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TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT

Title: Nutrition Officer (Enabling Environment)
Contract type: Temporary Appointment (TA)
Proposed level: NOB
Duration: 364 days
Duty Station: Abuja, Nigeria
Supervisor: Nutrition Specialist, NOC Enabling Environment (**Post#** 20097)

BACKGROUND

The fundamental mission of UNICEF is to promote the rights of every child, leaving no one behind. In Nigeria, the nutrition situation of children under five has stagnated, and currently Nigeria is off track to achieve the World Health Assembly 2025 and the Sustainable Development Goals 2030. Nigeria is grappling with a severe nutrition crisis, exacerbated by conflict, climate shocks, and economic instability. The country currently bears a high burden of malnutrition. The nutritional status of children under 5 years of age has not improved in recent years. Funding for nutrition in Nigeria remains inadequate and inconsistent, limiting the reach and impact of programmes aimed at addressing malnutrition

To change the narrative, UNICEF in partnership with the government and other stakeholders aims to deliver good quality prevention and treatment services at scale to build resilience and protect the most vulnerable, particularly during the First 1000 Days of Life. The focus, in keeping with UNICEF Nigeria's new Country Programme Strategy (2023-2027), is to (i) strengthen the enabling environment, including data, to inform policy and programming; (ii) strengthen systems, especially the health, food and social protection system to deliver high quality services; and (iii) address social and behavioural practices that influence diets and practices.

One of the efforts to proffer a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approach towards addressing the issue of maternal and child malnutrition in Nigeria was the establishment of the National Committee on Food and Nutrition (NCFN) domiciled in the Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning (MFBNP), as the institutional structure is saddled with the responsibility of coordination and monitoring of all national policies as well as providing leadership to articulate a comprehensive policy and actions that could effectively reduce malnutrition or eliminate it in Nigeria. Also established is the National Council on Nutrition, domiciled in the Office of the Vice President, which represents the highest decision-making body on nutrition policies and plans in Nigeria.

The National Policy on Food and Nutrition provides an overarching framework for addressing malnutrition and food insecurity in Nigeria, from the individual, household, and community levels to the national level. The Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning is currently leading the development of a costed National Multisectoral Plan of Action for Food and Nutrition in Nigeria (NMPFAN) to guide the implementation and drive resource mobilization for nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions across line Ministries, Departments and Agencies of government. As co-chair of the Nutrition Development Partners Group (NDPG), UNICEF collaborates closely with various Nutrition stakeholders and government partners across all levels to support Nutrition programs and government initiatives such as the Nutrition 774 Initiative (a comprehensive, multi-sectoral effort to address nutrition and food security by fostering community engagement, local governance and multi-sectoral. UNICEF supports the government to carry out advocacy aimed at improving coordination, financing, scaling high-impact interventions and accountability for nutrition, among others.

PURPOSE OF THE ASSIGNMENT:

To enable UNICEF to execute the above strategy, the office is seeking a Nutrition Officer (NOB) TA at the L2 level on a temporary assignment to support the nutrition team with advocacy, policy formulation, and creating an enabling environment for implementing nutrition programs in Nigeria. The candidate will collaborate with internal and external stakeholders on policy-strengthening activities and will represent UNICEF in advocacy platforms and activities as appropriate. The Nutrition Officer will report to the Nutrition Specialist (Enabling Environment-NOC).

Specifically, the Nutrition Officer will be responsible for the following:

- Support the Nutrition section to optimize policies and programmes for the nutrition programme and raise the issue salience of nutrition as a core part of human capital development agenda
- Engage with the National Council on Nutrition and National Committee on Food and Nutrition to support the implementation of the Multi-sectoral Plan on Food and Nutrition
- Support advocacy for increasing domestic resource allocation for nutrition at national and sub-national levels leveraging the Child Nutrition Fund (CNF)
- Advocate for optimization and scaling up of high-impact nutrition interventions at national and sub-national levels as well as the LGA levels leveraging the N-774 initiative
- Advocate for high-impact partnerships & strengthen existing nutrition networks (e.g. Scaling Up Nutrition, Development Partners Group, Nigeria Governors Forum, Academia, Civil Society, e.g. private sector etc.)
- Support the implementation of the food system transformation pathways in Nigeria
- Work with regulatory agencies and support local manufacturing of nutrition commodities.
- Develop high quality concept notes, proposals, reports and documents to mobilize resources and document results for impact.
- Work closely with policy and data specialists to strengthen the enabling environment to advance nutrition interventions in Nigeria.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES AND TASKS

1. **Support to programme development and planning**
   - Conduct and update the situation analysis for the programme sector(s) for the development, design and management of multi-sectoral nutrition-related policies and financing. Research and report on development trends (e.g. political social, economic, nutrition, health) for higher management use to enhance cross-sectoral co-ordination, efficiency and delivery of results.
   - Contribute to the development and establishment of sectoral programme goals, objectives, strategies, and results-based planning, through analysis of nutrition needs and areas for intervention; and submission of recommendations for priority and goal setting.
   - Provide technical and operational support throughout all stages of programming processes by executing and administering a variety of technical programme transactions; preparing materials and documentation, and complying with organizational processes and management systems, to support programme planning, results based planning (RBM), and monitoring and evaluation of results.
   - Prepare required documentation and materials to facilitate programme review and approval processes.

2. **Programme management, monitoring and delivery of results.**
   - Provide technical support and analytics on the preparation, design, and financing of the nutrition sector
   - Ensure the availability of comprehensive and current data on maternal and child nutrition to guide policy development as well as design and management of nutrition programmes/projects.

- Participate in strategic programme discussions on the planning of nutrition programmes/projects to ensure increases in domestic resource allocation for nutrition as well as radical improvements in quality and coverage of nutrition interventions
- Ensure alignment of UNICEF's Strategic Plans and Country Programme with national priorities, plans, and competencies. and coherence/integration with the UN Joint Development Assistance Framework, regional strategies
- Establish specific goals, objectives, strategies, and implementation plans for the sector(s) based on results-based planning terminology and methodology (RBM). Prepare required documentation for programme review and approval.
- Work closely and collaboratively with internal and external stakeholders to ensure the achievement of concrete and sustainable results for nutrition.

3. **Technical and operational support to programme implementation**
   - Conduct regular programme field visits and exchange information with partners and stakeholders to assess progress and provide technical support. Take appropriate action to resolve issues and/or refer to relevant officials for resolution. Report on critical issues, bottlenecks and potential problems for timely action to achieve results.
   - Provide technical and operational support to government counterparts, NGO partners, UN system partners, and other country office partners/donors on the application and understanding of UNICEF policies, strategies, processes, and best practices on nutrition-related issues to support programme implementation, operations and delivery of results.
   - Support the government to increase financing and coverage of services for nutrition interventions especially prevention services at both national and sub-national levels.
   - Support NCN and NCFN to ensure that nutrition goals in the integrated nutrition strategic plan are in line with applicable mid-term development plans, national policies and strategies and that programs in relevant ministries align to address food and Nutrition specific and Nutrition sensitive issues adequately to Scale Up.
   - Support NCN and NCFN to improve process management skills and facilitate the operationalisation of Federal level multi-stakeholder platforms.

4. **Advocacy, networking and partnership building**
   - Build and strengthen strategic partnerships with nutrition/health sector government counterparts, national stakeholders, global partners, allies, donors, and academia, through active networking, advocacy and effective communication. Build capacity, exchange knowledge and expertise, and/or promote cooperation and alliances to achieve programme goals on maternal and child rights as well as social justice and equity.
   - Prepare communication and advocacy products to highlight programme goals, achievements and/or needs to promote awareness, establish partnerships/alliances and support fundraising for nutrition programmes.
   - Participate and/or represent UNICEF in appropriate inter-agency (UNCT) discussions and planning on nutrition-related issues to ensure organizational position, interests and priorities are fully considered and integrated into the UNDAF process in development planning and agenda-setting. Collaborate with inter-agency partners/colleagues on UNDAF planning and preparation of nutrition programmes/projects.
   - Participate and/or represent UNICEF in engagement with the private sector, SUN movement, DPG, NGF etc.
   - Research information on potential donors and prepare resource mobilization materials and briefs for fundraising and partnership development purposes.

5. Innovation, knowledge management and capacity building

- Promote critical thinking, innovative approaches and good practices for sustainable nutrition programme/project initiatives through advocacy and technical advisory services.
- Keep abreast, research, benchmark, and implement best and cutting-edge practices in nutrition management and information systems. Institutionalize and share best practices and knowledge learned.
- Contribute to the development of policies and procedures and introduce innovation and best practices to ensure optimum efficiency and efficacy of sustainable programmes and projects.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Education: A Bachelorsdegree in one of the following fields is required: nutrition, public health, nutritional epidemiology, global/international health and nutrition, health/nutrition research, policy, health sciences, nutrition epidemiology, or another health-related science field.

Experience:

- A minimum of two years of relevant professional work experience.
- Experience in implementing nutrition programming in and emergency context
- Knowledge of the UN rules, procedures and regulations and/or working experience for the UN or other international development organization would be an asset
- Good knowledge and hands on experience in analytical, research methodology and statistical skills is an added advantage.

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.

The competencies required for this post are:

Core Values	Core Competencies	Functional Competencies
• Care • Respect • Integrity • Trust • Accountability • Sustainability	• Nurtures, Leads and Manages People (1) • Demonstrates Self Awareness and Ethical Awareness (2) • Works Collaboratively with others (2) • Builds and Maintains Partnerships (2) • Innovates and Embraces Change (2) • Thinks and Acts Strategically (2) • Drives to achieve impactful results (2) • Manages ambiguity and complexity (2)	• Analyzing (2) • Applying technical expertise (2) • Learning and researching (2) • Planning and organizing (2)

http://www.unicef.org/about/employ/files/UNICEF_Competencies.pdf. UNICEF is committed to diversity and inclusion within its workforce, and encourages all candidates, irrespective of gender, nationality, religious and ethnic backgrounds, including persons living with disabilities, to apply to become a part of the organization.

UNICEF has a zero-tolerance policy on conduct that is incompatible with the aims and objectives of the United Nations and UNICEF, including sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, abuse of authority and discrimination. UNICEF also adheres to strict child safeguarding principles. All selected candidates will, therefore, undergo rigorous reference and background checks, and will be expected to adhere to these standards and principles.