

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT

Post Title	: Nutrition Officer (Diets and Practices)
Contract type	: Temporary Appointment (TA)
Proposed level	: NOB
Duration	: 364 days
Duty Station	: Kano (Nigeria)
Supervisor	: Nutrition Manager - P4

BACKGROUND

The fundamental mission of UNICEF is to promote the rights of every child, leaving no one behind. In partnership with the government and other stakeholders, UNICEF aims to deliver high-quality nutrition services at scale to build resilience and protect the most vulnerable, particularly during the First 1000 Days of Life, from pregnancy to when a child is two years old. Currently, Nigeria is off track to achieving the nutrition targets of the World Health Assembly 2025 and the Sustainable Development Goals 2030. Approximately one in three children under five in Nigeria is stunted, while one of every ten children is wasted. Almost 7 million young children aged 6-23 months are living in severe food poverty (consuming only 2 of 8 food groups in a day). Consequently, Nigeria has the second-highest number of malnourished children in the world and the highest in Africa. While progress has been made in service delivery, the underlying food system constraints including limited availability of affordable, safe, and nutritious foods for infants, young children, and women continue to undermine sustainable nutrition outcomes.

UNICEF Nigeria is increasingly prioritizing food systems transformation as a core pillar of its nutrition response. This includes expanding efforts to support local production of nutritious first foods, complementary foods, and fortified products; strengthening food safety, quality assurance. UNICEF's leadership in initiatives such as the First Foods Africa Initiative and the Nutrition 774 Initiative reflects a strategic shift toward integrated approaches that link policy to implementation, private sector engagement, local value chains for nutritious foods, and social and behaviour change to improve diets during the First 1,000 Days of Life.

In keeping with UNICEF Nigeria's new Country Programme Strategy (2023-2027), the focus is to (i) improve enabling environment for evidence-based policy, coordination, governance and financing; (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. The position will focus on implementation of the interventions aimed to contribute to enhancing dietary diversity, preventing common childhood illnesses and improving MIYCN; diets, services and care practices.

UNICEF, in partnership with the government and other stakeholders aims to implement a robust Nutrition Social Behaviour Change Strategy (SBC) and implement different food-system based interventions including the maternal, infant and young child nutrition (MIYCN) programmes to improve the diets and practices of women and children. To enable UNICEF to plan for and execute this strategy and mainstream diets and practices across different systems (Health, Food and Social Protection), the UNICEF Nigeria Kano Office is seeking to hire a Nutrition Officer (NOB) to be based in Kano, Nigeria.

PURPOSE OF JOB

Under the overall guidance of the Nutrition Manager, the candidate will,

- Provide sound technical support for the integration and delivery of high-impact nutrition interventions (prevention and treatment services) at the national and sub-national levels and across sectors.
- support the implementation of the Nutrition SBC Strategy and Campaign and Food System interventions aimed to contribute to enhancing dietary diversity, preventing common childhood illnesses and improving MIYCN; diets, services and care practices
- Provide support to the nutrition and food system interventions programme by efficiently managing organizational resources and monitoring results.
- Track and manage the utilization of grants, ensuring compliance with results-based principles and standards, UNICEF guidelines, and donor conditionalities.

MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Support nutrition programme development, planning and implementation

- Assist government counterparts and other partners in the design, planning, implementation and monitoring of the nutrition programmes and food system interventions
- Provide technical assistance in the integration of the nutrition programme with other sectors and programmes and in mainstreaming food system interventions with a focus on community engagement and mobilisation
- Contribute to establishing partnerships to promote innovative approaches to address immediate and underlying determinants of maternal, newborn and child health and nutrition.
- Work closely and collaboratively with colleagues and partners to include gender and nutrition transformative strategies and methodologies and to determine national priorities/ competencies to ensure the achievement of concrete and sustainable results for improving diets and practices

- Support the improvement of programme delivery, with an emphasis on the sustainability of interventions, community participation, and the Human Rights Based Approach to Programming.

2. Technical support and coordination for the efficient and effective implementation of nutrition programmes and results.

- Assist in the development of evidence-based nutrition work plans and provide technical support for the implementation and monitoring of planned activities.
- Monitor programme implementation to ensure objectives and targets are met and achieved in a timely manner through effective coordination and collaboration with the government and other partners.
- Ensure the efficient and effective use of UNICEF resources---funds, supplies, and other assistance.
- Assists in the implementation of emergency preparedness plans and programmes relating to nutrition in line with the Core Commitments for Children (CCCs) in humanitarian action.

3. Nutrition programme management, monitoring and quality assurance

- Conducts accurate, timely monitoring of system-strengthening programmes and interventions.
- Support the field offices in implementation, monitoring of results and reporting.
- Coordinate with Operations and Supply colleagues on the timely procurement, management and distribution of nutrition supplies.
- Ensure the timely and efficient use of grants within established plans and in line with nutrition programme priorities.

4. Effective partnership and networking, advocacy and information sharing for resource mobilization and implementation of nutrition programmes

- Exchange nutrition information and knowledge with other programmes and partners to contribute to achieving the overall country programme objectives.
- Contribute to the development of communication materials and strategies to support nutrition advocacy and community participation.
- Establish and maintain partnerships with all nutrition stakeholders, and the private sector to mobilize resources and accelerate the achievement of nutrition outcomes.
- Assist in identifying capacity development needs and facilitate the learning/development activities for government and implementing partners, for effective programme delivery.

5. Innovation, knowledge management and capacity building

- Introduce innovation and best practices to ensure the nutrition programme's efficiency and effectiveness.
- Keep abreast of and share new evidence on best practices in nutrition programming, especially on systems strengthening.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Education

A university degree (Bachelor) in one of the following fields is required: food science and technology, nutrition, food system, public health, nutritional epidemiology, global/ international health and nutrition, health/nutrition research, policy and/or management, health sciences, nutritional epidemiology, or another relevant technical field. An advanced university degree in any of the above programmes is an asset.

Experience

- A minimum of two years of relevant professional work experience in health and nutrition programmes
- Experience in implementing nutrition or food systems strengthening programmes
- Experience of working in agri-food or livestock sector will be an asset.
- Working experience for the UN or other international development organization would be an asset.

Competency

The competencies required for this post are:

- 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)

Language

- Fluency in English is required. Knowledge of a local language is an asset.