

Advertisement

Junior Professional Officer

Nutrition Programme Officer



Organisation:

Closing date:

World Food Programme 25 May 2014

I General information

Title:	Nutrition Programme Officer
Sector of Assignment:	Nutrition
Country:	Sierra Leone
Location (City):	Freetown
Agency:	United Nations World Food Programme
Duration of Assignment:	Initially one year with the possibility to extend up to 3 years
Grade:	P1 step 1 or P2 step 1 in the first year, depending on the level of education and relevant working experience

Note: This post is opened in the context of the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) scheme sponsored by the Government of the Netherlands and is addressed exclusively to **candidates from developing countries**. For criteria see the website of Nedworc Foundation:

<http://www.nedworcfoundation.nl/Index.htm?hoofdpath=/NL/JPO/General%20Information.htm&hofdhash>

For eligible nationalities see:

<http://www.nedworcfoundation.nl/pdf/List%20of%20eligible%20countries.pdf>

II Duties, responsibilities and Output Expectations

General

WFP is committed to ensuring children, women and other vulnerable groups have access to appropriate nutrition. WFP seeks to improve the health and nutritional status of women and children through Mother-and-Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) programmes. MCHN programmes aim to provide a range of basic health services to mothers and children. WFP provides nutritious food, while the government, supported by other partners, provide health and nutrition services such as vaccinations, growth monitoring, pre- and post-natal care, vitamin A and iron supplements and deworming. To prevent children from becoming malnourished and to give them the opportunity to reach their full developmental potential, health and nutrition support needs to start during pregnancy and continue during the first years of life. MCHN programmes aim to do this.

The Nutrition Programme Officer will report to the Deputy Country Director/Head of Programme and be responsible for the following key duties:

- Assist the effective implementation of planned nutrition activities (including Supplementary Feeding and Mother & Child Health and Nutrition);
- Advise the Country Office management on implementation of the application of the strategic results framework and associated monitoring and evaluation requirements as relates to nutrition activities;
- Design and maintain databases of indicators relating to nutrition;
- Assist Country Office in project implementation for scaling up evidence-based nutrition

activities to address the needs of the most vulnerable groups; this could include pilots of scaling up nutrition (SUN) innovative approaches in close consultation with government and relevant partners such as UNFPA;

- Liaise with UNFPA, UNICEF, FAO, WHO and other key nutrition stakeholders to ensure a multi-sectorial response to undernutrition is implemented;
- Ensure programmes are compliant with WFP policies, criteria and procedures with respect to food and nutrition;
- Assist Country Office in its coordination with government, UN agencies and other actors for elaboration of national policies and programmes for malnutrition through a multi-sectorial approach;
- Advocate for nutrition interventions to donors, governments and other actors;
- Support strengthening nutrition capacity among staff of WFP and its partners, including governments;
- Prepare periodic reports on the operational project and impact of nutrition activities.

III Training component: Learning elements and expectations

Upon completion of the assignment the JPO:

- Will have full insights in the operational planning and day-to-day management of food assistance programmes;
- Will be able to identify and address technical programme weaknesses, develop and implement programme improvement activities, organize and coordinate programme consultations and technical support activities and prepare basic programme reports;
- Will have developed consultation and networking skills involving technical health sector counterparts in government, other UN agencies and NGOs;
- Will have acquired skills and experiences in the development of funding proposals, preparation and roll out of advanced programme technical guidance materials and field tools;
- Will also increase her/his involvement in national level programme and strategy development and development of associated funding strategies;
- Will be able to build various personal skills associated with living and working in a foreign environment as well as close association with government, UN and NGO counterparts from Sierra Leona and other parts of the world.

The JPO training programme includes the following learning elements:

- JPO Induction briefing (2 days) at WFP Headquarters in Rome, Italy (WFP, the JPO Unit, HR/Contract and entitlements, induction to the specific functional area)
- JPO Seminar (one week) at WFP Headquarters in Rome, Italy (Increase knowledge of WFP and its main programme and activities, new initiatives)
- JPO Training Budget to improve specific skills/competencies identified

IV Supervision

Title of supervisor: Head of Programme Unit

Content and methodology of supervision

The supervisor will guide the development of a work plan by the JPO, identifying unit priorities as well as JPO learning opportunities. The JPO will on a daily basis report to the supervisor on ongoing activities, challenges and new emerging opportunities. The Supervisor will provide performance feedback in line with WFP's corporate performance appraisal system.

V Required Qualifications and Experience

Education

Master degree or equivalent in the field of nutrition, public health, food sciences or related discipline.

A first-level university degree (Bachelor's degree or equivalent) in combination with qualifying experience (at least 3 years of relevant working experience) may be accepted in lieu of an advanced university degree

Working experience

- Preferably 2 to **maximal** 4 years of relevant professional working experience in nutrition, public health management, development projects. Emergency assistance and/or operational aspects of national, bilateral or multilateral food assistance, with a strong preference for working in humanitarian and development nutrition programmes;
- Experience in planning and/or managing nutrition programmes including treatment as well as prevention and micronutrient programmes;
- Experience with nutrition survey methodologies, nutrition assessment and relevant data analysis;
- Experience in food fortification is an added value.

Languages

Excellent written and oral skills in English is required. Intermediate knowledge of another UN official language (Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish) or Portuguese (one of WFP's working languages) would be an asset.

Key competencies and technical skills

- Knowledge of nutrition and recent developments in the field;
- Knowledge of research methods and monitoring and evaluation standards is desirable;
- General knowledge of SUN, UN system policies, rules, regulations and procedures governing administration is desirable;
- Familiarity with quantitative and qualitative health/nutrition survey techniques is an added value;
- Ability to communicate clearly orally and in writing;
- Good interpersonal skills ability to work in a team in a multi-cultural context;
- Proficiency in MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Outlook).

VI Background information on WFP in Sierra Leone

The World Food Programme (www.wfp.org) is the world's largest humanitarian agency, fighting hunger worldwide. WFP has been present in Sierra Leone since 1968. In collaboration with the Government and other partners, WFP pursues the goal of feeding the hungry poor by supporting reconstruction and rehabilitation following the devastating civil war in the 1990s. WFP assistance in Sierra Leone focuses on food insecure and vulnerable households in rural, and supports the government in accelerating the transition from recovery to long-term development. WFP targets development goals across three interlinked areas: education, health/nutrition, and livelihoods. WFP supports basic primary education through the provision of daily school meals with a view to increase school enrolment, particularly for vulnerable children. WFP seeks to improve the health and nutritional status of women and children through Mother-and-Child Health and Nutrition programmes. It also provides food assistance for people living with HIV and tuberculosis. WFP also provides livelihood support to the poorest segments of the population, with a particular focus on women and youth, through food for work and cash for work programmes as well as providing food through selected training institutions. Sierra Leone is one of 21 countries where Purchase for Progress (P4P) has been piloted for five years, connecting small-holder farmers to the markets.

VII Information on the living conditions in Freetown, Sierra Leone

Freetown, Sierra Leone is a family duty station (UN Security Level 2). Sierra Leone is a country with four political regions or provinces that include the Western Region (Freetown and environs), the Northern Region with Makeni as the provincial capital, the Southern Region with Bo as the capital and the Eastern Region with Kenema as the capital. It is bordered to the north and north east by

Guinea and the south and south east by Liberia and to the west by the Atlantic Ocean. The population is approximately 6 million. Sierra Leone has about 18 ethnic groups, but the main groups are: Temene (North), Mende (South). The Krios who were descendants from freed slaves, settled at the Western/Rural urban district. The main official language is English Language and the most common ethnic languages are Krio, Mende and Temene. It is Christian state, but is dominated by Muslims who are about 70%, while the Christian is about 30%. There are strong religious ties between the two religions. The capital city (Freetown) has been overcrowded with displaced provincials due to the 1991 civil war as most of them refused to go back to their districts of origin and that has led to increased crime rate in the city. In spite of all the minerals such as diamonds, bauxite, iron ore, gold in the country, the cost of living is very high and also has high rate of unemployment.

Learn more about the city of Freetown, Sierra Leone: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freetown>

VIII How to apply

Go to: <http://i-recruitment.wfp.org/vacancies/14-0015091>

Step 1: Create your online CV.

Step 2: Click on "Description" to read the requirements and "Apply" to submit your application.

Closing date: **25 May 2014**

Applicants will receive acknowledgement of receipt of their submission

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.