

Primary Health Care Specialist (System Strengthening and Financing Systems), P-4, TA at UNICEF

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Job Description

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UNICEF is the world's largest provider of vaccines for developing countries, UNICEF supports child health and nutrition, good water and sanitation, quality basic education for all boys and girls, and the protection of children from violence, exploitation, and AIDS. UNICEF is funded entirely by the voluntary contributions of individuals, businesses, foundations and governments.

For every child, efficient Health systems

Health systems strengthening is one of three overarching approaches of the UNICEF Health Strategy which link UNICEF's actions to its dual goals of ending preventable maternal, newborn and child deaths and promoting the health and development of all children (the other two are addressing inequities in health outcomes and promoting integrated, multi sectoral policies and programs). These approaches are necessary to increase focus and coherence across health programs and underpin all of UNICEF's programming and engagement in the health sector. In this strategic context, stronger health systems are necessary to reach the most marginalized children and women, to sustain the progress achieved and to increase the resilience of both delivery systems and communities to absorb and recover from external shocks, including public health emergencies and outbreaks.

UNICEF's HSS strategy targets national, sub-national and community levels of the health system with inter-related systems strengthening interventions: 1) national-level: support MoH

to develop equity-focused health policies, strategies and plans, 2) district-level: improve management capacity for evidence-based planning and monitoring, 3) community-level: strengthen community platforms and ensure they are well integrated into sub-national health systems. In response to identified bottlenecks to the effective performance of health systems and in line with UNICEF's areas of expertise, UNICEF also supports MoH to strengthen information systems; procurement and supply chains; social protection and welfare; engagement of the private sector, human resources for health, and quality of care at community and facility-levels.

Central to UNICEF's HSS approach is contributing to the social protection system and plan for financing Universal Health Coverage (UHC) through primary health care (PHC) costing, development of investment cases, financial and fiscal space analysis and leveraging of resources (e.g., promoting insurance schemes focusing on the most vulnerable and prioritizing primary health care), budgeting and design of financing mechanisms to benefit children and women. Given the focus on a comprehensive and coordinated approach, linkages with social welfare services, early child development and adolescent engagement are also promoted.

Under the supervision of the UNICEF ESARO HSS Specialist, and in close collaboration with System Strengthening Specialists in Health, HIV, Nutrition and Supply, Social Policy and other relevant sections, and the Sr Immun. Specialist (Health Economics) outpost from HQ, the incumbent will support countries in ESA region of UNICEF in direct guidance and technical oversight on Health Financing (including Primary Health Care costing) and other areas of Primary Health Care System Strengthening Technical Assistance to UNICEF Country Offices in the ESA region. The incumbent will through regional level Health Harmonization for Africa (HHA) HSS partners, including WHO, align and coordinate on technical assistance to countries in follow up actions from the Regional HSS Health Finance Forum in and to document and disseminate lessons learned from health financing reforms and related advocacy efforts. The incumbent will also work closely with our colleagues in UNICEF WCARO and other regions working on similar PHC strengthening efforts, to align and produce regional level toolkits and public goods.

How can you make a difference?

Coordinate and provide technical support to COs for Health Financing

Oversee regional office technical support to UNICEF Country Offices (COs) for the costing of their PHC packages and advocacy to increase domestic funding for PHC

Support UNICEF COs to prepare, present and summarize PHC financing findings for advocacy and use at country, regional and global levels.

Support technically UNICEF COs in the region to develop the relevant economic analyses aligning with their national context, including focus on equity and decentralized financial flows and absorption

Provide technical guidance on Public Financial Management for Health

Follow up and provide support to countries in operationalizing action plans that emerged from the Regional Health Finance Forum for improvement in policies or reforms for increased PHC Financing

Develop materials and guidance documents for economic analyses for health

Develop package of guidance, tools, terms of reference for defining and estimating the costs of PHC packages, measuring PHC progress and financing, ensuring alignment with UNICEF and WHO joint global guidance and comparability across countries/regions

Contribute to cross-country analyses of findings in support of global-level comparisons and documentation of promising practices, including around sustainability of financing for digital health

Develop generic materials and methodologies to support health financing-related requests from COs (including UHC, investment cases, community health, health insurance, costing, etc.)

Maintain roster of Health Economists that can provide in country technical assistance, throughout the region

Disseminate the latest scientific knowledge and country experiences in developing, implementing, and advancing health financing policy for PHC.

Develop content and organize capacity building webinars and course material targeted to different audiences within UNICEF (senior management, chiefs, health specialists)

Strengthen health financing partnerships at regional level

Engage actively with existing mechanisms (such as HHA), regional level UN entities, public and private sector partners, to advance health financing best practices

Advocate, during strategic discussions with Ministries of Finance and Health and other key decision makers and stakeholders, including UNICEF COs, to influence agenda setting in favor of health and wellbeing of children, women and young people

Collaborate with WHO, BMGF, World Bank/GFF, USAID and other UN agencies and implementing partners to support country-level technical assistance on public financing: costing, financial and fiscal space analysis, budgeting and design of financing mechanisms to benefit children and women.

Collaborate with systems strengthening experts in Health, HIV, Supply, Nutrition, ECD and other sections to ensure an optimal integration and alignment of the PHC Health Finance work with other ongoing initiatives.

Contribute to health systems' strengthening agenda within UNICEF Regional Office

Provide technical assistance to countries in the region on PHC integration of services and delivery, including Kenya (BMFG Joint Investment Mechanism Grant). Oversee grant reporting, budgeting, and provide technical oversight from regional office.

Participate in regular weekly HSS meetings, Health section quarterly reviews, and region wide activities (e.g. country office annual reviews and regional office planning).

Represent UNICEF ESARO in Health Harmonization for Africa (HHA) HSS partnership meetings and technical working group discussions.

Collaborate with systems strengthening experts in Health, HIV, Supply, Nutrition, ECD and other sections to ensure an optimal integration and alignment of the PHC and PHC Health Finance work with other ongoing initiatives.

Perform other relevant HSS interventions in coordination with the supervisor

To qualify as an advocate for every child you will have...

An advanced university degree (Master's or higher) in health economics or public health with a focus on health economics or health financing, or an advanced degree in economics or financing

with a focus on Health Systems Strengthening and/or another related field is required.

A good knowledge of theoretical and practical modeling is required

Prior experience developing costing /using costing tools (OneHealth Tool, CHPCT, EQUIST)

A minimum of 8 (eight) years of experience at the national and international levels in a relevant discipline, such as international public health or global development is required.

Prior experience working with UNICEF country offices in Africa is required particularly in areas of economic analysis

Preference will be given to candidates who have:

Knowledge and experience of health economic analysis, especially cost analysis

Knowledge of and experience with Public Financial Management in Health

Knowledge of analyses of global health financing issues and trends

Strong communication and relationship building skills in both the national community (e.g. local universities, national research institutions) and the global health community, particularly among donors, multilateral partners, and implementers

Experience with Health Systems Strengthening applications and programs

Experience in strengthening public health financing and governance

Developing country work experience and/or familiarity with emergencies is considered an asset.

Fluency in English is required. Knowledge of another official UN language (Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian or Spanish) or a local language is an asset.

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