously iterating and finetuning the most promising solutions for children through a systematic portfolio management approach, and leveraging all stakeholders' innovation energy, knowhow and resources from intergovernmental, multilateral, private sector and non-governmental fora (think tank, academia).

The Multiregional Innovation Manager is pivotal in proactively fostering and developing innovation ecosystems within UNICEF programming countries across the assigned regions. This position serves as a critical link between UNICEF country offices, Regional Offices, and the Office of Innovation (OOI) at headquarters, facilitating a dynamic exchange of ideas, strategies and resources. The manager collaborates with diverse stakeholders to align innovation initiatives with UNICEF's Innovation Strategic Plan and regional priorities while building on country context. The role will provide support to RO and country offices on aspects of innovation, build capacity within country offices and provide technical support on key innovation portfolio initiatives in UNICEF's priority programme areas, as agreed in the Global Innovation Board (May, 2024) and alignment with Regional Flagship initiatives and regional innovation portfolios. The role will help increase closer collaboration between UNICEF OOI, ROs, and the field.

Purpose of the job. The main purpose of the role is to enhance the capacity of ECAR and MENAR promote, nurture and scale-up innovation efforts in the regions.

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

Under the general direction of the Global Strategy and Capacity Building Innovation Manager (Portfolio, Culture and Scale) and the Deputy Regional Director(s) of ECARO and MENARO and working closely with T4D, the Multiregional Innovation Manager will support country offices with:

1. Strategic Innovation Advisory and Portfolio Management

- a. Coordinate and Advise on the operationalization of innovation strategies in the countries following the approaches agreed by the Regional Management Teams. In the case of ECAR, support the roll-out and implementation of the brief '*Operationalizing Innovation in ECAR*' following the three-pillar approach: Build and Promote, Identify and Nurture, and Scale-up and Sustain. In the case of MENAR a approach will be agreed with the new regional senior management building on the successful COMPASS pilot in the region.
- b. Proactively advise the development and implementation of innovation needs that are aligned with UNICEF's regional and global innovation priorities and regional flagship areas.
- c. In collaboration with regional offices, country offices and OOI, design a cross-sectoral balanced portfolio of short-term quick wins and long-term transformative innovations by identifying, nurturing, and potentially scaling promising country and multi-country innovations.
- d. Advise on adopting innovation procedures and guidelines and collect feedback to improve OOI country support tools (e.g. 5D Innovation Framework and COMPASS).
- e. Advise on innovation governance structures and advocate for supportive policies and resources at country and regional levels.
- f. Participate and oversee the roadmap and plans of the regional innovation working groups. In the case of ECAR, participate in the *Regional Innovation Huddle* as act as a Secretariat to capture actions points and progress.
- g. Identify and validate emerging innovations for potential Innovation Portfolio or Venture support within OOI.

2. Promoting Innovation and Provide Technical Assistance for the implementation of Programmes

- a. Support COs in identifying and supporting strategic investments, designing and implementing innovative solutions for programme needs, and developing scaleup and sustainability business models for ongoing innovations, including through OOI frameworks for funding support.
- b. Advise on developing an approach to fostering and using innovation to support country priorities, including implementing light governance models and optimal ways to establish support structures for identification, design, project management, and scale-up of fit-for-purpose innovation and assist them in recruitment and capacity building.
- c. Identify and assess opportunities to integrate innovation with immediate and long-term potential to improve UNICEF programming, emphasizing strengthening national systems that enable innovation programmes. This includes influencing national policies and regulations, addressing infrastructure and human resource gaps, and identifying sustainable, innovative financing models.
- d. Support country offices and RO in developing compelling proposals for innovation funding opportunities.
- e. Guide ethical considerations in innovation, particularly regarding data privacy and child protection in line with normative UNICEF policies.

3. Partnership and Engagements

- a. Facilitate regional partnerships and engagements with diverse actors, including government entities, academic institutions, private sector organisations, and innovators.
- b. Understand partnership needs and opportunities and tap into global partnerships to become more accessible to regional and country offices.
- c. Raise awareness of potential partners within the multiregional innovation community, support innovation as a discipline, build consortiums, create communities of practice, and mobilise resources for innovation.

Explore new areas of engagement to support UNICEF's innovation goals, including innovative financing mechanisms, such as impact bonds or blended finance, to scale successful innovations.

4. Knowledge Management & Community Development

- a. Strengthen the capacities of regional and country staff and identify appropriate approaches, best practices and methodologies.
- b. Continue to lead the creation of a UNICEF community of CO-based experts who share knowledge and receive training, including cross-sectoral knowledge-sharing meetings, workshops, and training.
- c. Curation/development and sharing of innovative practices, tools and documented lessons learned working closely with the global/regional Knowledge Management functions.

5. Planning and reporting

- a. Serve as the primary link between OoI and the Regional Offices, ensuring alignment of efforts and resources and coordinating remote and in-situ TA related to innovation, including end-of-year reporting requirements. Input Develop and input into region-specific innovation workplans or relevant programme section regional workplans.
- b. Participate in the Regional Programme Management Team meeting as an Innovation focal point when appropriate, invited or relevant.
- c. Contribute to innovation and digital transformation boards
- d. Stay abreast of emerging technologies and assess their potential application in regional/country work.
- e. Supervise contractors and consultants as needed.

IV. Impact of Results

Better equip UNICEF country offices to drive impact from innovation within programmes specifically impacting over 1 million children in line with UNICEF Strategic Plan Goal H6.1

V. Competencies and level of proficiency required

UNICEF's Core Values of Care, Respect, Integrity, Trust and Accountability underpin everything we do and how we do it. Our Values Charter: <https://uni.cf/UNICEFValues>
View our competency framework at http://www.unicef.org/about/employ/files/UNICEF_Compencies.pdf

Core Values attributes

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

Core competencies skills

- 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)
- Drives to achieve impactful results (2)
- Manages ambiguity and complexity (2)

VI. Recruitment Qualifications

Education:	An advanced university degree (Masters or higher) in Social Sciences, Humanities, International Relations, Economics, Business or another relevant field. Experience in innovation strategy or related disciplines preferred. A first degree plus an additional 2 years of experience may be accepted in lieu of a Master's degree.
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Experience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum of 8 years of professional work experience in a relevant field, such as international development, innovation, social innovation or entrepreneurship. • A minimum of 3 years of experience in leading innovation projects/programmes in the child rights context • Experience working in global NGO or multilateral organisations on innovative projects highly preferred, experience in a UN country office acceptable. • Experience in project management and coordination of global innovation projects within the UN desirable. • Experience developing innovation strategies or business plans. • Experience in building and maintaining a network of stakeholders. • Experience in working with multiple countries and with multiple stakeholders. • Evidenced experience in fundraising for entrepreneurship and skills-building programmes. • Familiarity with emerging technologies (e.g., AI, blockchain, IoT) and their potential applications in development contexts. • Understanding of ethical considerations in innovation, especially related to data privacy and child protection in development contexts.
Language Requirements:	Fluency in English is required. Knowledge of another UN language is highly desirable.