Classified Job Descriptions

Job Description Type:	Specific Job Description	Region:	ESAR
Category:	NO (National Officers)	Country:	Madagascar
Reason for Classification:	Establishment of a new post	Duty Station:	Antananarivo
Level:	NOC	Office:	Madagascar
Title:	Health Specialist	Section:	Health
Title Information in Parenthesis:	Public Health Emergency	Unit:	Health System Strenghthening & Public Health Emergency
CCOG Code:	1I03n	Case Number:	
UNICEF Code:	HEA	Post Number:	138013
		Classified Date:	11/10/2026

Organizational Context:

Madagascar is highly vulnerable to major health emergencies, characterized by a high risk of bubonic and pneumonic plague, recurrent outbreaks of measles and malaria, as well as natural disasters (cyclones) giving rise to water-related risks. A weak health system, food insecurity, and limited access to safe drinking water exacerbate these risks, necessitating heightened surveillance and strengthened preparedness.

Major Health Risks:
Epidemic-Prone Diseases: The plague remains endemic, with seasonal outbreaks—particularly the more contagious pneumonic form. Measles, malaria, and occasionally cholera or dengue regularly pose a threat to the population.

Natural Disasters: Frequent tropical cyclones destroy health infrastructure, contaminate water sources, and increase the risk of diarrheal diseases and malaria.

Structural Vulnerability: A shortage of human resources, a lack of protective equipment and medications, and difficulties accessing remote areas complicate response efforts.

Food Insecurity: Chronic malnutrition—particularly in the south—weakens the population's immune systems, rendering them more vulnerable to infections.

Purpose of the Job:

Under the direct supervision of the Head of HSS Unit, the Health Specialist in Public Health Emergency is an operational role supporting the preparation for and response to epidemic and humanitarian health emergencies in Madagascar.

Incumbent can be deployed across the country to support and provide technical expertise to health colleagues in field offices in preparing for and responding to UNICEF epidemics and humanitarian health responses to ensure the survival and well-being of children and women in the country. Incumbent works within UNICEF's mandate to ensure equitable access to health services during emergencies and operates under UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children (CCCs) in humanitarian action.

Key functions, accountabilities and related duties/tasks:

Summary of main functions/responsibilities:
1. Emergency Preparedness: Support the office in the development of preparation and response plans for epidemic and humanitarian health emergencies of the various field offices, and contribute to the national plan.
2. Emergency response: conduct a rapid assessment, coordinate with partners and other UNICEF sections, propose an action plan, and implement the plan with the support of other units/sections.
3. Advocate and build partnerships: Support resource mobilization in coordination with other parties.

1. Emergency Preparedness
- Adopt adequate emergency preparedness measures through the development and updating of the contingency plan and establishment of early warning mechanisms, to ensure effective preparedness and response to epidemics.
- In coordination with the other sections, notably with the Emergency Section, lead the development of health emergencies preparedness/contingency plans for epidemics and natural disasters.
- Ensure the availability of contingency stocks and their pre-positioning.
- Contribute to the updating of the Emergency Preparedness Platform (EPP).
- Provide technical advice related to the implementation of emergency preparedness and response measures to the health section, including the field offices.
- Plan, organize, and conduct training for the health section's staff and for the partners' capacity building in health emergency preparedness and response.

2. Emergency response
- In the event of an emergency, visit the location immediately to conduct an initial rough assessment of the magnitude of the crisis and its implications for children and women to access basic health services. Implement the initial operational tasks related to health emergency assistance.
- Actively participate in rapid joint needs assessments.
- In coordination with the other sections, notably with the Emergency Section, lead the development of UNICEF health emergencies response plans for epidemics and natural disasters.
- Support the re-establishment of primary health services in all affected areas through community-based, mobile, and fixed health facilities as defined by the Ministry of Health.
- Oversee project supply chain in coordination with UNICEF operations staff to provide essential drugs and materials to government and NGO partners.
- Manage UNICEF's relations with its partners, taking administrative actions such as renewing partner contracts, PCAs, and managing program finances.
- Manage assigned projects.
- Provide technical support to UNICEF and partners, including contributing to the development of or sharing relevant standards, protocols, guidelines, and training materials.
- Conduct joint field visits and evaluations with relevant health cluster partners.
- Support the Immunization Unit in their planning and implementation of measles and Vitamin A campaign, and other potential campaigns.
- Monitor the coverage of key immunizations among the beneficiary population and share information for internal communication and external coordination.
- Support the planning and implementation of the HIV programme in emergency contexts.
- Collaborate with the Social Behavior Change (SBC) team on the elaboration of communication messages to avert/control outbreaks of communicable diseases and alert the population to priority preventative measures.
- Monitor the coverage of key health interventions among the beneficiary population and share information for internal communication and external coordination.
- Support UNICEF information products related to the response, including flash updates and situation reports (SitReps).
- In close consultation with the M&E team, contribute to the office M&E mechanism, including performing results tracking.

	3. Advocate and build partnerships - Help draft advocacy messages, funding appeals, donor reports, and project proposals related to the response. - Support UNICEF's response in Health as part of the overall health sector coordination mechanism. - Contribute to UNICEF's and the health sector response strategy, work planning, and contingency planning processes with other sectors to ensure cross-sectoral response programming. - Represent UNICEF in the Health and other sector coordination meetings. - Participate in all health-related humanitarian and recovery forums and keep the Chief of Section informed of all humanitarian developments in the country in terms of policies, strategy, situation developments, potential threats, and opportunities/issues in partnership. - Carry out any other duties that may be assigned by the Chief of Health section.
Impact of Results:	The effectiveness and efficiency of the support provided by the Health Specialist in the preparation, planning and implementation of programmes facilitates the achievement of concrete and sustainable results that have a direct impact on improving the health of the most marginalized and vulnerable women and children in the country. This in turn contributes to maintaining and strengthening UNICEF's credibility and capacity to continue providing programme services to protect children's rights and promote greater social equality to enable them to survive, develop and reach their full potential in society.
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 medicine, nursing, or other relevant health discipline and/or an advanced (postgraduate) degree in public health is required. Strong knowledge of humanitarian principles, policies, and response actions is required. Strong knowledge of UNICEF emergency policies, finance, supply, and administrative rules is an asset. Experience required: At least five (5) years of relevant professional work experience in planning, managing, and implementing health emergency programs with either the UN, International Organizations, and/or NGO at the national level, including field experience. Demonstrated experience in preparing reports and presentations is required. Experience in the development field and/or with the humanitarian-development-peace nexus is an asset. Relevant experience within an agency of the United Nations system is required. Language requirements: Fluency in French and Malagasy and working knowledge of English is required. Knowledge of another official UN language (Arabic, Chinese, Russian or Spanish) 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 (OIAI)?:	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 manipulating or transmitting personal-identifiable information on children such as names, national ID, location data, or photos)?:	No
The selected candidate for this position will be required to engage with vulnerable children:	No
Competencies and level of proficiency required:	
Recruitment Qualifications:	