



**UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND  
JPO Request Form**



**Training and Learning Plan**

In addition, the JPO will benefit from the following specific learning opportunities in the receiving office:

- ✓ Participation in a one-week JPO Induction Programme in New York.
- ✓ Participation in regional and country training organized by UNICEF and development partners on public finance for children, social protection, local governance, child poverty; access to UNICEF's learning portal "Agora" and development of a yearly learning plan.
- ✓ Participation in field missions, including technical and high-level meetings with UN agencies and Government organizations.
- ✓ Structured guidance, feedback and mentoring from the supervisor, including development of work plan with precise results.
- ✓ Personal coaching, guidance and advice concerning learning and training opportunities from the supervisor.

Please also mention the following:

- ✓ This post offers excellent opportunities for both professional development and retention. The JPO, under the Social Policy Specialist's supervision (Head of section), will work closely with the technical and high-level staff of the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Ministry of Education and Research, members of Parliament and become an indispensable contributor to the

Public Finance for Children system strengthening, and in identifying innovative financing for social policies. The JPO will be in closely relate to the Moldova's accession to the EU, especially for what concerns the utilization of public finance for children and innovative financing to the EU policy-making.

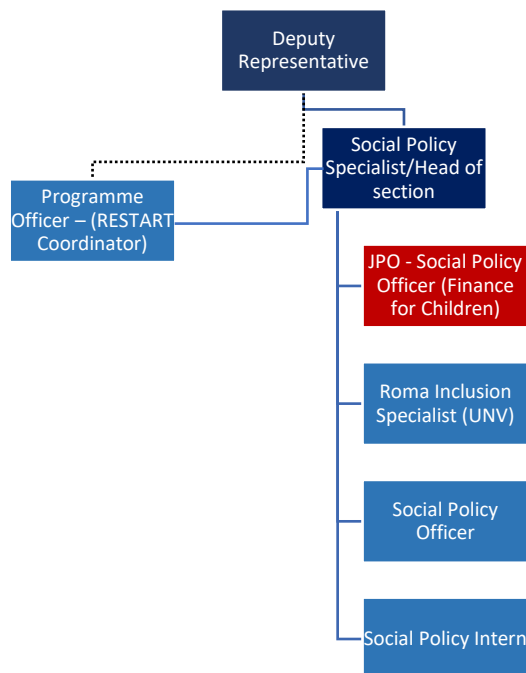
- ✓ The UNICEF Moldova Country office works closely with the line ministries on various national reforms such as social protection and education. UNICEF leads technical assistance to the ministries, which offers dynamic engagement in technical and policy-making work. UNICEF is one of the key donor recipients in social policy sectors, providing a secure and confident environment for professional growth. The UNICEF CO office is currently mobilizing funds to make technical assistance for the government sustainable in the long term, including hiring new technical staff in social policy. This may offer various opportunities for retention of the JPO.
- ✓ Social Policy Specialist/Head of section (the supervisor) has 12 years of international and national experience on social policy, with particular focus on social protection and public finance. He has extensive experience in guiding teams with various backgrounds in legal, economics and social sciences in Europe, Central Asia and Southeast Asia. While being an independent consultant/and Officer, he trained a team of professionals in social protection in various countries and regions (Ukraine, Laos, Cambodia, Viet Nam, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan etc). The supervisor also held a high-level government post (State Secretary) in Moldova and guided a team of both experienced and young professionals. He worked for various UN agencies (ILO, UNDP and UNICEF), which makes him knowledgeable about the machinery and mandate of each of these agencies. He is a certified international coach on maternity protection and gender standards (by the International Training Center in Turin, Italy). The supervisor has conducted capacity-building activities in various regions and continents and taught public lectures at universities. He holds two master's degrees in labour law and international law.

#### Information and living condition of Duty station:

General Information	<p>Chisinau is the largest and capital city of the Republic of Moldova (herein Moldova). It is also its economic center, and accounts for around 60% of the country's total GDP. As a result, Chisinau is the wealthiest city in Moldova, and its GDP (PPP) per capita is 227% that of the national average. Chisinau is home to most of Moldova's main financial institutions, including all its national banks and newspapers, and as a result finance is a major employer. In addition, Chisinau is also the seat of the Moldovan government, and is home to most of the country's ambassadorial buildings, which employ expatriates from countries around the world.</p> <p>The city experienced high levels of migration from other parts of Moldova after the country declared independence in 1991, and today is home to nearly 500,000 people, making it the most populous area in the country. Of its population, the vast majority are native Moldovans, who account for almost 70% of the overall population, but there also large groups of Russians, Romanians, Ukrainians, and Bulgarians living in the city, as well as many expatriates. Although Orthodox Christianity is the primary religion, and is practiced by nearly 90% of the population, Chisinau also has a significant Jewish community. The official language of Moldova is Romanian, as specified in the 1991 declaration of independence. As Chisinau is an international city, you will find that some people also speak English, Russian, and Ukrainian, but learning some Romanian phrases is advised.</p>
Security	<p>The security risk Level in Chisinau is classified as low (Level 2) as per the UN security management system in Moldova. Crime rate is relatively low although usual precautions apply. It is wise for travelers to exercise the same precautions about personal safety and protection of valuables in Chisinau as they would in any other major city.</p>

Housing	<p>Apartments in Chisinau are affordable and easy to find. There are different residential settlements that offer a nice living environment. There are a lot of Real Estate Agencies that offer a variety of properties. The Real Estate Agency charges apply and are negotiable among the landlord, tenant and the Agency representative. The conditions for renting a property are negotiable with the Agency and the owner. Usually, the owner requests one month rent deposit which at the end of your renting term will be returned to you, used as a last month rent or if any damage is made to the property the owner has a right to keep the deposit in full or part of it. Generally, the costs for utilities (electricity, water supply, heating, internet) are not included in the rent and you will need to pay them separately, after you receive the invoice from the providers of those services.</p>
Schools & Childcare	<p>The city is the cultural centre of Moldova, with an academy of sciences and several scientific research establishments. Chisinau is home to 12 universities, most notably Moldova State University. Although Moldova has a free public-school system that expatriates can use without charge, many foreigners living in Chisinau choose to send their children to an international school instead. This is because the language of instruction in Moldovan public schools is Romanian, and the quality of teaching can vary between regions. Moldova only has two international schools, QSI (<a href="https://www.qsi.org/moldova/mdv/">https://www.qsi.org/moldova/mdv/</a>) and Heritage (<a href="http://www.heritage.md">www.heritage.md</a>).</p> <p>Whilst Moldova does have a free, public healthcare system, many expatriates living in Chisinau opt to use the private system, as the standard of care and the quality of the facilities in the public system is not in line with many other European countries. If you do wish to use the private medical system whilst living in Chisinau, you are advised to take out comprehensive medical insurance, and in some cases, be prepared to travel to another country for serious operations. Though the capital city, Chisinau has some of the best pharmacies in Moldova, still it is recommended that you take a supply of any prescription medicine you might need whilst living in Chisinau.</p>
Work for spouses & partners	<p>Work opportunities for spouses/partners are limited. However, if hired by any organization a work permit must be applied for through the same hiring organization.</p>

## Reporting line of the JPO



## UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND SPECIFIC JOB PROFILE

### I. Post Information

Job Title: **Social Policy Officer (PF4C and Innovative Financing)**  
 Supervisor Title/ Level: **Social Policy Specialist (Head of Section), NOC**  
 Organizational Unit: **Programme**  
 Post Location: **Moldova Country Office**

Job Level: **P2**  
 Job Profile No.:  
 CCOG Code: **1L06**  
 Functional Code:  
 Job Classification Level: **Level 2**

### II. Strategic Office Context and purpose for the job

#### Strategic office context:

Moldovan political commitments have deepened the path toward European integration. In 2022, Moldova received candidate status for becoming a member of the European Union. In 2023, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection initiated the social assistance reform "RESTART". However, this and many other social policy reforms have yet to be further advanced and implemented to support accession to the European Union as

substantial changes require higher financial investments in social policies, more effective and efficient allocations of funds, and transparent administration of public finance. Considering that public financial management and fiscal space in Moldova are constrained and limited, for example, in 2023, around 39% of the national budget was allocated to social protection, UNICEF has undertaken a series of technical interventions. UNICEF, jointly with key line ministries, provided technical assistance on improving, increasing, and diversifying financing for social policies by developing social investment plans, carrying out fiscal space analysis, accelerating ODA support, and strengthening public finance management.

In the context of these national priorities and challenges, the Social Policy Section at UNICEF Moldova is seeking donor support for funding a JPO position for 2025-2026. This position will play a crucial role in the accelerated implementation of the EU integration, with a particular focus on public finance management for children and innovative financing for national social policies (e.g. social protection reform RESTART and education reform). The JPO will support the Social Policy Section's ability to ensure the technical excellence and quality of programmatic work on Public Finance for Children and Innovative Financing concerning Moldova's priorities regarding joining the European Union. This includes cash transfers, social services, including linkages between them under the umbrella of social protection, education, healthcare, inclusion of people with disabilities and digitalization. The JPO will also support the knowledge sharing on best practices for innovative financing across Government organizations, particularly local authorities, UNICEF, and inter-agency working groups. The funding of this position will significantly enhance the organization's commitment to increasing the current public finance for children and defining new innovative financing good practices, thereby making a substantial contribution to the EU integration efforts.

#### **Purpose for the job:**

Under the general guidance of the supervisor, Social Policy Specialist, NOC (Head of Section), and in close collaboration with SP team members, the Social Policy Officer (PF4C and Innovative Financing) will be accountable for providing technical assistance on social policy programming and related knowledge sharing on social financing, including innovative financing. This includes responsibilities on (a) Public Finance System strengthening, including improving financing for children; (b) Building institutional capacity, jointly with partners identifying innovative financing alternatives and ensuring financial sustainability in accordance with EU practices; (c) Generation of data and evidence on EU financing of social policies to inform policy decisions; (e) Contributing to development of public policies which aim to reduce child poverty in accordance with EU Social Rights Pillar and EU Child Guarantee. This encompasses both direct programme work with government at national and local levels, development partners, and civil society, as well as strengthen linkages and support to health, education, and child protection sectors.

### **III. Key functions, accountabilities and related duties/tasks:**

#### **Summary of key functions/accountabilities:**

##### **1. Improving data on social spending and child poverty**

- Supports the collection, analysis and user-friendly presentation of data on the European Child Guarantee, EU Social Rights Pillar, monetary child poverty, and public and innovative financing, including strengthening government capacity (line ministries, local authorities and agencies) to collect routinely, report and use data from reliable sources such as national statistics, operation data of ministries and UN data for policy decision-making.
- Provides timely, regular data-driven analysis to Social Policy Specialist and in close collaboration with UNICEF team and government partners, that is instrumental for effective prioritization, planning, and development of national and local policies; In collaboration with the UNICEF team facilitates results-based management for planning, adjusting, and scaling up specific social policy initiatives to align national policy with the EU requirements, focusing on public and innovative finance for child-focused policies.
- Keep track of and analyze the Government's socio-economic policies, strategies, and programs in light of EU standards to inform policymakers.

- Contribute to analysis of the macroeconomic context and its impact on social development, emerging issues and social policy concerns, as well as implications for children, and proposes and promotes appropriate responses in respect of such issues and concerns, including government resource allocation policies and the effect of social welfare policies on the rights of children.

## **2. Strengthening public financial management impact on children, identifying innovative financing, including unconventional alternatives**

- Contribute to the development of Public financial management policies, legislation, and programmes with attention to increasing coverage of and impact on children, particularly the most marginalized. Identifies, generates and presents evidence to support this goal in collaboration with partners.
- Collaborate and consult with internal and external partners, mainly the government, donor and private sector counterparts, to provide operational and technical support to the implementation of public and innovative finance for child-sensitive policies.
- Undertake improved monitoring and research around social spending impact on child outcomes and use of data and research findings for strengthening programme results.
- Undertake budget analysis to inform UNICEF's advocacy and technical assistance to Ministries of Finance, planning commissions and social sector ministries to improve equitable allocations for essential services for children. Works with sector colleagues to build capacity to undertake costing and cost effectiveness analysis on priority interventions to help inform policy decisions on child-focused investments.
- Build the capacity of partners for improved monitoring and tracking of public expenditure to support transparency, accountability, and effective financial flows for essential service delivery, including support to district level planning, budgeting, and public financial management, as well as facilitating community participation.

## **3. Strengthening the capacity of local authorities to plan, budget, and mobilize resources for child-focused policies.**

- Collaborate with Local authorities and government agencies to address PF4C through improved policies, planning, budgeting, consultation and accountability processes so that decisions and child-focused service delivery more closely respond to the needs of local communities.
- Collaborate with Local authorities and government agencies to explore and identify innovative financing alternatives for social policies, including but not limited to social protection and social services, education and healthcare, with emphasis on donor, private sector and local community participation.
- In collaboration with the UNICEF Country Team and in partnership with other stakeholders, work closely with local authorities and agencies in areas such as joint programme activities and technical assistance for implementation of budget thematic briefs and social investment plans.
- Work closely with local authorities and agencies to improve their capacity to mobilize revenue and enhance the resources towards social expenditure that benefits the children and vulnerable groups/communities.

## **4. UNICEF Programme Management**

- Helps manage and coordinate technical support around public social policy, finance for children, child poverty, and governance ensuring it is well planned, monitored, and implemented in a timely fashion so as to adequately support scale-up and delivery. Ensures risk analysis and risk mitigation are embedded into overall management of the support, in close consultation with UNICEF programme sections, Cooperating Partners, and governments.
- Supports and contributes to effective and efficient planning, management, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the country programme. Ensures that the social planning project enhances policy dialogue, planning, supervision, technical advice, management, training, research and support; and that the monitoring and evaluation component strengthens monitoring and evaluation of the social sectors and provides support to sectoral and decentralized information systems.



#### IV. Impact of Results

The efficient and effective technical support provided to the development and implementation of strategic advocacy and planning & formulation of social policy programmes/projects and the achievement of sustainable results, contributes to achievement of goals and objectives to create a protective environment for children and thus ensure their survival, development and well-being in society. Achievements in social policy programmes and projects in turn contribute to maintaining/enhancing the credibility and ability of UNICEF to provide programme services for mothers and children that promotes greater social equality in the country.

#### V. UNICEF values and competency Required (based on the updated Framework)

##### i) Core Values

- Care
- Respect
- Integrity
- Trust
- Accountability
- Sustainability

##### ii) Core Competencies (For Staff without Supervisory Responsibilities)

- Demonstrates Self Awareness and Ethical Awareness (1)
- Works Collaboratively with others (1)
- Builds and Maintains Partnerships (1)
- Innovates and Embraces Change (1)
- Thinks and Acts Strategically (1)
- Drive to achieve impactful results (1)
- Manages ambiguity and complexity (1)

#### VI. Recruitment Qualifications

Education:	<p>A university degree in one of the following fields is required: Economics, Finance, Public Policy, Social Sciences, International Relations, Political Science.</p> <p>An advanced university degree (Master's or higher) in relevant technical field would be a strong advantage.</p>
Experience:	<p>A minimum of 2 years of relevant professional experience in areas such as social policy, finance, public policy, development, programme management, government, donor and private sector relations and advocacy.</p> <p>Experience in providing and/or managing technical assistance on social policy with a particular focus on</p>

