## TERMS OF REFERENCE – Health and Nutrition Officer

## Temporary Appointment

## Background

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| **Purpose** | The position is required to provide technical assistance and support for Health and Nutrition programme/project design, planning, implementation, processing of partner’s financial request and liquidation, and field program monitoring activities, including data analysis, progress reporting, and capacity building. This is in support of the planned objectives of the annual work plan and aligned with Health & Nutrition programme goals and strategy. |
| **Proposed level** | NOB |
| **Job Classification Level** | Level 2 |
| **Location** | East Darfur State, El Daien |
| **Duration** | 364 Days |
| **Reporting to** | International Health and Nutrition Officer |

According to S3M II 2020, East Darfur has a high under-five mortality rate (U5MR) of 112 per 1,000 live births compared with the national average of 52 per 1000 live births. Child undernutrition in East Darfur is high, characterized by high levels of stunting and acute malnutrition. 39% and 4% are the rates of stunting and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) respectively. The state has one of the lowest rates of medical professionals per 1,000 people and the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have significant effect on the state, creating an additional burden to the already fragmented and weak basic health system. The state has Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence at 17% which is above WHO very high threshold. Significantly, ED is increasingly prone to climate variability whereby shifting rainfall patterns are resulting in damaging floods and dry-spells. Together with continued tribal clashes and armed conflict, these factors are having a direct impact on the health and nutrition of children.

Key determinants of malnutrition and mortality in the state include widespread occurrence of diarrhea, fever and acute respiratory tract infections (ARI). The S3M-II reported prevalence of diarrhea, fever, and RI at 17.95, %, 30.2%, and 11.8% respectively. Measles immunization and immunization coverage for the basic vaccines are as low as 19.4% and 16.9% respectively. Antenatal care coverage is only 40% whereby pregnant women are only attended four times by a health service provider. The lack of awareness about maternal and child feeding care and practices and inadequate care seeking behaviour among the community, inadequate utilization of antenatal care, skilled delivery, post-natal care, and childcare services lead to delays in identification of high-risk pregnancies, newborn complications and common childhood illnesses which are leading contributing factors to poor health and nutrition outcome in ED. This situation is indicative of a weak health system that requires more support through capacity building and empowering health committees especially at locality level.

In response to the health and nutrition needs of vulnerable populations, UNICEF in collaboration with the State Ministry of Health and non-governmental organization have continued to implement a package of H&N interventions at health facility & community level. The Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) through which lifesaving treatment is provided for children suffering from severe acute malnutrition. The community Infant and Young Child Feeding (c-IYCF) has also been implemented to provide counselling services to mothers and child caregivers on recommended infant and young child feeding practices at community level as a preventive approach for reduction of malnutrition with potential long-term impact on stunting reduction. The Mother Support Group approach has been adopted for the c-IYCF. Meanwhile, UNICEF has greatly invested in the immunization program, including by supporting the cold chain and vaccination services in remote areas. UNICEF also supported RH services, with pre-service and in-service training of community midwives. In addition to the institutional support to the midwifery school in Ed daein, UNICEF is also supporting the integrated management of childhood illness & micronutrients supplementation for children & PLWs. While progress has been made on these interventions, one of the key challenges faced is insufficient monitoring at state and locality levels. This unfortunately translates into suboptimal programme coverage and quality such as low uptake of admissions in CMAM sites, poor immunization coverage, high defaulter, and death rates. Also, some Mother Support Groups (MSGs) do not meet regularly and hence are not providing regular counselling services in their communities.

UNICEF in collaboration with the State Ministry of Health (SMOH) and NGO partners developed innovative strategies to address these gaps. This includes orientation on how to detect severe acute malnutrition through MUAC screening for mothers seeking treatment services in CMAM sites for their children and encouraging them to assist in screening and referral of children from their communities. Key community leaders will be engaged to send out information about the signs and dangers of severe acute malnutrition and availability of CMAM services. Mother Support Groups will also be linked to the CMAM programme and participate in screening and referral of children to CMAM sites. UNICEF has invested as well in scaling up ICCM program to cover areas lack health facilities services through capacity building and providing Medical Supplies mainly ICCM kits. This will fight Malaria, ARI and Diarrheal Diseases and contributed to reducing morbidity and mortality in children under five.

In East Darfur the Health and Nutrition programme, has highlighted the main priorities for going forward, which embraces the scaling up of integrated Health and Nutrition interventions, including routine vaccination programme through mobile and outreach services delivery strategies in hard-to-reach and nomadic communities’ routes, and strengthening the capacity of the decentralized health and nutrition data/information management system at the locality and state levels. Furthermore, tackling the high prevalence of malnutrition by engaging all the stakeholders at community, locality and state levels with a multisectoral coordination system framework and enhancing the awareness of the communities on health promotion and disease prevention and control using the SBC models are the most pressing agendas in the HN program.

## Purpose

The Health & Nutrition Officer will provide professional technical assistance and support for programme/project design, planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and administration of programme/project activities, including data analysis, progress reporting, knowledge networking and capacity building, in support of achievement of planned objectives of the work plan, aligned with Health & Nutrition programme goals and strategy. Specifically, the purpose of the position is to support relevant activities and strategies to deliver on the programme priorities of East Darfur as identified above.

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

* Support the availability of accurate health and nutrition programme gender/sex disaggregated data and analysis and documentation to contribute to situation analysis, sectoral input, and reporting and provide the technical information in a timely and precise manner.
* Provide technical assistance, including in design and planning, to government and civil society partners for the implementation of Health & Nutrition initiatives.
* Establish and maintain partnerships to promote innovative approaches to address immediate and underlying determinants of maternal, newborn and child health and nutrition including working with other sectors such as water, education, livelihoods, agriculture and social behaviour change.
* Promote a UNICEF office-wide approach to operationalise a strategy of multi-sector, integrated and vulnerability-based programming.
* Support the improvement of State level Health and Nutrition programme delivery with emphasis on sustainability of intervention and community participation based on Human Rights framework and cross sector approach to programming and Community Capacity Development.
* Support the state level nutrition cluster coordination meeting and actively participate, as appropriate, in other coordination sectors including Health and WASH.
* Assist in identifying health and nutrition training needs and conducts relevant orientation, workshop, training, and learning/development activities for the front-line health and nutrition staff as well as for government personnel and beneficiaries.
* Provide timely implementation follow-up, including monitoring UNICEF inputs, local conditions and resources, flow of health and nutrition supplies and non-supply assistance, and project status to build on project efficiency and effectiveness.
* Participate in field visits to project sites for monitoring health and nutrition project activities and local conditions and follows up with health and nutrition partners and other partners on project implementation.
* Assists in identifying necessary action for Health and Nutrition programme adjustments, acceleration, improvement, and sustainability at the state level. Assists government counterparts and other partners in the planning and management of Health and Nutrition Programme.
* Liaises with State Ministry of Health and other partners to ensure timely submission of financial requests and reports of health and nutrition program at the state level. Monitors disbursement of funds, ensuring those activities are within established plans of action and programme budget allotments; and to orientate and train Government and UNICEF implementing partners in UNICEF supply and non-supply policies and procedures.
* Assist the government counterpart in establishing effective monitoring, knowledge database/network and reporting systems to ensure the availability of current and accurate health and nutrition programme information/data and contributes to the development of communication materials and strategies to support advocacy and community participation for Health & Nutrition programme.
* Maintain close contact with external counterparts, including those of the UN and national partners, to improve the ability to collect and disseminate relevant health and nutrition data, exchange information on programme/project development and implementation. Share knowledge, information, experience, and lessons learned.
* Support and facilitate strategies that help to foster social cohesion and resilience in the context of floods, drought, wider climate change impacts and ongoing tribal conflict.
* Assist the state ministry of health, and other health and nutrition partners in the preparation and implementation of emergency preparedness plan relating to Health & Nutrition in the state. In case of emergency, assists in monitoring and assessing the nature and extent of the emergency in the assigned area.
* Perform any other duties and responsibilities assigned as appropriate to the purpose of this post, and delivers the results as required.

## Impact of Results:

The efficiency and efficacy of support provided by the position to the design, development, planning and implementation, monitoring, analysis and evaluation of integrated health and nutrition programmes/projects at the locality and state levels contributes to and accelerates the agenda of Universal Health Coverage efforts to improve the overall health and nutritional status of mothers, infants and children particularly those who are in residing in the hardest to reach locations in the state. At the same time this will improve child survival, growth and development, and reduce high maternal and child morbidity and mortality rates in the state.

## UNICEF Values and Competency Required (based on the updated Framework)

1. **Core Values**
* Care
* Respect
* Integrity
* Trust
* Accountability
1. **Core Competencies**
* 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)
* Drive to achieve impactful results (1)
* Manages ambiguity and complexity (1)

## Recruitment qualifications:

**Academic Requirements:**

* University degree in Public Health / Medicine, Nutrition, Child Survival Development, other related qualification.
* Working knowledge of Health, Nutrition and WASH-related issues is required.

## Experience:

* Minimum of two years of experience working with the health, nutrition and child survival programmes.
* Minimum of two years of experience working in humanitarian or development contexts in public health and nutrition.

**Languages:**  Fluency in English writing and speaking. Knowledge of Arabic is an asset.

**Technical requirements**

* Knowledge of MS office is must.
* Knowledge of emergency health and nutrition response planning and implementation.
* Good interpersonal/ communication skills with all different level of partners.
* Should have good working knowledge of the various tools used for reporting for Health and Nutrition, HNO and HRP, have a good knowledge of targets, indicators.
* Knowledge of various national policy and strategies on health and nutrition and linking program response.
* To be aware of triple nexus (Humanitarian – Development and Peace nexus -DPN) and should be able to link the actions in between.

## Duty Station and Travel

## El Daien, East Darfur State with frequent travel to localities.