

Advertisement

Junior Professional Officer

Technical Officer
(Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal,
Newborn Health)



World Health
Organization

World Health Organization

Closing date

5 May 2026

I General information

Title:	Technical Officer (Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn Health)
Sector of Assignment:	Division of Health Systems (DHS)
Country:	Denmark
Location (City):	Copenhagen
Agency:	World Health Organization
Duration of Assignment:	Initially one year with the possibility to extend up to a maximum of 3 years
Grade:	P2 step 1 in the first year.

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 **PEOPLE WITH THE NATIONALITY OF ONE OF THE FOLLOWING ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES.**

[eligible-countries-DC-JPOs.pdf](#)

For the minimum qualification requirements see the website of Nedworc Foundation:
[Junior Professional Officer Programme - Nedworc Foundation](#)

Maximal age limit is 32 years as of 31 December of the year of application.

Please read the selection criteria and FAQ section carefully before considering applying

II Duties and Responsibilities

Under the overall and direct supervision of the Director of the Division of Health Systems, the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) will contribute to WHO's work in the area of Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal Newborn, Child, Adolescent and Youth Health (SRMNCAH), notably on advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) across the life course in the WHO European Region. This will include a particular focus on adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Specifically, the JPO will:

- Support the assessment of the current SRMNCAH situation in countries of the WHO European Region, including the status of policies, services and access related to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, including adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights;
- Review the implementation status of key maternal and newborn health interventions and assess the quality of care provided to women and newborns, within the broader context of sexual and reproductive health services, rights-based approaches and gender-responsive care;
- Support Member States in adopting and adapting evidence-based interventions aimed at improving maternal and newborn health outcomes, while strengthening comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, including those addressing the needs and rights of adolescents and young people, and in line with Second European Programme of Work and the child and adolescent health strategy adopted at the 75th session of the Regional Committee for Europe.

Responsibilities (summary of duties/tasks)

Under the overall and direct supervision of the Director of the Division of Health Systems, the JPO will:

- Contribute to the development of standards, implementation interventions and indicators to improve the quality of reproductive, maternal and newborn care, while ensuring alignment with international standards and WHO guidance on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), including adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights;
- Monitor and track progress related to sexual and reproductive rights, access to sexual health services, and adolescent sexual and reproductive health outcomes;
- Analyze information from Member States and implementing partners with particular attention to indicators related to sexual and reproductive health and rights, reproductive autonomy, and adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights;
- Prepare case studies of good practices and support the organization of subregional and regional SRMNH meetings to facilitate knowledge exchange, sharing of achievements and lessons learned, including innovations and effective approaches that strengthen Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) including adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights;
- Facilitate regular reporting on progress and challenges through online surveys and ongoing communication with national SRH focal points, including engagement with stakeholders working on reproductive rights, health promotion, and adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights.

III Training component: Learning elements and expectations

Upon completion of the assignment the JPO will have/ will be able to:

- A good understanding of the situation with Maternal and Newborn Health in the European Region, and how it links to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
- Map the implementation of key interventions, particularly in countries with high maternal and newborn mortality, as well as in other target countries.
- Work with the WHO team and partner agencies (UNFPA, UNICEF, World Bank, USAID, UNAIDS, UN Women), to advance the maternal and newborn components of the issues-based coalition

work plan while promoting a comprehensive approach to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

- Assist in the improvement of quality of care for women and newborns in first level health facilities, advanced maternal and newborn care, and in the development of referral pathways, ensuring integration with broader sexual and reproductive health services and rights-based care models.
- Assist in implementing Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR), supportive supervision and facilitate corrective action, while strengthening linkages with sexual and reproductive health services and rights-based accountability frameworks.
- Advocate for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Sexual Health and Rights, and Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in line with WHO's norms and standards

The JPO training programme includes the following learning elements:

- Familiarize with the functioning of WHO/EURO and CPS/PGH
- Acquire knowledge about sexual, reproductive, maternal and newborn health in EURO and countries, and how SRMNH fits into the context of UHC
- Understand the mandate, functioning and scope of WHO at HQ, Regional and Country Level
- Contribute to the SRH technical work on developing and applying methods and tools to improve the care of mothers and neonates
- Assist in the provision of technical support to countries in conducting surveys, collecting data and analysing results.
- Develop leadership and management skills

The JPO position includes a Duty travel and training allowance (DTTA) of \$ 4.000 per year which may be used for learning activities related to the assignment and career development.

IV Supervision

Title of supervisor: Director, Health Systems

Content and methodology of supervision

The work objectives and the expected outcome are discussed and agreed upon by the JPO and supervisor within the first four weeks of assignment. They are evaluated every six months by the supervisor against WHO's Performance Management and Development System (ePMDS+). There will be regular meetings with the supervisor throughout the assignment. In the regular meetings progress is evaluated, challenges are discussed, and plans are finalized together. Learning activities and developmental opportunities form part of the ePMDS+.

V Required Qualifications and Experience

Age: Maximal age limit is 32 years as of 31 December of the year of application.

Education:

Doctor of Medicine or advanced university degree in public health or related subject.

Desirable: Postgraduate training in obstetrics/gynaecology or neonatology.

In exceptional cases candidates with a Bachelor's degree plus a minimum of 4 years relevant working experience can be considered.

Substantive parts of the candidates' academic training (Bachelor and/or Master) must have taken place in a developing country that appears on the list of eligible countries.

[eligible-countries-DC-JPOs.pdf](#)

Working experience:

Minimum of 2 years relevant working experience after obtaining first university degree in the area of Maternal and Newborn Health and experience in the field of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.

Minimum of 4 years relevant working experience for candidates with a Bachelor's degree.

Desirable: International work experience, in particular in low- and middle-income countries.

Work experience within the UN system should not exceed 1 year, including UNV, (paid) UN internship and UN consultancy.

All paid work experience since obtaining Bachelor's degree will/can be considered.

Languages:

Excellent knowledge of English (spoken and written).

Proficiency in another WHO official language (especially Russian) is an asset.

Key competencies:

1. Teamwork
2. Communication
3. Respecting and promoting individual and cultural differences
4. Producing results

Skills:

Solid skills in communications, advocacy and networking.

Good computer skills (word, excel, PPT)

Good knowledge of international public health/health systems policy and/or research in sexual, reproductive, maternal and newborn and adolescent health area.

Desirable: Knowledge of project management, good writing skills.

VI Background information on Agency/Department/Section

The Division of Health Systems (DHS) supports countries in developing resilient, people-centred health systems that ensure people can access the right care in the right place and at the right time without financial hardship, across all life stages. It provides policy guidance and technical support on health financing, workforce, mental health, data, artificial intelligence (AI) and digital health, and access to medicines. The Division supports countries to develop and implement sound, evidence-informed health policies across all stages of life including the promotion and protection of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR).

DHS further strengthens engagement across sectors and partners to support implementation across the life course and provides strategic and technical leadership throughout the public health policy cycle - from development to implementation - linking health promotion and prevention with service delivery, particularly through Primary Health Care. It advances equity, gender equality and human rights and supports countries in developing policies and practices that are evidence-based, people-centred and responsive to social determinants of health.

VII Information on living conditions at Duty Station

Copenhagen is a Headquarters duty station with all the facilities and amenities one would expect from a European capital city. There are widespread public transportation facilities and a bike friendly infrastructure. The price levels for accommodation, food, transport and entertainment are all relatively high compared with many other countries.

VIII How to apply

Applicants can apply through this link <https://www.undp.org/jpsc/current-vacancies>
Before 5 May 2026.

Applicants will receive acknowledgement of receipt of their submission
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.