



UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND SPECIFIC JOB PROFILE (SJP)

I. Post Information

Job Title: **Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) Specialist**
Supervisor Title/ Level: **Health Specialist, P4**
Organizational Unit: **Programme**
Post Location: **Regional Office for South Asia**

Job Level: **Level 4**
Job Profile No.:
CCOG Code: **1103n**
Functional Code: **HEA**
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 mothers, children, adolescents and families, translates this commitment to children's rights into action. For UNICEF, equity means that 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.

Newborn mortality is the major contributor to child mortality accountable to nearly 60% of all under five deaths globally. Majority of newborn ill health and mortality happens around birth and within the first seven days of life. Focus on the continuum of quality maternal care including antenatal care, labor and delivery care, immediate newborn care and post-natal care to the most vulnerable mothers and newborn is essential to reduce newborn mortality in South Asia and achieve the newborn SDG targets. Currently, four countries in South Asia (India, Nepal, Pakistan and Afghanistan) are not on track to achieving the newborn mortality SDG target of < 12 newborn deaths per 1000 live births.

Country maternal and newborn health services need to be strengthened to ensure equitable access to quality antepartum, intrapartum and post-partum maternal and newborn services to accelerate progress towards the global and country targets. Supporting UNICEF country teams technically on the newborn mortality agenda and implementation is a key priority of UNICEF ROSA during the Regional Plan 2022-2025.

Job organizational context:

The MNCH Specialist P4 works at the Regional Office level, and reports to the Health Specialist (Maternal & Newborn), P4.

Purpose for the job:

The MNCH Specialist P4 works at the Regional Office level, and reports to the Health Specialist (Maternal & Newborn). The MNCH health specialist provides timely and state-of-the-art technical support to UNICEF country programmes, country office and regional partners for overall capacity building, knowledge management, monitoring & evaluation in the field on maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health including PPTCT/HIV/AIDS, represents UNICEF in regional fora, and coordinates on UNICEF's behalf with regional partners and donors.

III. Key function, accountabilities and related duties/tasks

Summary of key functions/accountabilities:

- 1. Technical capacity building and innovation**
- 2. Knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation**
- 3. Health information systems and systems digitization**
- 4. Other related duties**

1. Technical capacity building and innovation

- Support ROSA CO teams on the scale up of low-cost high impact maternal and newborn health interventions including kangaroo mother care; antenatal corticosteroids; small and sick newborn care; MPDSR and referral systems
- Support ROSA COs on strengthening home based PHC maternal and newborn care services to reach the most vulnerable communities including home deliveries
- Provide guidance to country offices to integrate Health system strengthening evidence-based strategies, methodologies, and new approaches to improve MNCH programme delivery.
- Support county office in the provision of technical support to governments and non-government organizations at all stages of the operational planning of affordable and high impact maternal and child health intervention packages at scale.
- Provide support and guidance to country offices to analyze their MNCH PHC health systems, including bottleneck analysis

2. Knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation

- Support ROSA Country teams (COs) on strengthening stillbirth programming including data capture; analysis and development/adaptation of essential guidelines on stillbirth reduction programs
- Perform secondary analysis of available information and data on MNCH services including adolescent health and share findings and results.
- Monitor and evaluate the impact of MNCH health initiatives in countries to improve programme delivery and increase the coverage of child survival high impact interventions.

- Capture findings, experiences, lessons learned, best practices, new templates and tools, and innovative model interventions and approaches on MNCH for adaptation and share with country offices.
- Keep abreast of the latest developments and innovations in the field of MNCH strengthening and share with country offices.
- Conceptualize, develop, and disseminate regional technical analyses, reports and publications related to MNCH PHC health systems focusing on quality of facility and community services.

3. Health information systems and systems digitization

- Provide technical support to ROSA CO teams on integration of key maternal and newborn health indicators in national health management information systems and periodic surveys
- Support COs on strengthening maternal and child death audit systems at community and facility level

4. Other related duties

- Support and contribute to the conceptualization and writing of funding proposals related to maternal, newborn, adolescent health and PPTCT/HIV/AIDS program
- Assist in the development of Terms of Reference related to MNCH support.
- Contribute to regional activities and exchange of information and ideas with other sectors, related to the formulation, planning, implementation and monitoring & evaluation of overall regional MNCH strategies and support to country offices.
- Prepare periodic progress reports on MNCH for sharing with programme staff at headquarters, regional office, and country offices, as well as donors and partners.
- Contribute to the preparation and analysis of annual reports and any other programmatic reports.
- Perform other related duties as assigned by the supervisor including guiding, training, and coaching staff, interns and consultants, as needed.

IV. Impact of Results

The efficiency and efficacy of support provided by the MNCH PHC HSS Health Specialist to programme preparation, planning and implementation facilitates the delivery of concrete and sustainable results that directly impact the improvement of the health of the most marginalized and vulnerable women and children in South Asia. The post will directly support UNICEF ROSA health section maternal and child program implementation capacity and progress in the implementation of ROMP 2022-2025. This in turn contributes to maintaining and enhancing the credibility and ability of UNICEF to continue to provide programme services to protect the rights of children, and to promote greater social equality to enable them to survive, develop and reach their full potential in society.

V. Competencies and level of proficiency required (based on UNICEF Professional Competency Profiles)

Core Values

- Care
- Respect
- Integrity
- Trust
- Accountability

Core Competencies

- Nurtures, Leads and Manages People (2)
- Demonstrates Self Awareness and Ethical Awareness (3)
- Works Collaboratively with others (3)
- Builds and Maintains Partnerships (3)
- Innovates and Embraces Change (3)
- Thinks and Acts Strategically (3)
- Drives to achieve impactful results (3)
- Manages ambiguity and complexity (3)

VI. Recruitment Qualifications

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| Education: | Advanced University Degree in Public Health or a closely related area; experience in MNCH program support is desirable |
| Experience: | <p>A minimum of 8 years' experience in health programming, including extensive experience in MNCH PHC Health Systems Strengthening.</p> <p>Familiarity with Inequities in Health, Health Management Information Systems, Monitoring and Evaluation, Knowledge Management and Digital Health Solutions is highly desirable.</p> <p>Experience of working with national governments and partners is an asset.</p> |
| Language Requirements: | Fluency in English is required. Knowledge of another official UN language or local language of the duty station is considered as an asset. |