



Job Classification


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Classified Job Descriptions

Job Description Type:	Specific Job Description	Region:	HQ
Category:	IP (International Professionals)	Country:	Belgium
Reason for Classification:	Revised responsibilities	Duty Station:	Brussels
Level:	P-4	Office:	Global Programme Division
Title:	Programme Specialist	Section:	Nutrition and Child Development
Title Information in Parenthesis:	Financing for Scale	Unit:	Financing Child Nutrition & Development
CCOG Code:	1102b	Case Number:	
UNICEF Code:	NUT	Post Number:	00133668
Classified by:		Classified Date:	

Organizational Context:

The Global Programme Division (GPD) plays a central role in driving programme excellence across UNICEF. It provides global strategic leadership and policy direction, develops and monitors frameworks and standards, and ensures coherence and alignment across sectors, regions, and partners. GPD generates high-impact, evidence-based solutions and serves as a hub of specialized expertise, offering technical guidance on policy reform and scalable programming.

GPD leads UNICEF's policies, standards, and negotiations for programmes, ensuring that the organization's assets and priorities align with, and contribute to, child development goals. In addition, GPD strengthens country-level implementation through integrated technical support, linking global policy with on-the-ground action to deliver results for children at scale.

As part of this structure, UNICEF has established Centres of Excellence (CoEs) to provide high-quality, demand-driven technical assistance to countries, and their governments and partners. Located strategically in Nairobi, Panama, Amman, and Bangkok, the CoEs bring together cross-cutting expertise across time zones. Global Programme Practices in CoEs function as a single point of entry for support, delivering tailored assistance in priority areas such as policy reform in matters that advance the well-being of children, at-scale programme design, public finance, workforce development and institutional strengthening, and timely humanitarian response while promoting resilient development. In doing so, the CoEs also contribute to global policy standards, ensuring that UNICEF's support is grounded in practical knowledge.

Good nutrition is essential for child survival, growth, learning, and lifelong productivity. It delivers some of the highest returns in development through better health, education, economic productivity, and resilience. Yet malnutrition remains a major barrier to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, affecting millions of children, adolescents, and women and limiting human capital development worldwide.

Despite compelling evidence of its impact, nutrition remains chronically underfunded. Closing the global nutrition financing gap will require an additional US\$128 billion between 2025 and 2034, with most needs concentrated in low- and lower-middle-income countries in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. At the same time, rising debt burdens, constrained fiscal space, higher

borrowing costs, and declining official development assistance are placing increasing pressure on governments and development partners. Yet growing recognition of nutrition's contribution to health, human capital, economic growth, food systems, and resilience is creating new opportunities to mobilize resources from development finance institutions, multilateral development banks, philanthropic organizations, and the private sector.

In response, UNICEF has made nutrition financing a strategic priority under its Nutrition Strategy 2020-2030. UNICEF supports governments to increase and improve financing for nutrition through stronger public financial management, domestic resource mobilization, expenditure tracking, policy reform, and innovative financing solutions, while advocating for greater prioritization of nutrition within national and international financing agendas.

To accelerate progress, UNICEF established the Child Nutrition Fund (CNF), a catalytic financing platform that mobilizes and strategically deploys public and private resources for high-impact nutrition programmes. The CNF helps countries increase domestic investment, strengthen implementation capacity, and expand access to proven interventions. By mid-2026, the CNF had secured commitments exceeding US\$1 billion and was supporting partnerships in more than 60 eligible countries. As the CNF grows, UNICEF is deepening engagement with governments, financing institutions, and philanthropic partners to mobilize greater resources and transform the global nutrition financing landscape.

Purpose of the Job:

Under the supervision of the Senior Adviser, Financing for Child Nutrition and Development, the Programme Specialist, Financing for Scale provides strategic leadership and technical expertise to advance UNICEF's nutrition financing agenda globally.

The incumbent leads UNICEF's engagement with countries supported through the CNF, helping governments and UNICEF Country Offices identify, develop, and implement opportunities to increase and improve financing for nutrition. The Programme Specialist also cultivates and manages strategic partnerships with global and regional financing institutions, including multilateral development banks and other development finance actors, to strengthen the integration of nutrition into broader financing and development agendas.

In addition, the incumbent leads the exploration and advancement of innovative and catalytic financing approaches for nutrition, supports evidence generation and knowledge development in nutrition financing, and contributes to UNICEF's advocacy, communications, and thought leadership efforts to elevate nutrition financing on global, regional, and national agendas.

Through these functions, the Programme Specialist plays a key role in mobilizing and influencing financing for nutrition, strengthening country-led investments, and expanding the impact and reach of the CNF in support of improved outcomes for children, adolescents, and women.

Key functions, accountabilities and related duties/tasks:

1. CNF Country Engagements

- Lead UNICEF's engagement with countries participating in the CNF, providing strategic and technical leadership to governments, UNICEF Country Offices and Regional Offices on nutrition financing.
- Lead the development, negotiation, implementation, monitoring and reporting of CNF multi-year partnership frameworks, ensuring alignment with national priorities, UNICEF technical programme objectives, and CNF investment criteria.
- Provide strategic technical support to governments and UNICEF Country Offices to identify, design and implement financing solutions that increase the availability, efficiency, equity and sustainability of nutrition investments.
- Guide the application of public finance analyses and diagnostic tools, including public expenditure reviews, institutional assessments, budget analyses and fiscal space assessments, to inform policy dialogue, financing reforms and investment decisions.
- Facilitate country engagement processes across the CNF portfolio, in partnership with technical programme leads, supporting country-led planning, implementation, monitoring, learning and reporting.
- Foster strategic collaboration among governments, UNICEF programmes, development partners, financing institutions and other stakeholders to strengthen the enabling environment for nutrition financing and programme implementation.

2. Engagements with Global and Regional Financing Institutions

- Lead strategic engagement and partnership development with multilateral development banks, international financial institutions, regional financing institutions and other development finance actors to advance nutrition financing objectives and expand opportunities for the CNF.
- Develop and support strategic collaboration arrangements between the CNF and financing institutions at global, regional and country levels.
- Identify and pursue opportunities to integrate nutrition priorities into investment portfolios, lending operations, country financing platforms and broader development financing frameworks.
- Lead technical dialogue with governments and financing partners on fiscal space, domestic resource mobilization, public financial management and financing reforms to increase sustainable investments in nutrition.
- Represent UNICEF and the CNF in relevant financing platforms, technical working groups, policy dialogues and partner consultations at global, regional and country levels, in partnership with technical programme leads as appropriate.

3. Novel Financing Approaches

- Lead the identification, assessment and development of innovative and catalytic financing approaches to mobilize additional resources and strengthen the sustainability of nutrition investments.
- Advance UNICEF's work on innovative financing mechanisms for nutrition, including blended finance, debt-related instruments, outcome-based financing and other emerging financing approaches.
- Lead the expansion of debt relief and debt swap initiatives that generate additional fiscal space and financing for nutrition programmes.
- Develop evidence, technical guidance, analytical products and operational frameworks to support the adoption and scale-up of innovative financing mechanisms within national nutrition strategies and programmes.
- Monitor global trends and emerging practices in development finance, assessing their relevance and application to nutrition financing and UNICEF programming.
- Build and manage partnerships with technical experts, financial institutions and strategic partners to pilot, evaluate and scale innovative financing approaches for nutrition.

4. Nutrition Advocacy, Communications and Knowledge Management

- Lead the generation, documentation and dissemination of evidence, lessons learned, case studies and knowledge products to strengthen global understanding of effective nutrition financing approaches.
- Develop and promote strategic advocacy and communication products that position nutrition financing as a priority investment for children, women and human capital development.
- Establish and maintain partnerships with academic institutions, think tanks, research organizations and internal and external technical networks to strengthen the evidence base for nutrition financing and foster innovation.
- Position UNICEF and the CNF as leading voices on nutrition financing through strategic engagement, advocacy and representation in key global, regional and country-level forums and platforms.
- Contribute to UNICEF's thought leadership on nutrition financing through analytical work, publications, strategic messaging and engagement with policymakers, financing institutions and development partners.
- Promote cross-country learning and knowledge exchange by facilitating technical dialogues and dissemination of emerging evidence and good practices.

Impact of Results:

The Programme Specialist will play a key role in advancing the strategic objectives, growth, and impact of the CNF. Through leadership of CNF country engagements, partnerships with governments and financing institutions, innovative financing initiatives, and advocacy efforts, the incumbent will help mobilize and influence increased investments for nutrition, strengthen domestic financing and country ownership, and improve the effectiveness and sustainability of nutrition programmes. The position will contribute to expanding the reach and catalytic impact of the CNF, fostering stronger alignment between nutrition priorities and national and international financing mechanisms, and positioning the CNF as a leading platform for accelerating nutrition investments globally. The results achieved will support implementation of

the UNICEF Nutrition Strategy 2020–2030, contribute to the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2026–2029, and accelerate progress towards the Global Nutrition Targets 2030.

Competencies and level of proficiency required:

Core Values:
Care
Respect
Integrity
Trust
Accountability
Sustainability

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:

Education requirement: An advanced university degree (Master's or higher) in nutrition, public health, health economics, economics, or social sciences, or a directly related field is required.

Experience required: A minimum of eight (8) years of relevant experience, preferably in public policy and public financial management at the country and/or regional level, with expertise in nutrition financing, public financial management, governance, and partnership management is required.

Desirables:
Technical and programmatic experience in global health and nutrition initiatives and financing for development.
Experience in leveraging financing resources with the private sector and IFIs.
Expertise in nutrition financing data analysis.
Experience in partnership management.
Strong track record of resource mobilization.

Desired Skills:
Nutrition Financing and Public Financial Management.
Strategic Partnership and Stakeholder Engagement.
Innovative Financing and Resource Mobilization.

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

Is this role a Representative, Deputy Representative, Chief of Field Office, the most senior Child Protection role in the office, Child Safeguarding Focal Point, or Investigator (OIAT)?:

No

Is this post a Direct contact role in which incumbent will be in contact with children either face-to-face, or by remote communication, but the communication will not be moderated and relayed by another person?:

No

Is this post a Child Data role in which incumbent will be

No

manipulating or transmitting
personal-identifiable
information on children such as
names, national ID, location
data, or photos)?:

The selected candidate for this
position will be required to
engage with vulnerable
children:

No

Competencies and level of
proficiency required:

Recruitment Qualifications:

Attachments:

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