



## UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND JOB PROFILE

### I. Post Information

Job Title: **Health specialist polio coordinator**  
Supervisor Title/ Level: **Senior immunization Manager**  
Organizational Unit: **Health / Immunisation**  
Post Location: **DRC / Kinshasa**

Job Level: **P4-FT**  
Job Profile No.: **121822**  
CCOG Code:  
Functional Code:  
Job Classification Level: **Level 4**

### II. Organizational 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 programmes, 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.

#### **Purpose for the job:**

Despite the African region being certified free of wild polio virus, since 2022, Africa is facing a resurgence of wild polio virus type 1 cases and persistent outbreaks of cVDPV2 and cVDPV1 (polio viruses).

The DRC has been certified free of wild poliovirus since 2015. However, the country has faced outbreaks of circulating variant poliovirus (cVDPV1 and 2) since 2017. To date, there have been 24 separate outbreaks and transmissions linked to cases from Angola, Burundi and the Central African Republic, with a total of 1,066 cases, reported in 185 health zones and spread across 25 provinces. To date, 10 outbreaks remain active. The highest number of cases was recorded in 2022, i.e. 531 cases (around 50% of cases) with co-circulation of type 1 and 2 poliovirus variants. In 2023, 280 cases of circulating variant polio were reported, including 172 of type 2 and 108 of type 1. A case of VDPV3 has also been reported in one province. The DRC has already exported the virus to 6 neighboring countries: Congo, Burundi, Botswana, Malawi, CAR and Zambia in 2023. The DRC is the country in the African region most at risk of polio and the priority country in the efforts of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI).

In addition to persistent polio epidemics, the DRC is also faced with multiple health emergencies, including measles, MPox, yellow fever, cholera and conflict-related population movements. This situation encourages the outbreak of epidemics in camps for displaced people and creates an urgent need for access to primary healthcare.

To ensure good preparation and organization of quality campaigns, continued support from Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) partners is critical to achieving the goals. The Polio Eradication Strategy 2022-2026 has two main goals based on the current stage of the eradication effort: I) to permanently interrupt all poliovirus transmission in endemic countries; and II) to stop cVDPV transmission and prevent outbreaks in non-endemic countries.

Also, in order to provide adequate support to the government's response to the new outbreaks of cVDPV1 and 2 and, above all interrupt the circulation of the virus, UNICEF's health section in the DRC has set up a Polio programme to carry out interventions in collaboration with other partners. Given the challenges over the next 5 years and the critical need for a decisive response, it is imperative that our Polio team is staffed with skilled professionals in secure, fixed-term positions to enhance operational effectiveness and ensure a sustained, impactful engagement.

Under the administrative direction and technical guidance of the Senior Immunization Manager the incumbent will provide strategic and technical support to the Ministry of Health and the Polio Emergency Organization Committee (COUP). It will ensure the strategic and political positioning of UNICEF in the major decision-making institutions and meetings in the context of the fight against polio in the DRC.

He/she will be responsible for coordinating the UNICEF team in charge of the fight against Polio.

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

Summary of key functions/accountabilities:

- Internal coordination of support provided by UNICEF within the DRC Global Eradication Initiative (GPEI), the Ministry of Health and Polio Emergency Operations Committee (COUP).
- Support the coordination of the preparation and implementation of the "plan to interrupt the circulation of circulating vaccine-derived polio virus type 2 (cVDPV2).
- Support big catch up of children zero dose and under immunized.
- Work in close collaboration with the regional office and UNICEF headquarters.
- Collaborate with the Ministry of Public Health, WHO and other GPEI partners in finalizing, updating and monitoring the implementation of the plan to interrupt the circulation of cVDPV2 in the DRC and ensure that aspects of vaccine management and communication for development are taken into account.
- Participate actively in national coordination meetings before, during and after the response.
- Ensure that the entire process of planning, implementing and monitoring-evaluating the vaccine response plan is properly prepared:
- Advocate with the authorities, in collaboration with other partners, for the effective involvement of the political and administrative authorities in the response.
- Participate in the evaluations of each phase of the response as well as in the final evaluation of the immunization response.
- Ensure the organization of independent post-campaign monitoring activities with the WHO and the analysis of the results of these Independent Monitoring and LQAS.
- Prepare a fortnightly situation report to be sent to the country office, Regional Office.

- Draft the general report on the response, highlighting good practice, lessons learned and recommendations.
- Ensure effective and efficient management of allocated funds.
- Design financial resource mobilization plans and submit the various reports to donors on time.
- Support the monitoring and preparation of responses to other epidemics.

## V. UNICEF values and competency Required (based on the updated Framework)

### i) Core Values

- Care
- Respect
- Integrity
- Trust
- Accountability

### ii) Core Competencies (For Staff with Supervisory Responsibilities) \*

- Leading and Supervising [I]
- Formulating Strategies and Concepts (II)
- Analyzing [III]
- Relating and Networking [II]
- Deciding and Initiating Action [II]
- Applying Technical Expertise [III]

## VI. Recruitment Qualifications

<b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A doctorate degree in medicine and a specialization/master's degree in public health/epidemiology preferably or in an equivalent field.</li> </ul>
<b>Work Experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 8 years' experience in Polio, public health and immunization, preferably in developing countries.</li> <li>• Proven experience in coordinating and managing teams within the framework of the GPEI and other accelerated initiatives to combat vaccine-preventable diseases.</li> <li>• Experience in organizing Polio campaigns and experience of mOPV2 and nOPV2 campaigns.</li> <li>• Ability to work in a multicultural and emergency environment.</li> </ul>
<b>Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of IT management techniques</li> </ul>
<b>Language Requirements</b>	Fluency in English and French is required. Knowledge of a local language is an asset.