



Pan American
Health
Organization



World Health
Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE
Americas

**World Health Organization/Organización Mundial de la Salud
Pan American Sanitary Bureau/Oficina Sanitaria Panamericana**

POST DESCRIPTION

**Job Identification: CCOG 1.1.03.n
Job Profile: J1791**

**Duration of Post: ☒ Limited
☐ Indefinite**

<i>Title</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Position Number</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Duty Station</i>
Technical Officer, Malnutrition and Food Systems	PRFN	P19249	P.3	Washington, D.C.

OBJECTIVE OF THE OFFICE/DEPARTMENT

The Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health (NMH) Department promotes, coordinates, and implements technical cooperation activities, directed at the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and related risk factors, mental, neurological and substance use disorders and disabilities, promotion of healthy diet and optimal nutrition, physical activity, healthy food environments and road safety, and violence prevention, that are evidence-based and appropriate for the political and sociocultural context in which they are implemented. It raises political and public awareness and understanding of the burden of the most common NCDs and mental disorders, related risk factors and conditions and leads multi-sector and multi-stakeholder strategic and collaborative efforts aimed at strengthening Member States' capacity to promote and protect health through public policies, programs, initiatives and services. This will reduce risks and disease burden and contribute to improving the physical, mental, and social well-being of the population.

ORGANIZATIONAL CONTEXT

The Technical Officer, Malnutrition and Food Systems will be a member of a multidisciplinary team operating within the framework of the approved Biennial Work Plan (BWP) and guided by regional health priorities. The incumbent will contribute to the development and implementation of technical cooperation within the Department of Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health (NMH), with a particular focus on nutrition, healthy diets, physical activity, and the prevention and control of malnutrition and related noncommunicable diseases. In this capacity, the incumbent will support the development and implementation of technical cooperation aligned with the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health; the Comprehensive Implementation Plan on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition; the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and related WHO resolutions; the Framework for Action of the Second International Conference on Nutrition; the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025), extended to 2030; the nutrition-related recommendations of the Global and Regional Action Plans for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases; the Regional Action Plan for the Prevention of Obesity in Children and Adolescents; the Global Action Plan on Child Wasting; the Regional Plan of Action for the Elimination of Industrially Produced Trans-Fatty Acids 2020–2025; the WHO Acceleration Plan to Stop Obesity; and other relevant global and regional mandates. The incumbent will develop and propose evidence-informed interventions that contribute to the elimination of all forms of malnutrition in the Region, with particular attention to priority countries. The incumbent will exercise independent judgment, provide technical recommendations, demonstrate initiative, and work collaboratively with colleagues and partners both within and outside the Organization. Externally, the incumbent will establish and maintain strategic partnerships with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), WHO Collaborating Centers (CCs), universities, faith-based organizations, United Nations and Inter-American System agencies, and other development partners. These partnerships will support the coordination of technical activities, mobilization and alignment of resources, knowledge exchange, and the effective implementation of regional nutrition and health priorities.

SUMMARY OF RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the general supervision of the Director, Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health (NMH), and the direct supervision of the Unit Chief, Risk Factors and Nutrition (NMH/RF), the incumbent is responsible for, but not necessarily limited to, the following assigned duties:

- a) Provide technical support to the Risk Factors and Nutrition Unit in the implementation of the technical cooperation program of work for the prevention and control of all forms of malnutrition; support Member States in strengthening capacity to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate national intersectoral and inter-programmatic policies, plans and programs, including the promotion of optimal nutrition throughout the life-course as part of a comprehensive food systems approach;
- b) Provide technical and programmatic advice to Member States for the prevention, elimination and control of all forms of malnutrition, in accordance with global and regional strategies, standards and mandates;
- c) Provide technical cooperation and implementation support to Member States for the application and monitoring of relevant global and regional nutrition mandates, including: the Comprehensive Implementation Plan on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition (2012–2030, as extended by resolution WHA78.24) and associated World Health Assembly resolutions; the Framework for Action of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2); the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2030, as extended by UN General Assembly resolution); the nutrition-related recommendations of the Global and Regional Action Plans for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases; the Global Action Plan on Child Wasting (2021–2030); the WHO Acceleration Plan to Stop Obesity and its regional implementation through the STOP Obesity Acceleration Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean; and other related global and/or regional mandates as applicable;
- d) Provide technical guidance and capacity-building support to Member States for the effective implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of comprehensive school-based policies and initiatives that promote healthy eating and physical activity, with an emphasis on equity, sustainability, and intersectoral collaboration;
- e) Provide support to Member States for the development of policies, programs and interventions on overweight/obesity, as well as the promotion of optimal nutrition throughout the life-course through implementation of essential nutrition actions;
- f) Provide technical cooperation to strengthen country capacity to conduct surveillance, as well as monitoring and evaluation of community- and population-based interventions and programs to assess the nutritional status of populations and groups at high risk of malnutrition;
- g) Promote and provide guidance on the assessment of diet and nutritional status in populations throughout the life-course, as relevant to national needs;
- h) Support the development of country capacity to assess, design, implement, enforce and monitor nutritional programs, regulations and guidelines to respond to all forms of malnutrition;
- i) Contribute to the development and strengthening of partnerships, alliances and networks among technical entities, United Nations agencies, NGOs and other internal/external partners;
- j) Collaborate and coordinate with UN Nutrition and the Regional Nutrition Cluster interagency initiatives to address malnutrition in emergencies and development contexts; collaborate with the UN Interagency Task Force on Food Systems Transformation;
- k) Contribute to the development and implementation of external roadmaps for addressing malnutrition in all its forms through a food systems approach, in coordination with relevant technical units and partners;
- l) Provide technical input for the development of the Regional Overview of Food and Nutrition Security (FAO, FIDA, PAHO, UNICEF, WFP)
- m) Support the establishment and functioning of a Regional Food Systems and Nutrition and Development Advisory Group for strategic and planning support to the Regional Nutrition Cluster;
- n) Contribute to resource mobilization efforts by providing technical inputs to concept notes, proposals, funding requests and related documentation for national and regional programs addressing malnutrition, in collaboration with relevant units and partners;
- o) Represent the Organization, when delegated, at national and regional technical meetings and in inter-agency consultations on areas of responsibility;
- p) Provide technical support to prevent and manage conflicts of interest in public policies and programs related to nutrition and counteract undue interference from industries with vested interests in nutrition;
- q) Provide technical cooperation to build countries' capacity to enact, implement, monitor and enforce policies to eliminate industrially produced trans fatty acids;

- r) Contribute to the implementation of social marketing initiatives for NCD prevention and public health, including course management in the Virtual Campus, the collaboration with the WHO-CC (University of South Florida), and partnerships and agreements with the American Heart Association.
- s) Perform other related duties, as assigned.

KEY BEHAVIORAL COMPETENCIES

Overall attitude at work: Maintains integrity and takes a clear ethical approach and stance; demonstrates commitment to the Organization's mandate and promotes the values of the Organization in daily work and behavior; is accountable for work carried out in line with own role and responsibilities; is respectful towards, and trusted by, colleagues and counterparts.

Teamwork: Collaborate and cooperate with others/Deal effectively with conflict - Creates team spirit; promotes collaboration and open communication in the team; proactively supports others; welcomes team responsibilities and drives team results; promotes knowledge sharing in the team. Proactively identifies conflicts and facilitates their resolution in a respectful manner; tactfully resolves conflicts between or with others and takes action to reduce any possible tension; effectively builds a rapport with individuals and teams, establishing good personal and professional relationships, as well as minimizing risk of potential conflict.

Respecting and valuing individual differences: - Treats everyone with dignity and respect, fostering positive relationships with everyone. Reflects on personal behavior to avoid stereotypes and considers situations from the perspective of others.

Communication: Express oneself clearly when speaking/Listen/Write effectively/Share knowledge - Foresees communication needs of audience and targets message accordingly. Facilitates open communication; encourages others to share their views openly and takes time to understand and consider their views. Writes down ideas in a clear, structured, logical and credible way; drafts and supports the development of guidelines, policies and procedures. Shares relevant information openly and ensures that the shared information is understood; considers knowledge sharing as a constructive working method and demonstrates awareness of the Organization.

Producing Results: Work efficiently and independently/Deliver quality results/Take responsibility - Prioritizes work, monitors own progress against objectives and adapts plans as required; communicates adjustments as necessary. Acts proactively and stimulates action as needed; handles problems effectively and constructively. Produces high-quality results and workable solutions that meet clients' needs. Works independently to produce new results and sets own timelines effectively and efficiently. Shows awareness of own role and clarifies roles of team members in relation to project's expected results. Make proposals for improving processes as required and take responsibility for own work and/or actions, as necessary. Demonstrates positive attitude in working on new projects and initiatives. Demonstrates accountability for own success, as well as for errors; learns from experience.

Moving forward in a changing environment: Propose change/Adapt to change - Actively supports Organizational change initiatives and demonstrates personal commitment to them, including when faced with new demands; proposes workable solutions to challenging situations. Engages in positive responses to a changing environment and promotes workable solutions to achieve own and team's results. Welcomes, and actively seeks to apply new ideas, approaches and working methods and technologies to improve own and/or team's work processes and results; demonstrates commitment to Organizational change initiatives.

TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

- Technical expertise in the areas of nutrition with an emphasis on nutrition and public health, including food and nutrition policies to address all forms of malnutrition with a focus on the social determinants of health and sustainable food systems.
- Technical expertise in the design, implementation and monitoring of policies, and the ability to negotiate and coordinate with all relevant sectors of government, international agencies, civil society, and organized community groups.
- Technical expertise in formulating and developing tools for planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of nutrition policies.
- Managerial skills for the development, implementation and analysis of technical cooperation programs and activities, including budget programming and control.
- Mature judgment, strong technical, analytical, conceptual, interpersonal and communication skills; demonstrated ability to identify, assess, analyze, synthesize and provide recommendations on key political and technical issues.

- Strong professional oral and writing skills, including the development of reports, oral presentations, and technical/persuasive documents for consideration at the highest levels of the Organization.
- Excellent organizational and analytic skills combined with strong professional oral and writing skills including the development of reports, oral presentations, and technical/persuasive documents for consideration at the highest levels of the Organization.

EDUCATION

Essential: A bachelor's degree in nutrition or other health science related to the functions of the post from a recognized university.

Desirable: A master's degree in nutrition, public health, a social science or related field from a recognized university would be an asset

EXPERIENCE

Essential: Seven years of combined national and international experience in the fields of nutrition, public health, public policy or social determinants of health and sustainable food systems.

Desirable: Practical experience working in public health projects at the international level in Latin America and the Caribbean.

LANGUAGES

Fluency in English or Spanish with working knowledge of the other language. Knowledge of French and/or Portuguese would be an asset.

IT SKILLS

Demonstrated ability to effectively use current technology and software, spreadsheets and presentations, as well as Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and management information systems. Other IT skills and knowledge of software programs such as Microsoft Excel, Outlook, OneDrive, PowerPoint, Teams, SharePoint, and Word are considered essential.