

## **9. A. General Information**

**JPO functional title:** Programme Analyst

**Main sector of assignment:** Reproductive Health, Maternal Health and Family Planning

**Duty Station:** Nouakchott, Mauritania

The UNFPA Junior Professional Officer (JPO) Programme is intended to provide on-the-job training for young professionals who wish to obtain practical experience in development assistance. It gives them an opportunity to acquire professional knowledge in population projects in a developing country.

## **B. Supervision**

**Title/Level of Supervisor:** Maternal Health and Family Planning (MH/FP) Specialist, NOD

## **C. Information for Donor Consideration**

1. How could the work experience in your particular work unit and the proposed ToR benefit the JPO's possible retention and career advancement in the UN System or UNFPA?  
In Mauritania, a Junior Professional Officer (JPO) with UNFPA gains invaluable experience, particularly in reproductive health and addressing gender-based violence and harmful practices. This role significantly enhances their project management and strategic planning capabilities, essential within the UNFPA framework. Engaging with diverse stakeholders, the JPO builds a strong foundation in collaborative work, a key asset for internal opportunities. The multicultural work environment bolsters their adaptability and cross-cultural communication, aligning with UNFPA's global mission. Focused efforts on promoting gender equality and ethical leadership further align the JPO with UNFPA's core values and strategic objectives. Through structured feedback and professional development opportunities, the JPO is well-positioned for retention and advancement within UNFPA, contributing their sharpened skills and insights to the organization's ongoing initiatives.
2. Does the supervisor have experience managing and coaching a young professional, and for how many years?  
Yes, the supervisor has extensive experience in managing and coaching young professionals, including youth UN Volunteers (UNVs), youth consultants, and interns within the UNFPA framework. Given his role as an MH/FP specialist and his track record of supervising various youth-oriented positions, it is obvious that he has accumulated many years of expertise in mentoring and guiding young professionals in their careers, particularly in the context of reproductive health and international development. This background ensures that he is well-equipped to provide structured guidance, knowledge sharing, and performance feedback, essential for the professional growth and development of a JPO in this field.
3. Is the work unit expected to undergo a realignment or currently in the process of realignment?  
No.
4. Subject to satisfactory performance, could the work unit co-fund (50-50) the JPO post in the final year of assignment?  
The possibility of co-funding the JPO post in the final year, split 50-50, hinges on budget availability, UNFPA's strategic priorities, and the JPO's performance. The Country Office is open to this eventuality, reflecting a flexible approach to funding arrangements. However, initiating discussions early is advisable to explore this option and ensure all necessary approvals are in place.
5. How many P-2, P-3, and P-4 posts does the work unit currently have?  
The work unit does not have any P-2, P-3, or P-4 posts at present.

## **D. Duties and Responsibilities**

Under the supervision of RH UNIT manager, the JPO will be responsible for the following tasks:

- Assist in the development, implementation, and monitoring of reproductive health programs and projects in Mauritania.
- Contribute to the design and execution of strategies to improve access to quality reproductive health services.
- Support the coordination of partnerships and collaborations with government agencies, UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders.
- Collect and analyze data related to reproductive health indicators and outcomes in Mauritania.
- Prepare regular reports and presentations on program progress and impact.
- Support capacity-building efforts within the Reproductive Health Unit and relevant government departments.
- Facilitate training and workshops on reproductive health topics.
- Stay updated on the latest developments and best practices in reproductive health.
- Ensure that gender considerations are integrated into all reproductive health programs and activities.
- Promote gender equality and women's empowerment in all aspects of the work.

**E. Qualifications and Experience**

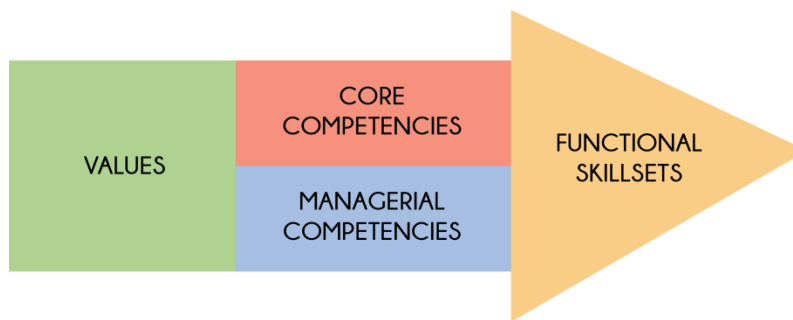
- A master's degree in public health, reproductive health, epidemiology, or a related field is required.
- A minimum of two years of relevant professional experience in the field of reproductive health, program management, or public health is required.
- Experience in working with international organizations, NGOs, or government agencies in a similar capacity is highly desirable.
- Strong knowledge of reproductive health issues, family planning, and gender equality.
- Proficiency in data collection, analysis, and reporting.
- Experience in program development, implementation, and monitoring.
- Knowledge of the latest developments and best practices in reproductive health.
- Ability to facilitate training and workshops on reproductive health topics.
- Prior experience in developing countries is an asset.
- Fluency in French. Knowledge of Arabic and English is an asset
- excellent communication and presentation skills.
- Ability to work effectively in a multicultural and multidisciplinary team.
- Strong networking and partnership-building skills.

**F. Learning Elements**

Upon completion of the assignment, the JPO will be able to:

- Develop and implement effective reproductive health programs and projects tailored to the needs of Mauritania.
- Contribute to the design and execution of strategies for improving access to quality reproductive health services.
- Coordinate partnerships and collaborations with government agencies, UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders.
- Collect and analyze data related to reproductive health indicators and outcomes in Mauritania.
- Prepare regular reports and presentations that effectively communicate program progress and impact.
- Support capacity-building efforts within the Reproductive Health Unit and relevant government departments.
- Facilitate training and workshops on various reproductive health topics.
- Stay updated on the latest developments and best practices in the field of reproductive health.
- Integrate gender considerations into all reproductive health programs and activities, promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

**G. Required Competencies**



**Values:** Exemplifying integrity, Demonstrating commitment to UNFPA and the UN System, Embracing cultural diversity, Embracing change.

**Core Competencies:** Achieving results, being accountable, Developing and applying professional expertise/business acumen, Thinking analytically and strategically, Working in teams/managing ourselves and our relationships, Communicating for impact.

## H. Background Information

### Information on the receiving office:

In 2023, Mauritania's population is estimated at 4.5 million inhabitants, 41 percent of whom live in rural areas, with a size of 1,030,000 km<sup>2</sup>, or a density of 4.5 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>. The population growth rate has declined slightly from 2.9 per cent in 1988 to 2.4 per cent per year in 2021. Mauritania is ranked 157 out of 189 countries (0.556) in the 2021 Human Development Index.

The maternal mortality ratio is high despite a significant decline between 2013 and 2020, when it fell from 582 (2013 census) to 424 per 100,000 live births (DHS 2020). The causes of maternal mortality are mainly: pre- and post-partum hemorrhage (24 per cent), pre- and eclampsia (16 per cent), sepsis (10 per cent), complications due to abortion (9 per cent), embolisms (2 percent) and indirect causes (29 per cent). According to the 2020 EmONC survey, only three health facilities in the country were Basic EmONCs (two in Nouakchott and one in Trarza) and 12 full EmONCs (Nouadhibou two, Nouakchott five and one in each of the localities (guidimagha\_Hodh EIGHARBY\_TAGANT\_TRARZA\_BRAKNA). The availability of BEmoC facilities is crucial to reduce the maternal mortality ratio in the country and BEmoC are the first referral point for those left behind. In 2020, the rate of assisted deliveries is 70 percent, compared to 48.5 per cent in 2000, while home deliveries reached 29.3 per cent. The fertility rate among 15–49 year olds is high, with a significant increase from 4.5 (DHS 2000) to 5.2 children per woman (DHS 2020). It is higher in rural areas (6.4) than in urban areas (4.1). Modern contraceptive prevalence decreased from 15.6 per cent (MICS 2015) to 12.8 per cent (DHS 2020). It is higher (20 percent) in urban areas than in rural areas (7 per cent). The causes of this decline in contraceptive prevalence are not yet known. The difference in the methodology used in the two surveys might be the source. However, a KAP survey will be scheduled in the next programme to try to identify the causes. The survey will also consider social and traditional behaviours of men, boys, community leaders that impact on FP/SRH decision making. Unmet need for family planning is high despite a slight decrease from 33.7 per cent in 2015 to 31.5 per cent (MICS 2020), and 76.1 percent of health facilities offer at least three modern contraceptive methods. According to the 2019-2020 DHS, unmet need for family planning is 30.4 per cent for the age group (15-19 years) versus 23.3 percent for the age group (40-45 years). The specific needs in SRHR of people living with disabilities are not available therefore they will be captured in the KAP survey and then intervention will be designed accordingly.

Living conditions at the Duty Station: Family duty station.