

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Associate Professional Officer Assignment and Candidate Profile

Assignment: Junior Professional Officers, JPO. Maternal and Newborn Health.

Post No:

Regional Programme: AMRO

Duty Station: Bolivia. OPS/OMS

Cluster/Department:

Family and Community Health/Making Pregnancy Safer.

Objective of the WHO Programme

Technical support to reduce maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality and improve maternal and newborn health. To promote and support safe pregnancy and childbirth through the availability, access and use of skilled care for all women and their newborns. As a priority, skilled care should be ensured at every birth.

Assignment Summary

Maternal and perinatal mortality and morbidity remains a major public health concern in many developing countries who account for 99% of all maternal deaths and for 98% of all perinatal deaths. After decades of deficient progress, a number of global initiatives are now acknowledging the scale of this on-going tragedy. The Millennium Development Goals (MDG) has set internationally agreed development targets aiming at alleviating some of the most serious poverty related problems globally. Two of the Millennium Development Goals, (4 & 5) are directly addressing maternal and newborn health, thus giving WHO and other stakeholders an unprecedented platform to act with all the determination and commitment needed to change the situation. WHO is giving high priority to this area and is enhancing direct support to country efforts.

WHO Making Pregnancy Safer Department, is seeking to boost the capacity at country level by providing technical support to assist countries in combating maternal and newborn ill-health and death. Today, it is widely recognized that *ensuring skilled care*¹ throughout pregnancy and childbirth, supported by access to drugs, supplies and relevant emergency services, is key to the success of any interventions aiming at reducing maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality. To this end, MPS is seeking to strengthen the *midwifery* component in Maternal and Newborn Health Programmes, by making available a JPO Midwife at country or regional offices to work as a partner to the WHO/MPS co-ordinator or focal point.

¹ " an accredited health professional, such as a midwife, or those doctors or nurses who has been educated and trained to proficiency in the skills needed to manage normal (uncomplicated) pregnancies, childbirth and the immediate postnatal period, and in the identification and management and referral of complications in women and newborns"

Key Deliverables and outcomes

Under the supervision of the WHO representative, and in close collaboration with, the WHO coordinator/focal point and with the Ministry of Health and other relevant development partners, the JPO is expected to;

1. Provide technical assistance to the development of human resources for maternal health (midwives), with Ministries, Universities and the Bolivian Nurse Association.
2. Support national projects with objective to reduce Maternal Mortality, especially in areas prioritized by the National Development Plan
3. Provide technical assistance to MoH and Prefectures in Safe Motherhood and Midwifery
4. Provide technical support to the creation of National Midwives Association in terms of legislative and policy regulations, standards and quality of care, supportive supervision, defence of living and working conditions, retention and migration, etc.
5. Liaise with other professional bodies and associations (Obstetricians/Gynaecologists, Nurses, Paediatricians) and ensure linkages between Midwifery and other relevant areas such as newborn health, sexual and reproductive health, prevention of the transmission of HIV and STIs, and prevention and care of unsafe abortion
6. Ensure linkage with the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) at global and regional levels
7. Organise (or contribute to) national and/or regional workshops of Midwives to assess resources and needs for scaling up the midwifery workforce
8. Organise (or contribute to) advocacy events to promote the profession of Midwife and improve its conditions of life and work (e.g. International Day of Midwife, Safe Motherhood campaigns), working with the civil society and media.

The JPO will also coordinate and receive support from CLAP/SMR, which is the PAHO Regional Unit in charge of the technical cooperation in the field of Maternal and Neonatal Care. CLAP/SMR is located in Montevideo (Uruguay).

Minimum Academic Qualifications and Experience

1. A solid academic background with a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Midwifery or a Medical degree or a Masters in Public Health
2. At least 2 years of working experience in provision of obstetric care. Experience in midwifery education is a merit
3. Working experience from developing countries is highly desirable and/or a documented interest, and experience from work in an International Agency/Environment.
4. Good collaboration skills with ability to work harmoniously with colleagues of different nationalities and cultural background.
5. Good communication skills and proficiency in oral and written English. Good computer skills. In addition, Spanish is required for applicants.

WHO Competencies desired

1. Post graduate Diploma or Master's degree in Midwifery
2. Working experience of Programme Management
3. Development studies or studies in International Health
4. Midwifery education and/or experience of curriculum development

Additional desirable qualifications and experience

Desirable qualifications

Desirable skills

Achieving the learning objectives Professional in charge FCH Unit

Objective	Activity	Responsibility	Timing
<p>1. Provide technical assistance to the development of human resources for maternal health (midwives), with Ministries, Universities and the Bolivian Nurse Association.</p>	<p>Meetings and technical visits to the universities with midwifery programmes. Coordination meetings with Bolivian Nurses Association Coordination with Human Resources Unit of the Ministry of Health</p>	<p>JPO Professional in charge of HRRR/PAHO and FCH Unit/PAHO</p>	<p>2008-2010</p>
<p>2. Support national projects with objective to reduce Maternal Mortality, especially in areas prioritized by the National Development Plan</p>	<p>Coordination meetings and active participation in Safe Motherhood and Mother Neonatal Health: Interagency Committee, coordinated by Ministry of Health. Technical support in decentralized PAHO offices: departmental plan to improve maternal and neonatal health. Follow-up of the PAHO Project on Maternal and Neonatal Care in Tarija, in coordination with CLAP/SMR.</p>	<p>JPO Professional in charge FCH Unit/PAHO CLAP/SMR (PAHO Regional Unit – Montevideo)</p>	<p>2008-2010</p>
<p>3. Provide technical assistance to MoH and Prefectures in Safe Motherhood and Midwifery</p>	<p>Technical visit to give assistance and support monitoring and evaluation, in local MNH programmes</p>	<p>JPO Professional in charge FCH Unit/PAHO</p>	<p>2008-2010</p>
<p>4. Provide technical support to the creation of National Midwives Association in terms of legislative and policy regulations, standards and quality of care, supportive supervision, defence of living and working conditions, retention and migration, etc.</p>	<p>Organize workshops and meetings to review policy regulations, legal frame, and technical actualization and care management in nurse-midwifery model.</p>	<p>JPO Professional in charge FCH Unit/PAHO</p>	<p>2008-2010</p>

5.	Liaise with other professional bodies and associations (Obstetricians/Gynaecologists, Nurses, Paediatricians) and ensure linkages between Midwifery and other relevant areas such as newborn health, sexual and reproductive health, prevention of the transmission of HIV and STIs, and prevention and care of unsafe abortion	To keep actual coordination with Sociedad Boliviana de Ginecología y Obstetricia and Colegio de Enfermeras de Bolivia, to work together in sexual and Reproductive Health issues.	JPO Professional in charge FCH Unit/PAHO 2008-2010
6.	Ensure linkage with the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) at global and regional levels	To keep communication with ICM, global alliance nurse-midwifery and regional associations of midwives, in coordination with CLAP/SMR.	JPO PWR-PAHO/WHO CLAP/SMR 2008-2010
7.	Organise (or contribute to) national and/or regional workshops of Midwives to assess resources and needs for scaling up the midwifery workforce	Participation and support organization of midwifery taskforce in LAC countries, in coordination with CLAP/SMR.	JPO PWR-PAHO/WHO CLAP/SMR 2008-2010
8.	Address the status of Midwives in a gender perspective, as well as in a cultural perspective, particularly in countries with indigenous issues and minority populations	Incorporation of gender and cultural perspective in programmes of midwifery training, in coordination with CLAP/SMR.	JPO PWR-PAHO/WHO CLAP/SMR 2008-2010

The progress towards achieving the objectives will be evaluated annually by the PWR together with the first level supervisors. Achievement will be against an agreed work plan.

Please attach the following documentation:

1. Organizational chart (with names of staff members)
2. Programme profile
3. Living Conditions in the country of assignment